

RAISING GEORGE

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Raising a colt is no small task. No one knows this better than Alicia Lepley-Sehorn. We recently checked in with Alicia and her 1-year-old colt, once known as Indy, who was born at Trusting Spirit just over a year ago.

Indy's mother, Freedom arrived at the rescue from Spokane Wash., in July 2017. She was a shy, reserved mustang rescued out of Oregon earlier that year along with several others horses. Not long after her arrival, it was discovered she was **pregnant** and due in early spring.



Indy's mother Freedom was rescued by Spokane County Animal Protection Services (SCRAPS) in early 2017

On the morning of Mar. 3, 2018, a scruffy looking little foal was spotted sharing Freedom's paddock. Indy had arrived sometime during the night.

Stephanie Stibal, Trusting Spirit's rehabilitation and adoption coordinator, began working with him almost immediately.



Indy, just a few hours old.

His curious, frolicsome behavior together with his "race-car" like mentality earned him the name **Indy**, a name he was given after a "**Name the Colt**" contest.



Stephanie with Indy, just a few days old.

Later in March, Stephanie met Alicia at the rescue's annual tack sale. A video of Indy racing around his pen was playing on a monitor. Alicia, who had been at the tack sale for several hours was ready to leave empty handed until she jokingly said, "Well, I'll take that", pointing to the video of Indy.

"He follows me everywhere. He even leaves his food to be with me."

Alicia had been looking for another horse to join her older gelding, but wasn't considering a baby colt. She'd raised them before.



George and Alicia, spring training

But then she noticed Indy was born the same day her father, George, passed away. She decided to visit the rescue and meet him.

It didn't take long for the two of them to bond. Soon after, Indy became **George** and Stephanie and Alicia began working with him in preparation for his new life and home.

On July 12, the 4-month-old colt was loaded and trailered to his soon-to-be new home. George spent a few weeks at an area boarding facility to undergo additional training, socializing and handling. Not long after, he was off to Alicia's in Wenatchee, Wash., to take up residence with his new home and family.

It didn't take long to settle into his new digs. "He follows me around everywhere and even leaves his food to be with me." said Alicia. He's also taken well to Alicia's 13-year-old horse, Patron. She compared the relationship to that of older and very younger brother.



First day away from the rescue, George checks out his temporary paddock where he will undergo additional training.

George has found his perfect home and family and has a very promising future. However, Alicia confessed, "I am getting older, and baby horses are a lot of work now!"

Indeed they are. Especially this little guy who still has that "Indy 500 race-car" mentality".



George and Alicia spring training, one-year later.

When asked what's changed in the past year, she said, "Not much, maybe he's a little more confident." She went on to describe the same curious and mischievous behavior he had at the rescue. "He's a total clown and is constantly stealing my stuff. He loves zipping and bucking around the road cones on my property. He's quite the show off."

Alicia is still considering future plans for George. "When he's putting on a show, he has a well-rounded movement and balanced collected lope which could lead to a wonderful dressage mount. So I'll keep my eye on that." She also thinks he has the potential to make a nice trail horse.



Photo taken March 3, 2018

