

November 2009

My goodness it's gotten cold. Since I was born in the late spring I didn't know it would ever feel this cold outside. (My mom tells me that it will get even colder in a couple of months.) It's a good thing I like to run around the pasture – it helps to keep me warm. Running makes me hungry. I eat the grass in our pasture as well as hay. The other horses tell me it's a special treat when we get carrots and apples, but I'm not old enough to eat them yet. My teeth aren't strong enough. What sorts of things do you like to do for fun? Are there special foods you like to eat?

Recently, I had a new experience: I got my first hair cut. Or, more accurately, my mane was trimmed. The mane on Fjord horses is very coarse and kept short so it will stand up. It felt funny for awhile especially when I'd roll in the grass. The ends felt sharp and bristly. When I was first born my mane was all white. Now it's getting a black stripe down the middle like adult Fjord horses. I guess I'm growing up. One thing I really like is to have my coat brushed and my neck and ears scratched.

Pam Walton, the Joy Ranch Director, tells me that many of the children that will come to Joy Ranch attend school from September thru May. What are you learning in school? Do you have a favorite subject? Did you know that I'm attending school, too? The other Norwegian Fjord horses have started training so they'll be ready to work with campers next summer. I'm learning to walk with a halter around my neck and a lead rope attached. Pam tells me that this is the first thing I need to learn in order for children to ride me when I get older. Sometimes I frustrate my teacher. When I see my trainer coming with the halter and lead rope I sometimes run away or else lay down. I guess my trainer thinks I'm not always very cooperative, but I just want to play and have fun. The best part of class is when all of the horses including me gather in the arena and play "The Friendly Game".

Once when Pam was working with me she said that the colder air and the leaves changing color mean that fall has arrived. She said it also means that Thanksgiving will soon be here. I've never celebrated Thanksgiving before. Pam says it's a special day for feasting and giving thanks for the many blessings God has given us. What are you thankful for? I've been thinking about it and realize I have lots of blessings to be thankful for: food, my mother, friends, time to play and work, and people who take good care of me. Oh, and I'm really thankful for you – friends I maybe haven't met yet – who will help me raise money for the new playground at Joy Ranch. Thank you for your help. Please tell your family and friends about me and Joy Ranch. Let's get others excited about this project, too.

Your friend,

Sven

