



When Ken went to the McWhirter's Ranch in 2006, he found Ms Sweet Investment. He said it was "love at first sight". Sweetie quickly adapted to her new home at the Gentle Spirit Ranch. Her personality blossomed. She was a beautiful, affectionate mare. She put that personality on her 2007 filly, SweetPea (Betcha Sweet Asset) and on her 2008 colt, Benny (Ima Tuff SonofaBench).

Whenever Ken would return to the house from the barn or paddocks, he would talk about Sweetie and say, "God, I love that mare". I always felt safe around her. I knew she was trustworthy. She proved that this year when Benny was born prematurely. During all those late night hours when the barn was quiet and I was sitting on the stall floor holding Benny, she would stand over me, like a Guardian Angel, touching her muzzle ever so softly to the top of my head. She understood that we were saving her colt and did the only thing she could do... stand there and wait. She was so patient and trusting of us.

When mild colic started on Wednesday afternoon, April 23rd, I gave her banamine and walked her. I spent time talking to her, encouraging her, and telling her how much we loved her while waiting for the vet to arrive. After the vet exam, we loaded her and Benny into the trailer and headed to the clinic. I felt her go down in the trailer, but I did not know until I arrived at the clinic that she was cast in the trailer. It took four adults to get her out. The vet said he thought she would die in the trailer. She was given IV fluids and pain meds and monitored through the night and the following day. Several other procedures were tried, but in the end, she had to be mercifully euthanized at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 24th. That was exactly one month to the day that we lost Ms Dandy Bar Doll.

Benny had to be sedated to travel home in the trailer. He is only 45 days old and now an orphan. He's had a rough life so far. He's a real mama's boy. We are now focused on his survival. Our hearts ache at the loss of this wonderful mare. The emotional toll is heavy, but we were blessed to have Sweetie with us and know that she had a good life here. Sweetie will be deeply missed by all who knew her and loved her.

Donna & Ken Hayward
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