



# Over Herd

Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc.  
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 On the Web at:  
[www.horseprotection.org](http://www.horseprotection.org)  
 and [www.angelfire.com/nc/horseprotsocnc/](http://www.angelfire.com/nc/horseprotsocnc/)

## Goodbye Chief

By: Margie Doyle



Project Day/  
Members Meeting

April 13, 2002

Lunch and meeting  
at 12:30 PM

Please bring a cov-  
ered dish to share.

Lots of fun! Great  
day to help out with  
ranch improvements.  
Mark your calendar  
today!

Sometime in the early morning hours of March 12, 2002, one of our resident horses, Chief, died unexpectedly but peacefully at the age of 36. I know many of you knew "of" Chief, but I'm not sure how many of you knew him for the great horse that he was. He was hard not to notice because of his physical beauty, but then again, he was easy to miss because of his quiet, unassuming disposition.

If there was one word I would use to describe Chief, it would be dignified. No, Chief was not the kind to come running over when he saw us, although we tried every trick and bribe to get him to do so. He was too smart, too dignified to fall for that. He was independent - all too happy to be off all by himself, munching his hay or grazing peacefully and calmly. If the other horses were getting rambunctious, Chief would remain calm and steady and refuse to get involved. When we exercised him, we felt safe and secure knowing that he would stay levelheaded, no matter what was going on around him. (continued on page 3)



## Big Horsey Thank You!

By: Joanie Benson

HPS sends out a request to our mailing list, and e-mailing list once a year. Thank you so very much to the folks who have answered the plea for the horses. The first quarter is just terrible to provide for all the things needed for the horses. We have been running \$2,440 short each month since the beginning of the year. We are in desperate need of replacing the supplements that so benefit the horses health. We are out of or running low on MSM, Grape seed extract, Beta carotene, magnesium, arthritis supplement, vitamin and mineral supplements, biotin, B-12, 50 lb. Rice Bran, and 80 lb. a week of Shredded beet pulp. Our supplement bill each month is very high, but don't the horses deserve to have what they need? It is also time to worm the horses again with Ivermectin and 30 tubes are needed each time. By mail ordering the wormer the cost is reduced to \$145. But what if we do not have the funds.....? The vet office has been very kind in letting us charge, and we need to pay them. If each person sent just \$10 a month it would solve the financial problem. But as we all know it will be the few truly caring folks who will see HPS through another year. A surprising fact is that last year it was a little more than 200 families that contributed to the horses care.....The newsletter was sent to approximately 500 people each month. What a heavy load for the 200 folks to carry! Please lighten the load by becoming a regular contributor. The continual fundraising wears the members out and they need to be at the sanctuary working with the horses and their needs. **The horses desperately need your help!** Thank you and may God bless your life and the horses.

# The Last Ride

By: Erika Torrence

Oh, I am so lonely. It seems like ages since the girl with blond hair came out to visit me. I have seen her though. She has been in the upper pasture with "the new horse" I wonder what his name is? He is so much younger and flashier than I am. They think I am too old to be of any use anymore. I am only 20! I wish someone would come visit me and pay me some attention! I want to show them that I can run and play and do all the things "the new horse" can do! Wait a minute! Here comes the blond girl with her father! They are carrying a halter and a lead rope! Oh joy! They are coming to see me! I will stand real still while they put the halter on me. I wonder where we are going? They have the trailer hooked up to the truck. Has she changed her mind about taking me to the show this weekend? I'll show her I'm not too old! Just you wait and see! Oh, it's been so long since we've gone anywhere together, but I'm sure we've never been this way before. Where in the world are we going? I'm starting to get a little nervous. This new place we've come to is not at all like any show I've ever been to. I see that there are a lot of other horses here, but they are all bunched up in these little pens. They are so cramped and uncomfortable! I hope they aren't going to leave me here! This place is horrible! Oh no! They are leaving me here! Please blond girl, take me back to my pasture at home! I'm so scared! I don't like the way that man is looking me over. Why did he say I was "good and fleshy"? What does that mean? All the other horses in this pen with me are scared and confused too. The man is prodding us along with a cattle prod. That thing feels like it is biting me! The only way to get away from it is to get on this nasty, smelly trailer that smells like cows! This isn't even a trailer for horses! We all have to duck our heads to get in. They are even putting horses in part of the trailer above us. Oh, we are so cramped and overcrowded in here! There is no food or water! I can hardly breathe! The sun has come up. We have been in here all night. What will this day bring? I am so tired; at this point I don't really care. The trailer is stopping. Are they going to let us out? As the door swings open, I see a huge building. They are herding us through a narrow chute that leads to a closed door. One at a time the door opens and lets one of us through. There are only about five or six horses in front of me now. I wonder what is behind the door??

