



August 2003



September 2008

Prairie Hill Peaches

Negotiating Diagnosis, Diet, and Trim Under Tough Conditions

Meet Peaches

Registered Morgan Mare ~ foaled 1986 ~ 14.2 hands

Peaches first began showing signs of laminitis in 2000. June of 2003 brought severe laminitis which seemed to resolve in eight weeks, only to return in October of that year when Peaches foundered. She weighed 920 pounds and initial blood work showed insulin levels at 1,644 pmol/L (lab normal <300). Melanie and Peaches live in a very rural setting far from veterinary, clinic, and farrier help. In 2003-2004 vet access was 60 miles away. Melanie has since found a very supportive local vet.

Melanie writes...

Peaches, who is 23 y.o., has been IR for at least six years that I know of, and was probably borderline a year before that. She had been chronically fat a few times — living on pasture, little work — but having a couple of babies really pulled the extra weight off and she was a good weight for another year. Low and behold she foundered twice in 2003 — she laid down so much she had bed sores starting.



June 2004

Melanie continues....

I had even considered putting her down, she was so miserable. I knew she was foundering but how did I try and manage it? I had just a big pasture for my horses; I didn't have a nice stalled barn, didn't have separate corrals.... But after eventually being led to a Cushing's/IR list I was able to get things figured out.

DDT for my horse wasn't as hard as

I had initially thought. I had a friend come over and help me build a dry-lot pen in the corner of the pasture closest to the water tank. I locked two horses in the pen to wear and tear it down to dirt in the spring of 2004 – and we are now on summer # 6 of my mare living in this pen from March through November every year. I have expanded it into the trees on the

north side with a gate so she has plenty of access to shade. If we get nasty weather where I want her to have access to the pole barn I have to put on a halter and muzzle in order to turn her out.

My horse has been given many more years of sound life. My farrier is amazed every time he is here, telling me there is no indication that she ever foundered in the past. That is all the proof I need — a sound, healthy horse enjoying her golden years.



November 2004



April 2005



August 2005

August 2013 Melanie reports

Peaches went down Wednesday night and has been in the clinic for the past day and a half, unable to pass any stools.

The vet told me that she gave her a sedative late last evening so she was very relaxed. I am hoping that the sedative might have helped her cross that bridge as well without too much more pain. I am thankful for the 24 ½ years she gave me. I got nearly 10 extra years with her — she was diagnosed with Insulin Resistance in 2003 and I considered putting her down back then. She has had a specialized diet and management since then, and had been treated for Cushing's Disease the past two years.

She helped many other horses in those 10 years with her story and plight.

It was all good and worth the journey. Thank you all for your kind thoughts and prayers — she was a gem and a true ambassador to the Morgan breed. Give your equine beloved an extra scratch and hug today.

Run free in those green pastures that have been off limits for 10 years, my dear Peaches.