

REELTIME ANIMAL RESCUE'S COMPASSION EDUCATION: CONNECT & INSPIRE PRESENTER



EMILY CHETKOWSKI AHO - NEWFOUNDLAND PONY CONSERVANCY CENTER

For hundreds of years, Newfoundland Ponies inhabited the rugged island of Newfoundland, Canada. A breed created by nature via survival of the fittest, Nature sure knew how to make a pony - one with intelligence, health, and an inherent ability to survive any challenge. However the pony was nearly annihilated by the greatest challenge of all that nature could not stop, purposeful extermination.

Going from 7000 ponies to less than 100 in but 20 years, despite concerted efforts to save the breed from extinction, today there are only 250 breeding ponies left in the world; 60 live in the USA; 27 of those are under the protection of a program established and run by Emily Chetkowski Aho since 2013.

Founder, Executive Director of the Newfoundland Pony Conservancy Center, and breed advocate, Emily Aho has shared her life with Newfoundland Ponies since the early 2000's, quite by chance and circumstance. While their numbers and welfare has improved somewhat there is still a long way to go.

A children's author since 1995, and retired RN, Emily's every waking hour has been centered around her mission to make a difference and better future for children, people, and now ponies. It was a dog that inspired her award winning first book, based on a true story, "Mabel Takes the Ferry." Emily traveled doing schools visits and spoke to over 100,000 students.

Emily also sits on the board of education-centered Courtroom 600 and Equus Survival Trust, and was formerly vice president of the Newfoundland Pony Society. She also is a certified equine assisted life skills facilitator where Newfoundland Ponies are the teachers, helping Veterans, families, children at risk, and people with addiction disorders.

Emily believes strongly that education can spark ideas and positive change for the future in so many ways. It was an 8th grade English teacher who lit the fire under her to get involved in rescue and become a professional writer.

Known for being able to adapt her presentations to any age level or interest, even large mixed groups, for 30 years she has been a popular presenter in many venues. Emily says that when you do things that come from your heart, it is easy to do.