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Debi Metcalfe and Idaho, the Racking Horse mare that inspired international cooperation to stop horse theft.

The Power of **One** Horse

By Angela C. Kirby

We have images of brave horses carrying soldiers into battle, thundering across the plains, and simply grazing quietly in serene pastures. It is the heart and spirit of a horse that give it that courage, that freedom, and that peace. These qualities cause man to admire and envy this animal, sometimes misunderstand and often, underestimate it.

Throughout history there have been horses whose names we still recall as displaying the true heart and spirit of a horse, such as General Lee's Traveller, battle of Little Bighorn survivor, Comanche, and racing legend, Seabiscuit. And there is a horse that might not typically be considered a hero - she has never carried a general into a battle, escaped capture on the open plains, or proven herself on a racetrack - however, she is a hero to horses, as well as humans. Because of her, many other horses have been saved from an uncertain fate, even death - all because she once grazed quietly in a serene pasture.

The amazing story of Idaho, a Racking Horse mare, was told in the pages of this magazine many years ago after her theft in 1997 and recovery fifty-one weeks later. But no one, including her owners Debi and Harold Metcalfe, would have ever guessed the impact that she would have on their lives. One day, the Metcalfes were just an American family with two children and a few pleasure horses. The next, they became caught up on a journey that led to places they never imagined being. The horse they once admired became an icon they would never again underestimate. The Metcalfes have learned the power of one horse.