



PMU Foals — All Grown Up & Beautiful

Can you believe the horses in this painting are PMU foals?! The story of how Vicki obtained four PMU foals is amazing.... She tells it best:

"There was a herd of 89 mares from a Canadian PMU rancher going to market. They were 15 minutes from loading in the truck [I'll add -- to an unhappy ending] when my girlfriend bought all 89. There were 56 babies to be born shortly after... Bolero being one. I was fortunate to bring four of the yearlings to Indiana the following year."

A source for information about obtaining PMU foals is [PMU Foal Acquisition Network, Inc.](#) (FANI). Here's what they have to say about PMU:

"PMU stands for PREgnant MARE UrINE, which has been harvested from pregnant mares for use in hormone replacement therapy drugs for women since the 1940's."

"For approximately six months from fall through spring, the pregnant mares live in the "pee barns," forced to stand in stalls with urine collection devices strapped to them. The stalls are deliberately narrow to prevent pregnant mares from turning around and detaching the collection cups. In the last month of their eleven-month pregnancy, the mares are put out to pasture to have their foals. The mares are put in a herd with a stallion, so they quickly become pregnant again. In September, their foals are taken away from them to be sold, whether or not they are fully weaned. The next month, they're back in the barns and the cycle starts again. Foals not purchased directly from farmers often to auction. Among the bidders are kill buyers, who will take the foals to feedlots to be fattened for slaughter."

As you see, the end of the road for PMU foals (and mares who are no longer needed) is often not pleasant. But the four foals who arrived at Vicki's found paradise! Living in a large, airy barn with their own pasture and lake, and loving caretaker, they are four VERY lucky horses!

And Vicki would certainly claim she's the one who is lucky! All four of her foals are beautiful! That's why I had to include them all in the painting, although Bolero is the star. He's the one that is second in line, but totally in charge -- exhibiting some alpha behavior as he keeps the horses in line for the photo shoot!

Danielle, a fan of Bolero's, also nominated him for the [Beautiful Horses of Indiana](#) project. She who wrote, "[Bolero's] eyes hold a softness to them that immediately shows how sweet and understanding this horse is. His forelock is absolutely to die for as it reaches his nose! The rest of his mane is also long and thick. Not only is he simply stunning to look at, his personality is exceedingly charming."

You may be wondering what happened to all the other mares and babies that were about to board that truck in Canada. Well, Vicki's friend, who originally rescued the horses, founded [The Duchess Sanctuary](#)—owned and operated by The Fund for Animals in partnership with The Human Society of the United States. It is a 1,120-acre facility south of Eugene, Ore., established in 2008 as an oasis for about 200 formerly abused, abandoned, neglected and homeless horses. They got a good home too!

Tiny New Art Now Online

My latest project was to create a tiny Bookmark Icon. I've been admiring those clever, tiny icons that appear on my Favorites Bar and Favorites drop down menu. I decided to find out how to make one for my website. Turns out it isn't too hard. Well, except for creating an image that is 16x16 pixels in size and recognizable as a horse painting. Want to see what I came up with? Go to my website: [Horse Paintings by Karen Brenner](#) and save it as one of your Favorites! What do you think of the tiny icon?

Do you want to make a tiny icon? Here are two websites that guided my icon-making process:

[So You Want Your Own Bookmark Icon, Huh?](#)

[Free Online Favicon.ico Icon Generator](#)



Vote for a Cutie

Piper, my Airedale, has gone and entered a photo contest. As you know she loves to learn tricks. Her latest trick is working out on our portable stepper. When she saw a photo contest with a "Most Athletic" division, she had to pose for her pic and enter the contest. She'd love to have your vote. Here's a link to [Piper's photo](#).

FUN LINKS OF THE MONTH

Can golf carts do cross country? Watch this [video](#) and be glad riders don't tackle the course blindfolded!

Flash Mobs: I loved the flash mob dance on *Modern Family* a few weeks ago and looked for more online. Success! Check this out! [Ohio State Flash Mob](#). Who will organize the first equine flash mob?

See more Horse Paintings by Karen Brenner on her [website](#).

Questions or comments? Email Karen at kmbrenner@hotmail.com

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