

This is the story of how our ranch got its name. It was known as Double U Equestrian Center when we started. In 2014 the name changed to Freedom Lives Ranch.



Freedom, the miracle horse pictured above with owner C.C. Colvett and hostess Machille Wilke, was the lone survivor from his corral when a record-setting flood on Onion Creek destryoyed barns and carried away fences, farm equipment and livestock three weeks ago. The south Austin area received 15 inches of rain in one hour, causing the creek to rise 41 feet. Freedom was found three ranches away, about a quarter-mile downstream, after the flood subsided. His leg was cut, but with proper treatment (and lots of antibiotics), he is expected to make a full recovery.

Freedom is 17 years old, and spent six years working with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in California. He is an experienced swimmer, which may have helped him survive the flood. C.C. Colvett first came to Lake Buchanan to go camping. She noticed the Cross & Spurs Cowboy Church, and stopped in to visit. There she met Machille Wilke, of Double-U Equestrian Center in Buchanan Dam; the two became good friends. Now Freedom is convalescing at the Double-U, where chances of flooding seem very remote. His leg is healing and, as of last Saturday, he was expected to need only one more week of antibiotics.

CC was planning on moving Freedom back to Austin to a new horse barn and to be closer with her the first part of February 2014. Unfortunately, on February 4, 2014, CC passed away at the young age of 52. Her brother took Freedom and moved him back to Austin. Our hearts were broken, and to this day, we still miss CC and Freedom very much. It was then that we decided the name of this ranch would be changed to Freedom Lives Ranch.

In CC's memory, RIP my friend.