

The New Horses and Goats

by: Lila Rice



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I woke up one fine summer morning. Nana was already up, and I could see that it was going to be the most wonderful day in my life! The day before I had suspected Tootsie (I had looked very closely at her and I had figured out she was pregnant). Of course I was very, excited. I could not wait until the day when she would give birth. I just could not, not, not wait. I went over to my friend Sydney's house and told her what I had discovered about Tootsie. Sydney said "may I come and watch her?". I said "yes". First though, we got the goats breakfast, petted them, and made sure they were comfortable. Their names were Eli, Ryder, and Charlotte. I really like them. My favorites were Charlotte and Eli. The goats belong to Sydney. I knew it would probably be a long time til she would give birth. But I was feeling so punky that morning that I decided to bring Sydney along and we would wait with Tootsie.



I went home, saddled up Jericho and Buck, and I rode Buck down to Sydney's house. I led Buck by the reigns, and when I got there, Sydney came out of the house to greet us. I told her "you pick, Buck or Jericho". She said she would go on Buck, and said "I will bring carrots to feed the babies if they come today". We went and to our eyes, we beheld: Tootsie was lying on the floor. She did not seem comfortable. Jericho nickered to her. Tootsie was too weak to nicker, but she just raised her head up, and that was good. I went and called Tripp. Tripp came and said "I think she is experiencing impatience for her children to come." "So", Tripp continued, "I shall take her, and put her to sleep." So he put her to sleep, and she slept peacefully.



Then she woke with a start. I was standing over her, and so was Sydney. We were looking excited, for we had seen her water had broke. We could not wait. Tootsie of course felt like she was going to jump up into the air. But she knew that she could not or else she could not give birth properly. So, she waited. First, we beheld two tiny hooves coming out from under her tail. Then, we saw a tiny muzzle coming out between those two hooves. Then, to our eyes, we beheld one tiny baby horse lying on the straw. And then, we saw two more hooves, another muzzle, and then two horses were lying on the straw. And then another and another until there were seven tiny horses lying on the straw beside Tootsie. Thankfully, Sydney had guessed there would be seven so she had brought seven carrots. That was a lucky guess. So she fed one carrot to Tootsie, and one to Jericho. She had forgotten and packed them for the horses, but then she decided to do it for Tootsie and Jericho, and she kept on doing it until they were split evenly and there was one left. Sydney cracked it in two, and we both shared a piece of the delicious orangey-yellow carrot that she had grown in her garden. Then, the little ones began to nurse only four were kicked out, until three were suckling and four ones were crying pitifully.



Sydney and me gave one glance at each other, then we rode Jericho back, then I rode Jericho while Sydney carried Charlotte back. Then, she put Charlotte beside the four little horses who had been kicked out, and they suckled contentedly. Tripp said "Fine litter! This is probably the biggest litter she ever had and will ever have!". Tripp was pleased with Tootsie and he went back to her. We will continue with Tootsie. Tootsie knew that Pea would be with Jericho. I will tell you how the group split up. Tootie and Tootsie, Marshmallow and Shis, Palm and Charlotte (Charlotte was one of the litter's names). The other litter names were Second Tut, Second Misty, Second Caramel, Third Caramel, Second Marshmallow and Third Marshmallow.



Then I went and fed Love-horse, and me and Sydney took a ride on Love-horse. We took a ride past "Jon, Missy, Jim and Susie's", Aunt Diane and Uncle Doug's , our house again, then we turned back around down Hackett, turned onto Welty, past Nana's (we stopped at Nana's and had a snack), and then we turned onto Fountain Nook Rd, rode Fountain Nook Rd, down to Kansas, then we turned around and went back home. We went to "Matilda B.'s" and back home. We groomed Love-horse, fed her her supper of oats and carrot, and we slept out with her. So first decorated with popcorn. We went in the barn and strung garlands of popcorn all over and we had a good nights sleep.



In the morning, we woke up and saw Love-horse. Love-horse did not look as well as yesterday. I checked her hooves, one had a sharp nail embedded in it. Then I saw hoof marks. They were hoof marks of Tootie and Hershey. Hershey and Penny of course buddied up. So we saw those hoof prints, and we saw that they had driven her onto Ely, and Ely had nails Daddy said. I went to the house and got Mommy's tweezers, then I picked it out and put some neosporin on it. I wrapped it up and told her to be a good girl and that she would be alright. I gave her some more carrots and candy canes.



So they came back and nuzzled with Love-horse, asking her if she was alright. "I'll be all right, I want timothy grass.". They told Penny, and Penny went and got a bunch of timothy grass in her mouth. She did it again until there was a huge heap at Love-horse's feet. Then Love-horse smiled at Penny, and Penny smiled back again. She decided to drop Hershey as her friend, and went to buddy up with Love-horse. Starlight came over and began to eat timothy grass as well. Nobody minded her. In fact, Starlight, Penny and Love-horse were so good friends, I could never sell them.

