



# Second Chances

How a Hyatt hotel in New Mexico is giving abandoned horses better lives.

BY JEFF LOY

**LIKE MANY RESORTS, THE HYATT REGENCY TAMAYA** Resort and Spa in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, offers activities such as horseback trail rides, which allow guests to explore the surrounding Southwestern landscape. What makes this property just north of Albuquerque different, though, is the journey that some of the horses take to get to that point.

Affected by factors such as drought and economic issues, many farmers and ranchers in the area have been forced to send their horses to slaughter or simply turn them loose to fend for themselves. In response to the problem, the Hyatt Regency Tamaya developed a rehabilitation program through their Stables at Tamaya and is offering meeting attendees a chance to participate.

Managed by Stable Director Connie Collis, a team of professional wranglers works with and trains horses that ultimately end up not only transporting guests, but are also permanently placed at other locations, such as Galloping Grace Youth Ranch (where children can interact with the animals). Special consideration is given to horses that arrive neglected or abused, and they are carefully incorporated into the program so that they can become more at ease around humans and other animals. In the program's first eight years, 25 horses have been rehabilitated.

Groups holding meetings at the resort are able to work with wranglers to train, care, groom and interact with the horses, as well as help build additional stables for the animals. At the end of the experience, groups are given the opportunity to name one of the horses and receive online updates and live web-cam video feeds to keep track of progress.

For more information about the program, visit [www.tamaya.hyatt.com](http://www.tamaya.hyatt.com).

**JEFF LOY** is digital communications coordinator for *One+*.

