

Statement made by Nicole Marr  
RE: Cleve Wells, trainer

In the evening of August 13, 2008, my father and partner in our horse business, Wayne Holley, informed me he would not be at the barn the following morning. He had a driving trip to Weatherford, TX and while he was in the area, he planned on stopping at Cleve Wells Quarter Horses to check on the progress of the horse we sent there for training earlier in the year.

On the afternoon of August 14, I was preparing to leave for a horseshow when Wayne pulled in to a convenience store where I was. He came to the window of my truck and showed me a picture he had taken with his cell phone. I could not tell much from the picture except that it was of the side of the horse, and I told him I assumed that it was our horse. As he started telling me about his visit to the Wells' property and the condition of the horse it was apparent, he was very upset about what he had seen. He stated that if he had had a trailer with him, he would have brought the horse home then. He then asked my plans for the following day, as he wanted us to make a trip to Burleson to pickup the horse. He then described the condition of the horse to me.

On the morning of August 15, 2008, Wayne, Gary Russ and I left Elk City at 7:00 a.m., to go to Burleson. We arrived at the Wells' property close to noon, and found our horse tied in a stall. Neither Mr. Wells nor Megan, an assistant trainer, was there. I saw one employee that was painting stalls in the main barn. He was Mexican and did not speak English very well. There were feed and water in the stall, but since the horse was tied, he could not reach either one. When I saw our horse, I was heartbroken. The injuries were worse than I had imagined. Our big strong horse that we sent to Mr. Wells now looked pathetic and broken. I took pictures with my digital camera to document the injuries.

I called Equine Medical Associates in Pilot Point to see if a vet could see him before we headed back home. They had a 4:30 appointment open. We then called Mr. Wells on Gary's cell phone; he did not answer when I called, so I left a voicemail for him telling him we were in the area and stopped to check on our horse, and was wondering what happened to the horse. I asked him to call Wayne or myself and left our cell phone numbers. To date I have not received call from him. Soon after the phone call, a woman pulled up, got out of car and asked if there was a sick horse. I told her we had an injured horse. She introduced herself to me as Cleve's mother, I told her my name and she asked if I was the horse owner, I told her my father and I owned him. She went with me to the stall, where Wayne and Gary were, and looked at the horse and said it must have been hot that day, he must not have realized how hard he was riding the horse. She also commented that she had never seen anything like that (the injuries) before. She also stated that once a day, in the evening, Amy, a former employee of Mr. Wells' would come and check on the animals. She asked if the horse was going to the vet and I told her no, he was going home. We went to another barn to get the blanket that he was sent there with, got a bucket of water to see if horse would drink which he did, then loaded him in the trailer and headed to the vet's office in Pilot Point.

On the way to Pilot Point, we looked up an address for the SPCA and stopped at the address listed in Denton, TX. It was located in Petsmart. There was a young woman working for the SPCA, we told her the details of the situation and informed her of another horses on the Wells' property with less severe but similar injuries. She explained that she did not take reports or file complaints, but after seeing the pictures we had taken, she filled out the form online and submitted it for us.

Karen Adler, DVM of Equine Medical Associates in Pilot Point was the vet that examined the horse. She looked the horse over, smelled his mouth and took some pictures. She asked us what we thought had caused these injuries to his sides and Wayne and I both replied we thought they were the results of excessive spurring. She stated that she agreed that injuries were from spurs, and person that made the marks had incredibly long legs. She took a blood sample from the horse to check the white cell count. It was obvious the horse was severely infected; you could smell a horrible stench when you were close to the horse and a large line of dark yellow pus oozing from the right side of his barrel. She spent around two hours cleaning wounds, taking pictures, x-rays and ultrasounds, and removing two pieces of his mandible. She released the horse to make the trip home and sent medical care instructions with us. Her report and pictures of injuries are enclosed.

We arrived back at Elk City around midnight. The aftercare instructions given to us by Adler were followed. Joey McConnell, DVM, in Elk City, has also examined and done blood work on this horse.

This statement is accurate and true. I also believe the reports and pictures prove beyond any doubt the horse was cruelly and unnecessarily abused while in training at Cleve Wells Quarter Horses in Burleson.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Nicole Marr