



# Hestóvin Hoofbeats

We believe in the power of the horse to teach, inspire, and heal.



## From the Hjarta (heart)

If you have been to any of our events this year, you surely have seen Mercy! We are thrilled to welcome Mercy into our Hestóvin Stables family! Keep an eye out for Mercy at the barn, introduce yourself, and give her a warm Hestóvin Stables welcome and a word of thanks for her giving heart!

**Mercy McNab** is an internationally acclaimed photographer who hails from the Pacific Northwest, where she has built her photography career for over 15 years. She came to Hestóvin via a serendipitous series of events and fell in love with the horses, work, and mission of the stables. Seeing the love and connection between the horses and participants has inspired her to capture the story of Hestóvin Stables through the community events they host. Coming to Hestóvin, Mercy had no experience with horses but was eager to work alongside them. She has since developed a deep appreciation for the unspoken bond and healing horses can provide to the participants. Witnessing the impact Hestóvin has made on the community, she strives to provide a visual representation of these gifts through her photography.

When not volunteering at the stables, Mercy enjoys spending her time in the Leelanau Peninsula of Northern Michigan, gaining inspiration from the beauty of Lake Michigan, the dunes, and the local flora and fauna. She loves to travel and document her experiences around the world and has an extensive portfolio of her global travels. To view more of her work and portfolio, visit [mercymcnab.com](http://mercymcnab.com).

*"Love is like butter. It's meant to be spread."*

## Congratulations to our Graduates!

Hestóvin Stables have our first graduates! Congratulation to **MaKayla** and **Jack** for checking off all of the 69 riding skills. MaKayla will continue her love of riding with Emily at a non therapeutic riding stables and both Jack and MaKayla will continue at Hestóvin Stables volunteering by working directly with Idyl.

## Barn Tours

*Laura*

Are you interested in learning more about Hestóvin Stables? Would you like to meet our six Icelandic horses up close? We have barn tours every Tuesday morning from 9:00am - 11:00am. Contact us to set up a time!



## What's the deal with Icelandic horse birthdays???

Are Icelandic horses really all born on the same day???

Icelandic horses are free-ranging herds. Herds of Icelandic horses can range from as small as a few dozens up to hundreds. They roam over huge open landscapes of lava fields, valleys and highland pastures making Icelandic horse very sure-footed. Foals are born out 'on pasture'. Human interference is minimal, if at all for much of the first year. Early development is almost entirely natural. They stay with their mothers nursing freely. They learn social behavior from the herd: boundaries, hierarchy, and movement. Older horses help "educate" by disciplining and modeling spacing and horse communication. Their early life is closer to a natural, semi-wild upbringing than most domestic horse breeds experience. Because of this upbringing, Icelandic horses are known for:

- calm, cooperative temperaments
- strong herd instincts
- durability and longevity

**And their birthdays are recorded as June 15 because no human is there to know when the foal was actually born.**

Now you know!

## Rescued Hearts - Part 1 and Part 2 Celebration Cinema North June 26, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

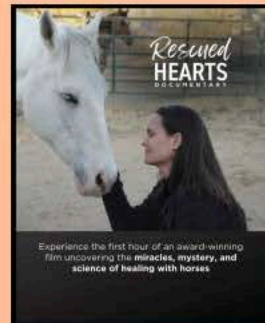
Back by popular demand, Rescued Hearts is returning for a special viewing—this time featuring both Part One and Part Two. This powerful documentary beautifully captures the healing connection between horses and humans, and the life-changing stories that unfold at the barn. Whether you joined us before or will be experiencing it for the first time, we invite you to come be inspired, encouraged, and reminded of the hope that is possible when hearts are restored.

We are reserving a larger theater for this showing.

We are anticipating this will be a sold-out show.

Tickets are \$15.00

Because this is a private screening, tickets are available only at Hestóvin Stables.



## Mothers Day Tea

May 9; 3:00am - 4:30pm

## Read to a Horse Summer Kick Off

May 18; 3:30pm - 4:30pm

## Read to a Horse

June 1; 3:30pm - 4:30pm

## Hearts and Hooves Luncheon

June 12; 12:00pm - 1:00pm

## Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE!  
**HESTÓVIN STABLES SUMMER  
CARNIVAL**  
JULY 25, 2026  
11:00am - 3:00pm



## Horses in the Moment

June 18; 5:30pm - 7:15pm

## Donuts With Dads

June 20; 10:30pm - 12:00pm

## On-Ground Equine Camp

June 22-25; 9:00pm - 12:00pm