



HONEY

MOTHER, SURVIVOR, HEART OF THE HERD

I was in bad shape when Momma Karen found me. I was pregnant with Pepper, and my caretakers were not even meeting my basic needs. They also weren't very nice to me.

I was terrified, weak and tired when we arrived at the ranch. It was wintertime, snowing, and blowing. The wind was so strong it felt like it was slicing right through me. I was shaking so badly.

Momma Karen and Mr. Brooks brought me into the garage where it was warm, fed and put a blanket down for me. Momma Karen then laid down with me, told me that she loved me, that I was special, and that everything would be OK.

And I slept for a long time.

When I woke I felt much better, so Momma Karen and Mr. Brooks let me outside. The sun was out and the snow was melting, and I felt hope for the first time in a long while.

That's when I met Waffle and Chicken.

Even though I was pregnant with Pepper, those two boys were enamored with me, vying for my attention like I was a caretaker with a bunch of fresh carrots. And they were so territorial – each wanting to lead our little herd. At one point I thought they might even come to blows over me; and that was the last thing I would have wanted.

Then one day I wasn't feeling well, so I slipped into the woods and Pepper was born. He was so small, and so cute with those big eyes and huge ears.

From that day on, I was busy being a mom and left the herd issues up to them.

Momma Karen was so helpful when Pepper was little. She made sure we were warm, and that we had plenty of food and water.

Waffle and Chicken were being goofy, attentive, prancing about and telling everyone that there was a new donk on the Sanctuary.

You would think that Pepper was their son. It was quite the show!

Everything was going well.

But the people I had known before coming to the Sanctuary were so mean, it took nearly a year for me to get up the courage to let Momma Karen hug me. And I still avoid hugs from everyone else.

So Momma Karen hugs me lots ... and lots!

Once Pepper was no longer nursing and on his own, Waffle and Chicken were back at it, constantly trying to outdo each other, prancing around and carrying on in the strangest ways trying to court me.

That rivalry still exists today.

They pretend they are best friends, and they are still close. But I am sure that when I chose Waffle as my husband on the Sanctuary it left a scar on Chicken.

Shortly after that, Chicken assumed the duties of Mayor at the Sanctuary, and he has been busy leading the herd ever since.

Gratefully Yours ...

Honey

Honey's Story is proof: even the most broken can become the center of love and life