



For the Sake of Unicorns

Dr. Deborah Derr recently visited Best Friends to "get the best advice there is on running a nonprofit," as she launches her rescue for draft horses, **United in Light**.

"There is no sanctuary or retirement home in the country for draft horses. They are the meekest, mildest of breeds. To me they are the unicorns - regal, graceful - and they love people and kids," said Dr. Deborah.

Dr. Deborah, a chiropractor, had no idea she would be starting this sanctuary when she first met a noble draft horse named Knight of Dreams. The horse had been spared a visit to the slaughterhouse by clients of hers.

"They couldn't keep him and he had severe back problems. He and I bonded immediately. He is the guiding light in this thing," she said.

Because of Knight, Dr. Deborah sold her practice in California and moved to Chino Valley, Arizona, to launch her sanctuary.

She's starting with four horses and 2.5 acres (refuting a myth, she said, that draft horses don't need pastures), but her ultimate dream is to have 15,000 acres where these gentle giants can roam freely.

"I feel like I'm reuniting their family," Deborah said.

Document Title (if any): BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY - SANCTUARY NEWS: JULY 11 2004

Summary:Dr. Deborah Derr recently visited Best Friends to "get the best advice there is on running a nonprofit," as she launches her rescue for draft horses, United in Light. Dr. Deborah, a chiropractor, had no idea she would be starting this sanctuary when she first met a noble draft horse named Knight of Dreams. Because of Knight, Dr. Deborah sold her practice in California and moved to Chino Valley, Arizona, to launch her sanctuary.