



Lucie Bohnsack, 8, is happy to visit horses at Black Beauty Ranch until she's able to adopt one.

FOR THE LOVE OF A HORSE

LUCIE BOHNSACK knew it was a long shot. After all, she wasn't able to meet most of the requirements to adopt a horse from the Doris Day Horse Rescue and Adoption Center at Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch. She wasn't 18; she didn't have a barn, an acre of land or a farrier; and she didn't earn at least \$25,000 a year. "I didn't have any of those things," Lucie says. "But I had lots of love for a horse."

Lucie, an 8-year-old from Connecticut, diligently filled out the adoption application, listing her current employer as "second grade" and her babysitter and teachers as references. She sent the application and \$50 of her own money to cover the application fee, along with a handwritten letter in which she wrote, "Please do not think my application is a joke. ... I feel in my heart that even if not this year, then one year I will provide a loving home for a horse."

Staff members at the ranch were touched by

Lucie's sincerity. When director Ben Callison called to discuss the adoption process with her, she took careful notes, reluctantly acknowledging that she wasn't ready for a horse—just yet.

But the little girl's disappointment soon dissipated when Callison invited Lucie and her mom to visit the Texas ranch. "I felt like I was going to burst, I was so excited!" says Lucie.

During their two-day visit, Lucie helped groom and exercise horses, many of whom were rescued from abuse and neglect, and toured the sanctuary's 1,437 acres. "Black Beauty Ranch taught me that every animal should get a second chance," she says.

Back home, Lucie is busy spreading that message, including writing a letter to the editor encouraging people to help end horse slaughter.

"Lucie reinvigorated the staff," says Callison. "It's wonderful to see a child who wants to make a difference for animals at such a young age."

BACK IN THE RUNNING

A GENERATION of Saturday morning cartoon watchers may think of roadrunners as invincible—capable of eluding all kinds of danger. But that wasn't the case recently for two babies of the species. A Santa Ana windstorm blew their nest from a tree, throwing the chicks to the ground, where they were found and brought to The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center.

"One did appear to be bruised and weak. We X-rayed him and thankfully found no breaks," says center director Ali Crumpacker.

After a week of rest in the center's nursery, the chicks began to perk up and move around normally. Once the weather warmed up, they moved outdoors where they were enrolled in Foraging 101.



"We began hiding their food—mostly insects and creepy crawlies—in dirt, mulch and old logs so the birds would begin to forage and hunt for their meals," says Crumpacker.

Once staff members were satisfied the roadrunners could fend for themselves, they were released under the pepper tree where their lives began—and could now continue.

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***DUCHESS SANCTUARY**
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***THE FUND FOR ANIMALS WILDLIFE CENTER**
18740 Highland Valley Road
Ramona, CA 92065
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