

FROM THE BLACK HILLS WILD HORSE SANCTUARY

About Our Rare Choctaw Ponies



In 2012 and 2013, Windrider Farm Choctaw Horse Conservation program donated three Choctaw broodmares (Goblin, Angel, and Pearl) and their respective foals (Misty, Chief, and Feh) to the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary (BHWHS) in Hot Springs, South Dakota. The BHWHS is a premier venue for these mares and foals to continue and expand the Choctaw horse conservation effort.

In August 2012, two of these exquisite mares and foals were greeted in South Dakota by their new herd sire, Lakna (Sky Horse), who was donated by Neda DeMayo from Return to Freedom Wild Horse Sanctuary in Lompoc, California. His sire is the renowned Choctaw stud, Beechkeld Icktinicky, owned by Dr. D. Phillip Sponenberg. The BHWHS is proud to welcome these rare horses into our Spanish Mustang Spirit Preservation program!

With this acquisition, the BHWHS has become a steward of one of the premier conservation herds in the country due to the unique genetics encompassed in this group. Goblin is the featured example of the Choctaw horse listed on the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy website due to her importance to the effort for color, type, and bloodlines. We have already carried these genetics another generation into the future when Lakna sired two fillies out of Goblin and Angel in 2013.

The Choctaw, a rare strain of the Spanish horse (often referred to as a Choctaw pony), remains critically endangered with less than 300 worldwide. Visitors will now be able to see the Choctaws at the BHWHS. We welcome your visit to learn about the Choctaw ponies, their importance to the Choctaw people in the past, as well as their significance today and into the future for all people who connect with and love horses. Plan your visit now and enjoy the sheer beauty of our Choctaw herd.



Above: Ricochet's Angel Forever (100% Choctaw bay mare) and her colt, Windrider's Chief Forever Dukes



Above: Angel and Goblin both have the famous Gilbert Jones brand, founder of the Southwest Spanish Mustang Association

Below (right): Goblin's Prescription (92% Choctaw/ 8% Huasteca red dun medicine hat) with her filly, Windrider's Oktohbichi Oktalonli (Misty Blue-Eyed)



Above: Goblin gives Lakna "Sky Horse" a warning shot!



Below: Windrider's Haksint Ishi Na Fehna "Wonderful Surprise" or "Feh" out of Progression's Pearl (left)



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Sponsorship of the Choctaw Ponies



LAKNA "SKY HORSE"

(100% CHOCTAW STALLION)

Lakna was sired by the renowned Choctaw stud, Beechkeld Icktinicky owned by Dr. D. Phillip Sponenberg. Lakna is the kind of Choctaw stallion you can imagine a warrior riding into battle. While he is under 14 hands, he has great presence that makes up for his smaller stature—a size coveted by Native Americans that needed a "pony" of great endurance and spirit to carry them through dangerous buffalo hunts and inevitable raids with warring enemies. Lakna immediately bonded with our Choctaw mares and foals when he arrived, and he's just as gentle with his human visitors. His unique half blue eye is both kind and fierce, giving us a glimpse into his historic lineage.



GOBLIN'S PRESCRIPTION

(92% CHOCTAW/8% HUASTECA RED DUN
MEDICINE HAT – SSMA #2436 AND HOA #1906)

Goblin is the featured example of the Choctaw horse listed on the *American Livestock Breeds Conservancy* website due to her importance of rare color, type, and bloodlines. Many important sires including Chief of Choctaws, Rooster, Chief Kiamichi, and Choctaw Chief give her an impressive pedigree. She has the famous Gilbert Jones brand (founder of the Southwest Spanish Mustang Association). Goblin was bred by Bryant and Darlene Rickman in Oklahoma; breeders that have taken up where Gilbert Jones left off. Goblin has two fillies with her here at the sanctuary, her daughter Pearl, and granddaughter Feh.



WINDRIDER'S OKTOHBICHI OKTALONLI "MISTY BLUE-EYED"

(CHOCTAW FILLY)

Born in 2012 out of Goblin's Prescription and sired by Windrider's Runner, Misty is the biggest hambone of all of the Choctaws here at the sanctuary. She has a dominant personality like her mom, Goblin, but seeks connections with people. She loves to pose for the camera, always displaying some trick to leave you with a smile a mile wide. She loves scratches from humans and makes the funniest gestures when you hit the right spots. Her irresistible personality comes out in every photograph.

