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PEOPLE

Honor the Horse

An experienced horsewoman helps people connect with animals.

BY AMANDA MORRIS Dallas, Georgia

Brenda Metzger knows and relies on horses. As a former member of an equine search and rescue team in California, she and her trusty quarter horse, Cognac, helped save many lives.

When someone is missing in the wild, riders are called in to find them after rescuers have tried ATVs, helicopters and sometimes dogs. "I have an avid interest in helping people, being with horses and enjoying nature," she says.

"One of the best ways of doing that was riding in some of our parks and helping people when they got in trouble."

Time is of the essence when people are lost outdoors. "We would have a trailer set up and be ready to go within 30 minutes," Brenda says.

"Cognac is extremely smart, and he has always taken good care of me. I could always trust him."

While out on a rescue one night, Cognac may have even saved Brenda's life. "It was pitch dark and we



A child makes a friend at KB Horses (top left). Continuing clockwise: Riders are able to go at their own pace; employee Carrie Russel and Brenda.

were riding around trying to find some people. Suddenly, Cognac stopped in his tracks. I thought maybe there was a mountain lion stalking us. I couldn't get him to move forward."

Brenda learned that night she should never doubt her horse's instincts. "The moon came out from behind a cloud and all of a sudden I could see what was in front of me—a cliff. So he was standing there close to the edge

of the cliff, and I was doing my best to get him to move forward, and he wouldn't go," she says.

Brenda moved from California to Utah in 2003, bringing Cognac and two other horses along. She now owns and operates a business, KB Horses, in Heber City where she calls upon her extensive equestrian experience to guide people on rides through the scenic mountains.

The business has flourished, and she now owns 37 horses, from

ponies to Clydesdales. Brenda credits deepening understanding of the relationship between horse and human with making the business a success.

"Our staff teaches people how to be a partner to a horse, and how to connect with the horse on its terms based on trust and respect. We take time to carefully match people to their horse, and we explain the horse's personality," she says.

KB Horses gives riders a true "western experience" in a scenic



landscape that looks straight out of an old cowboy movie. If trail rides aren't for you, the company offers chuck wagon dinners, sleigh rides and a wedding carriage.

Each outing is custom-tailored to the rider's needs and comfort level. "We can create a ride to meet your expectations and desires. That

is what making memories is all about," she says.

Brenda has always cherished horses, and she wants people to value them and remember all

the good they've done for society. "This country was built on their backs," Brenda says. "They carried soldiers, food and our loved ones from one coast to another."

"Horses need to be treated nobly. That's what we do; we honor the horse, and we teach people to honor horses." ☼

