# Caring for Kiva

**The sanctuary guarantees the best medical care available to our older horses. They inevitably need more attention with age. With your help, we are able to honor this commitment. The quality of Kiva's life is better for it.**

**Kiva has arthritis in his front coffin joints. The pain intensified over time and became more evident when he walked on hard surfaces. He would pass through grass pastures at a normal pace, then limp slowly across the asphalt driveway.**

**He wears Soft Ride orthotic boots with gel inserts to help distribute the weight evenly, absorb impact, reduce strain, and increase blood flow in his hooves. These make a big difference and he wears them out! They need to be replaced 2-3 times a year.**

**Our veterinarian of 20 years, Matt Durham, is up to date with biologic therapies that treat arthritis with healing components from Kiva's own body. A Pro-Stride injection is prepared by drawing Kiva's blood, loading it into a separator tube, and spinning it in a centrifuge to separate and extract platelet rich plasma. Kiva's joints are prepped and the processed plasma is immediately injected into his joints. It can take a few weeks to notice the difference, but the result is long-term pain relief. We see improvement in his movement.**

**Competent, professional farrier services are all the more essential. Our farrier attentively trims Kiva's hooves, along with all the horses, once a month.**

**When inflammation occurs, water is present in the joint, which offers no lubrication and causes pain. A monthly Legend injection makes his joint fluid more viscous. A daily non-steroidal anti-inflammatory tablet reduces swelling and pain. These two medications are the final part of an effective arthritis care regimen that you help provide for Kiva.**

# “Operation Sea Star“

**It is a sad reality that many domesticated horses are abandoned because their owners simply can’t afford to feed them.** Sea Star Horse Sanctuary's monthly operating costs are in excess of $10,000 which is just enough to cover the ten horses' basic needs of food and routine veterinary care.  Pasture forage does not supply all of the nutrition our horses require for optimal health. We augment their diets with orchard grass, Platinum Performance supplements, and a special formula for the seniors.

Our horses eat clean, sweet-smelling, properly-harvested orchard grass. The pandemic’s disruption of farm production and shipping is making sourcing of quality grass increasingly difficult.  It is also causing prices to climb.

Platinum Performance GI ($500 per 50 lb bin) is mandatory for equine digestive and immune systems. Purina Equine Senior ($25 per 50 lb bag) is a necessity for the older horses, who have trouble processing their food. Farnam Sand Wash psyllium husk ($153 per 20 lb tub) is given monthly to help them process any sand they ingest while grazing. Your continued support makes it possible for us to offer the horses a high quality diet to meet their individual needs as well as support all aspects of their health.  **Sustaining the horses throughout their 35+ year life spans will always be our most critical need.**