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RICOCHET'S ANGEL FOREVER

(100% CHOCTAW BAY MARE – SSMA #2440 AND HOA #1905)

Angel was foaled in the mountains of southeast Oklahoma in 1996, sired by Choctaw Ricochet. Angel goes back to the Brame family Choctaws on both sides, and also has wild Johns Valley stock in her pedigree from the Crisp family. Both the Brame and Crisp families were important Choctaw Native American families that bred Choctaw ponies, with the Brame family breeding horses before Oklahoma statehood. Angel is shy and standoffish—probably a result of her once wild heritage in the mountains—but with a calm and gentle approach, she will connect with certain people. Notice her famous Gilbert Jones brand (founder of the Southwest Spanish Mustang Association). Her five known offspring have gentle temperaments with unique, slow, and inquisitive ways of interacting with people. Angel has one colt (Chief) and one 2013 filly with her here at the sanctuary.



WINDRIDER'S CHIEF FOREVER DUKES

(100% CHOCTAW GELDING)

Born in 2012 out of Ricochet's Angel Forever and sired by Windrider's Runner, Chief grew up with Misty learning how to play hard from his half-sister. The two are still inseparable and are constantly at full tilt in the pasture kicking up dust and enjoying a life of freedom. Almost as tall as his mother at six months of age, he met our stud Lakna for the first time without one ounce of concern. While Misty hid behind the protection of her mother during this initial introduction, Chief trotted straight up to Lakna and looked him right in the eye with a fearless gaze. Respect was demanded and settled on the spot.

CHOCTAW FAMILY TIES

Excerpt from "The Choctaw Horse" by Dr. D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, PhD

Up until the 1970s it was possible to find up to 1500 of the original type Choctaw Horses in southeast Oklahoma. Since that time their numbers have been drastically reduced, and in the late 1980s they may have been down to close to 50 horses. Numbers have rebounded to about 300 in 2011. As is typical of rare breed conservation, the Choctaw Horse is closely associated with a few people who have saved it from extinction. Few if any of the Choctaw tribal members still breed the traditional Choctaw Horses. This is a recent phenomenon, since older family strains were jealously guarded, and had extensive oral pedigrees that went back to the time of removal in the early 1800s. Such family strains were common up until the 1970s.



Left: Chief / Right: Lakna

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PROGRESSION'S PEARL

(CHOCTAW MARE)

Pearl is a loving, smart, strong-willed mare that was sired by Bandit's Ultimate Progression, out of Goblin's Prescription. Pearl was briefly separated from her mom when she delivered a premature foal (Feh) right before all of the Choctaws were being shipped here to the sanctuary. When the entire family was reunited in 2013, Pearl got the sparkle back in her eye, including her ravenous appetite for food—an appetite gene that has apparently multiplied in her daughter, Feh.



WINDRIDER'S HAKSINT ISHI NA FEHNA "WONDERFUL SURPRISE" OR "FEH"

(CHOCTAW FILLY)

Feh was a surprise birth, born in 2012 out of Progression's Pearl sired by Windrider's Runner, hence her fitting Choctaw name. Like her many family members here at the sanctuary she is full of life, play, kindness, and intelligence. She flies like Pegasus when a camera is pointed in her direction, and she'll befriend you for life if you have a handful of sweet feed. She is just like her mom, a real gem, and a perfect ambassador for the Choctaw horse breed.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

We invite you to join the **Spanish Mustang Spirit of the Black Hills** preservation project to support these historic and iconic bloodlines. The genetics these horses possess make them as rare a treasure to us as the gold was to the Spaniards.

CHOCTAW INDIAN PONY SPONSOR - \$100.00

CHOCTAW INDIAN PONY WINTER FRIEND - \$200.00

CHOCTAW INDIAN PONY FOUR SEASONS FRIEND - \$400.00

CHOCTAW INDIAN PONY FOREVER FRIEND - \$3,000.00

An annual sponsorship helps to provide care and maintenance for these rare Choctaw ponies. The benefits to you include a **Spanish Mustang Spirit** certificate with a photo of your sponsored horse, a Spanish mustang calendar, educational materials, and the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a difference to help preserve rare genetics.

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