

A Bonded Pair Misty & Nora

Nancy Clarke and her partner, Philip Davidson, live in Braeshore, outside Pictou on Nova Scotia's North Shore. Their stone house sits on 83 acres which they share with 3 dogs, 4 cats and several chickens. It was a fateful visit to Earth Arc Rescue in Scotsburn with their grandchildren that connected them to Newfoundland Ponies. "They had 5 ponies there and they told us about the endangered status. We fell in love with the breed and decided that we wanted to get involved," said Nancy.

She contacted NPS about adopting a pony and potentially starting a small breeding program. Nancy has three Newfoundland Ponies of her own now: Sea Mist of Braeshore #920, aka Misty, Greyhaired Hill Nora #896, and Vineland's News Flash on Duff's Bluff #275 aka Flash, a stallion. She adopted Flash and Nora in 2019. Flash had some training in his past but was in a bad way health wise. Nora had not been handled much and was visually impaired and could be dangerous to be around. Misty came along in 2020; she had spent most of her life outdoors. In fact, the first night she was kept inside on a freezing winter night, she kicked the barn door down to get outside!

What happened next is amazing. Misty has stepped up to be Nora's protector, somehow understanding that she is compromised. Initially, Nora would never stray very far from the barn due to her visual impairment and fear. But when Misty arrived, Nora started venturing farther from the barn into the pasture as she looked to Misty for security. Misty has trustingly guided Nora back to the paddock when she became disoriented and frantic. They have become a bonded pair.



Misty
leading
Nora



Flash

Nancy uses every opportunity to educate people about the Newfoundland Pony. "I emphasize the historical importance of the

Pony in the settlement of Newfoundland and the fact they are critically endangered," she added. Plans are underway after consultation with the vet to breed Misty and Flash with hopes for a foal in 2022. This is extremely important since Misty comes from a rare bloodline.

Of working with rescue ponies, she says the most rewarding part is seeing their eyes go from sad, dull and sometimes dead, to having life and sparkling. But she says sometimes you can only bring a pony so far. Ponies that have no training, have not been handled or made any connection with humans and have not been looked after from a health perspective, can take a long time to rehabilitate. "With some rescued ponies it is necessary to accept the pony where they are, know how far you can bring them, and love them for who they are," she added.

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