

Rare minihorse dies after wind topples tree

“HE WAS A hoot,” said **Glenda Cable** of her prized minihorse stallion **Lost Spokes Broken Arrow**, or **“BA”** for **Broken Arrow** or **Bad Attitude**, depending on how he was acting that day.

She phoned to tell me of his tragic, accidental death caused when her neighbor’s 135-foot tree crashed down on him during an early November windstorm.

BA was a 29-inch tall, rare-colored leopard appaloosa.

During the storm, she worried about the majority of her minihorse herd, which roams a large pasture with shelters.

She thought BA was safe and secure for the night in his barn stall with adjoining pen.

Sadly, she was wrong.

When she went out in the morning to feed him, she saw the tree had crushed the fence to his pen.

“It was awful,” she said.

“I looked around the yard thinking he escaped the pen when the tree fell, but then I spotted his little hoof under the tree. It was horrible.”

According to her arborist’s report, the tree likely fell because much of its roots were killed or handicapped when pipe was laid for the Sequim irrigation ditch system, which runs alongside the boundary line between the Cables’ farm and a neighbor’s

PENINSULA HORSEPLAY

Karen Griffiths



property.

“When workers were putting pipe in the ditch, I told them, ‘You just killed that tree!’” said Glenda.

“I saw them take the roots off the east side and asked what was

going to support that tree now. I told them they needed to take it out, but they didn’t.”

In the two years since, Glenda worried her neighbor’s trees might fall and come crashing down on her master bedroom roof — so much so that with every windstorm since, the family has slept on the opposite side of the house.

Her barn is located farther away, roughly 50 feet from the neighbor’s property.

“In 2003, I sent a certified letter to my neighbor requesting he cut those trees down. He didn’t want to, and now my horse is gone,” mourned Glenda.

“I don’t want anyone else to have to go through this. People need to be aware the trees that once relied on the ditch for water



Sequim homeowner Glenda Cable recently lost her minihorse, Lost Spokes Broken Arrow, a rare leopard appaloosa she recently purchased, after a neighbor’s tree fell on him during a windstorm.

are dying.”

She’s urging homeowners to be proactive and to cut down trees that were dependent on the ditch for water.

According to the arborist she brought out to assess the situation, every tree along the ditch is now handicapped, especially non-native trees like the grand fir

that killed BA. They won’t grow because circumstances they grew tall in have changed.

Homeowners need to cut those trees down and plant a new tree that can grow according to its new surroundings.

As for Glenda, the arborist recommended at least 20 to 30 other trees lining the piped ditch

be cut down.

Unfortunately, BA, the prized stallion, wasn’t insured.

Glenda had searched for years for such a horse and had just recently purchased and shipped him from Pennsylvania.

He was shown as a weanling by his breeders and was in the top 10 for his size and age group at the American Miniature Horse Association nationals.

Glenda said her homeowner’s insurance representative told her the tree falling is considered an “act of God,” so her neighbor isn’t responsible, and her homeowner’s insurance won’t cover replacing BA.

“So, basically, with not having BA insurance, I’m screwed,” said Glenda, who only had the stallion long enough for one breeding.

She’s hoping others can learn from her experience.

Thank you, Glenda, for sharing your story.

I’m sorry for your loss.

Karen Griffiths’ column, *Peninsula Horseplay*, appears every other Wednesday.

If you have a horse event, clinic or seminar you would like listed, please e-mail Griffiths at kbg@olympus.net at least two weeks in advance. You can also write Griffiths at *PDN*, P.O. Box 1330, Port Angeles, WA 98362.