

We're all familiar with Savy, Bubby, Wally, and a few of the other dogs that come to visit the farm. However, only our Saturday team has had the pleasure of meeting Ruth and Sage, one of our favorite duos. Ruth is part of the Veterans program at High Ridge Harmony Farm, and always brightens the morning as soon as she arrives. She brings with her a positive and optimistic aura each time she attends a session. In addition to her joy and positivity, Ruth brings her service dog, Sage. Sage is a Belgian Malinois, and she always has her pink and purple service dog vest on- which she looks very pretty in, of course.

When the farm team was preparing for Ruth and Sage's arrival on their first day, there were many questions we were asking ourselves. What will it be like having a dog in the session? Will the horses be bothered? Will the dog be bothered? We decided to play it by ear and see what happens, but be ready to adjust if necessary. When Ruth and Sage arrived, most of our worries melted away. Sage was quiet, observant, and calm as long as she stayed right next to her person. Ruth was laid back and optimistic, saying that she was willing to try anything. Everyone relaxed knowing that there was no pressure, and we could introduce Sage and the horses as slowly as necessary.

Starting off slow, Ruth introduced Sage to Coco. Both Sage and Coco appeared to be unbothered by each other's presence. Without a doubt both the horse and dog were calm because Ruth was making an effort to keep herself relaxed, even though it was nerve wracking to try something new. The Saturday team watched in awe as a friendship began to form between human, horse, and dog.

As time went on, Ruth and Sage became more ambitious with the activities at the farm. Ruth learned to lead both Sage and Coco at the same time, with one in each hand, and strengthened the trust between all three of them. It was an unforgettable moment watching Ruth lead both animals over the bridge at the same time. All three of them side by side, they look like quite the team.

Ruth and Sage continue to come to the farm, and make progress together. They've learned to do so many things, and even got the chance to work with Olive for the first time! It's been amazing to see the growth in confidence, and it's so much fun to celebrate their accomplishments. Ruth's positive attitude towards a challenge makes it possible to overcome anything. Ruth and Sage's story will always inspire us, and remind us that we can do anything as a team.