



## Kids' Camp Horse Vanishes – NetPosse wants Ohio Horse Home!

Shelby, North Carolina – As the boys and girls return to Falcon Horse Camp this summer in Carrollton, Ohio, there will be a conspicuous absence of a familiar face. When Ty, a bay quarter horse, didn't return to camp this summer, the staff became concerned over his whereabouts. The 16-plus-hand gelding is a camp favorite among the children due to his willingness and calm disposition, but now he is missing and the staff and children want their beloved friend back.

At the end of each summer, Falcon Horse Camp leases its riding horses out for the winter months, and Ty went home with a staff member. Last November, Ty was seen in good health, so Director Emily Caswall Devey had no reason to worry about his well being ... until about six months later. The staff was worried when the shipper failed to show up in early June with the horse. By mid-June, it became apparent that Ty wasn't coming back to camp, and the staff began to seek him out, sending its own transportation company after the gelding.

Worry turned to despair when it was reported that the address given for Ty's location didn't even exist. However, the most puzzling piece was the fact that the former staff member who had leased Ty had been saying how wonderful the horse was doing.

It was then that the camp personnel turned to Stolen Horse International, Inc. (SHI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the Internet's No. 1 resource in the recovery of stolen and missing horses. Lauren Myers, the staff member who filed the report with SHI on June 20, stated, "Up until a week ago, [the lessee] had been going on and on about how great everything was and how the horse looks so good ... when we went to pick the horse up, he gave us two different addresses, neither of which existed. We finally found the supposed farm and the horse is not there ... and three kids gave us three different stories about the horse." The stories ranged from Ty had been sold for back board to he'd been shot by a hunter to he had gotten loose.

However, when a saddle was found at a farm in Millersport, Ohio, camp staff knew that Ty had been there. It was one of several pieces of tack leased with the horse. But the question remains: Where is Ty now? The lessee isn't talking as he is will not return phone calls and cannot be found.

After receiving the report from Lauren, Stolen Horse International immediately listed Ty on its website, [www.netposse.com](http://www.netposse.com), and NetPosse volunteers are asking the equine community to contact SHI with any leads regarding Ty's whereabouts. The Deveys have spoken to local law enforcement, but this case is considered civil. The stable owner where the saddle was found is not being very cooperative, but apparently a family living on the property had possession of Ty at some point. But this is where the trail gets cold.

The public needs to be aware that Ty is a special needs horse, though he may not act like he is. As a young colt, Ty suffered an injury to his left eye, which left him blind. While the eye is still intact, it is very small in size and non-functional. This physical defect is a key factor in identifying Ty.

Ty's information, pictures and updates can be found on [www.netposse.com](http://www.netposse.com) under Missing Horses in Ohio, but he is not the only horse missing. Sizzle, a roan quarter horse mare, was stolen in Illinois from a college equestrian program March 10, 2007. Flashy, a red and white paint mare, was stolen in Texas from a children's therapy program in May 2006. These horses and others need the public's help to come home to those who love them.

Providing horse theft education and aiding in the recovery of stolen and missing horses is what Debi Metcalfe, SHI's founder, and NetPosse volunteers do best. SHI was formed because of Debi's personal experience after her family's horse, Idaho, was stolen in 1997 and recovered fifty-one weeks later, through her family's efforts. As Debi Metcalfe is fond of saying, "Never underestimate the power of one!"

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