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Miniature horses say goodbye to their summer home at continuing care centre

Edmonton – Two miniature horses, the first known in Canada to live at a continuing care centre, will say goodbye to their summer home and friends:

When: Wednesday, August 29, 2007 – 11:30 a.m.

Where: Kipnes Centre for Veterans, 4470 McCrae Avenue (152 Ave & Castle Downs Road)

Ramsay and Buddy came to board at the Kipnes Centre for Veterans in June through a co-operative venture with Hearts and Hooves Edmonton, a charitable organization that specializes in bringing the healing power of miniature horses to the frail and elderly.

Continuing care centres typically use pets such as dogs, cats, and rabbits as a form of therapy. Pet therapy has a positive effect on the resident's physical, emotional and social interactions with others. It reduces stress and helps residents have a more meaningful quality of life. Interaction with animals have been shown to reduce blood pressure, increase sensory stimulation, inspire a sense of purpose, increase social interactions with the staff and reduce loneliness by creating a sense of companionship.

This summer, residents of the Kipnes Centre for Veterans visited with the miniature horses on a daily basis. Residents could be seen leaning on the fence to feed the horses apples and carrots, while trained summer youth volunteers and staff provided care for the horses. The Kipnes Centre for Veterans, located on 1.93 hectares of land on the northwest corner of the former Griesbach military base, sheltered the two horses in a miniature red barn.

Media may interview:

- Residents and family members
- Michelle Kropp, owner of Hearts and Hooves Edmonton
- Tracey Mann, Recreation Therapist, Kipnes Centre for Veterans

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