



**A Memorial to "Teddy"
Hearts & Hooves Edmonton
July 2007**



Teddy joined the Hearts & Hooves family in December of 2006. Teddy's previous home was a wonderful place where had received lots of love, he came to Hearts & Hooves so he could have a big warm barn to stay in and the best vet care possible for him as his health and his little crippled legs were a concern for him because he was a dwarf. Teddy quickly fit in and was instantly loved by everyone.

Teddy did very well here at Hearts & Hooves until about 2 weeks ago after returning from a procedure to fit him with a special shoe to help his legs and hooves. Teddy returned to the farm a little less than happy, we all figured the new shoe was causing him some discomfort so we massaged his legs, soaked his leg, gave him some pain medicine, and made him a soft bed in the barn at night. Teddy wore the shoe for only two days before he got it off, likely by some means of mischief on his part. Once the shoe had come off I expected to see his spirit rise but he became isolated from the others and laid for long periods of time under the big birch tree behind the barn. Dr Carroll came to see Teddy almost everyday for a week; she agreed he was not himself. Dr. Carroll ran blood work which confirmed he was in fact quite ill with infection. We found the source of the infection below his lower teeth and the inside of his jaw. We were hopeful that the penicillin would fix him up, but Teddy's diarrhea went from bad to worse. We introduced some electrolytes, Pepto Bimol and yogurt in addition to his penicillin. Teddy continued to drop weight and became very dehydrated despite our efforts. Teddy's diarrhea became so overwhelming for him that he began to poop out his large intestines. Dr Carroll came and sutured up Teddy's bum and we talked about some test results that indicated that Teddy's kidneys were not working as well as they should and that he had lost so much protein and nutrients from having such awful diarrhea that his body was in a sense eating itself from the inside. Teddy showed more signs of problems as his legs swelled up and his belly started pooling fluid in pockets under the skin. Dr Carroll was wonderful every step of the way giving us several options while presenting how Teddy would likely respond.

I was overwhelmed with heart ache and called Teddy's mom Keylee to talk about what we should do. Keylee came out and spent some time with Teddy, you could see his eyes light up when he saw her walk into the barn. For mine and Teddy's sake I needed to talk out loud and I sat with him several times over his last few days, and he sat there with his head in my lap or nibbling at the grass while I cried. Teddy always looking at me with his gracious eyes saying "it's okay". On Saturday he had gone on to long, when I went to the barn he looked at me and I knew...we both knew. Leslie and I rinsed Teddy down to cool him off and let him gobble up the last of his favorite strawberry yogurt while we waited for Dr Carroll to come.

I am so sad to share this with all of you but please know that Teddy is in a place where his legs are straight and he has no pain, the grass is always green and his bed is always soft. Teddy was such a sweetheart; he had such a soft and gentle way about him. His precious little eyes always looking at you, as if to say it was okay no matter what the situation. Teddy made many people smile, brightened hundreds of lives, and brought comfort to people young and old. I know that Teddy had a most blessed life and it was always so full of love. I speak for all of us when I say he will be fondly remembered and sorrowfully missed. Our hearts are all a little bigger for having known him... and our worlds a little less bright now that he is gone.

How to Help Us Build a Memorial to Teddy who has **Crossed the Rainbow Bridge**

Plans are being made to build a Special Memorial to Teddy – our first dwarf who has left us so suddenly.

Fond remembrances of those that knew him who would like to share these thoughts and pictures of his working in the community please email Michelle Kropp at heartsandhoovesedmonton@yahoo.ca

Donations "In Honor Of Teddy" can be mailed to our office

Hearts & Hooves Edmonton
7901 95th Ave
Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta
T8L - 3L4

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge.

There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together.

There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by....

...Author unknown... (Excerpt from Rainbow Bridge)



A Miniature Horse Dwarfism FAQ (...Miniature Horse World)

Equine dwarfism is a relatively rare occurrence in large horses, but it is far more common in miniature horses that have been bred exclusively for small size. In the August/September 1998 issue of Miniature Horse World, dwarfism is described as the following:

1. **Achondroplasia**—(legs do not grow in length). Normal bone growth does not occur and often develops unevenly at the joints, causing crooked legs.
2. **Dwarf foals** are sometimes born with contracted tendons or tendon laxity. Joint enlargements and joint deviations are common, often becoming progressively serious with age. Extreme cow hocks, extremely short gaskins and sever sickle hocks all with varying degree of joint laxity and /or joint weakness are also common.
3. **Some types of dwarfs** have an over bite, or an under bite. If an undershot jaw is present, the molars may also be out of alignment, requiring that the teeth be floated more frequently than for a horse with a normal mouth. Highly placed nostrils always accompany the undershot jaw.
4. **Brachycephalic** dwarfs have a large bulging forehead with an extreme dished face, overly large eyes (sometimes placed at uneven angles) and nostrils placed too high up on the face. A second type of dwarf has a more normally shaped head and eye and longer neck, but its head and body are still oversized when compared to the length of its legs. This second type of dwarf does not usually have an undershot jaw.
5. **Head obviously longer than the neck.** In some dystrophic dwarfs, the neck appears to come directly out of the shoulders.
6. **Girth depth is greater than the leg length.** Disproportionately oversized entrails and genitals. That is why so many dwarfs have the big "pot bellies."
7. **Vertebra** deviations are common.
8. **Often unable to rear or stand on hind legs.** Some types have an odd "tilting backward" gait with shoulder higher than the croup.
9. *Sometimes associated with the various dwarfism syndromes are less obvious characteristics such as mental retardation, heart and other internal organ defects, sterility, shortened life span, arthritis and inactivity or depression (both of which are probably due to pain).*