

Bruised, Broken, and Bonded by Love



There is no stronger bond than the bond of two beings who find each other after struggling for so long... alone... afraid... and abandoned.

She came to us abused and abandoned from her mother's womb. She had been the victim of poor choices, born addicted to cocaine, heroin, meth, alcohol and tobacco. Helpless and damaged, afraid and trusting of no one she entered our home: a tiny, helpless 18-month-old baby girl who had been bouncing around in the foster care

system. We were so excited to welcome her in. Our 7-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son couldn't wait to hold their new baby sister. We all experienced numerous adjustments, but with time, patience and love, Rebekah bonded with us and completed our family. She began to thrive and heal from all of the physical, mental, and emotional damage, and has grown into a most incredible straight A student with a kind, loving heart.

Rebekah has always loved animals and held a special bond with them. Since she was just a young toddler she has had a special gift in handling them and in loving them. We were always in awe at how she could calm most any animal and get them to do whatever she wanted them to do. It is truly an inner gift that she was born with.

Nearly two years ago, Rebekah was blessed to meet her precious friend, Ali, a beautiful Arabian horse, at the Equine Alliance. It is a program run by Lori and Tony Harmon to rescue abused and abandoned horses and then give children like Rebekah, the opportunity to work with them. Ali was rescued by Lori after having been beaten with PVC pipes and other objects. He had been so abused that he hated people and would kick at them and at fences and everything else in sight. Ali was so messed up that he almost had to be put down on two occasions. He is a true survivor and with the help and loving care of the Equine Alliance has made a huge turnaround and has a new lease on life.

The day Rebekah and Ali met, the bond was immediate and deep. They had both come from horrible pasts and had been brought to stability through love and acceptance. They are both fighters and survivors and must have felt something deep within their souls. Rebekah loves her time with Ali at the ranch; brushing him, walking him, teaching him new tricks, riding him and just loving on him. And Ali seems to love Rebekah just as much as he allows her to do whatever she wishes when they spend time together. They have both healed so much from their painful pasts and enjoy simply being together. They seem to understand each other, in their quiet moments as much as in their playful ones. They spend hours caring for one another, together meeting a special need that only they can fulfill.