What this poor horse doesn't know is that Death is waiting for him behind that door. If he is lucky, his death will be swift. The bolt gun that shoots a 4-inch bolt into his brain will kill him instantly so he will not know the horror of being hoisted up by one leg and having his throat slashed open while he is still conscious. This is the fate of thousands of horses every day in this country. Why? To provide meat for dinner tables in Europe and Japan! For more information, please visit [www.equineadvocates.com](http://www.equineadvocates.com) There you will find very graphic photos of a horse's journey through the slaughterhouse, along with links to many other informative sites. Remember, this could have been the fate of all the horses at our sanctuary! Without the love and support of our members, all of our horse's lives could have come to an end this way! Especially our beloved Starfire - she was bought at an auction - sick with a runny nose, she was sure to have gone to the slaughterhouse!

## It's that time again... HPS yard sale time!

Mark your calendar... June 8th



Thank you to the folks who have been bringing yard sale items. Keep those things coming! We do not yet have enough items and are taking donations of just about anything... except adult clothes. Please keep HPS in mind when you do your spring cleaning. If you have large items and no way to transport them just call the ranch to make pickup arrangements. Remember your donations are tax deductible.

A donation of food  
for Angel was given  
in memory of  
Donna Church's  
"Baby."  
By Lisa Carver



## FORE...

Do you know a golfer? Please tell them about the golf tournament to benefit HPS being held at

McCanless Golf Club in Salisbury on May 18th. The tournament has a \$35 entry fee, is captain's choice, and will begin with a shotgun start at 8:00 AM. We will be selling mulligans and tee busters and prizes will be awarded. Please contact Roberta McCardle or Kathy Haw with questions or to register your team. Keep your eye on the May newsletter of additional details!

### Gallop

Gallop, gallop  
 You are no longer mine  
 Gallop, gallop  
 Your heart will be fine  
 Gallop, gallop  
 Your mane in the wind  
 Gallop, gallop  
 Your in good hands  
 Gallop, gallop  
 High in the heavens  
 Gallop, gallop  
 Here your story ends

In loving memory



## Ode to Hay

by Miss Angel LeHouf  
 (with a little help from Roberta McCardle)

“Hay – grass cut and dried for use as fodder.” That’s the definition of hay according to The American College Dictionary. How woefully inadequate! It is clear that the authors of this work did not thoroughly research the subject. Calling hay mere grass is tantamount to an insult --- grass is what you mow once a week with the lawn mower. In the general scheme of things, grass is a non-entity. Calling hay “grass” is like calling a diamond a pretty, clear stone. I am aghast; I am incensed; I am highly disturbed. Do you get my drift?

How can one describe the sheer joy that fresh, good quality hay brings to the heart? Did you know that Dakota gets all quivery when he sees Harold coming on the tractor with a fresh round bale? Did you know that Fire Breeze completely forgets about Star Fire’s beauty for several hours after a hay delivery? Shoshoni wants to shout and Navajo wants to run. Whisper and Maya are usually the first to spot Harold and the word swiftly travels from horse to horse. “He’s coming with fresh hay! ETA is less than five minutes!”

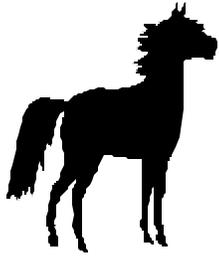
Oh, the anticipation! We all try to play it cool and not act too eager...but make no mistake, our hearts are thumping and we are avidly watching. The turn into the driveway, the gates being opened one by one -- which pasture will receive the first delivery? Ah, the utter deliciousness of hay. How can I describe the different layers of taste & the sweetness of it all to non-hay eaters? I could go on and on, telling you about the effect of moisture and sunlight, longitude & latitude, etc. etc. Let me close with a confession: hay is not only good to eat; it has multiple purposes. When no one is watching, I ROLL in it...it smells sooo fragrant and its perfect for that little itchy spot in the middle of my back. Delightful!

## Goodbye Chief (continued from page 1)

My three daughters and I sponsored Chief for almost one year. I knew early on he would not be a demonstrative horse; I knew the most I could ever hope for was mutual respect. We had difficulty earning that respect, and I'm not sure if we ever totally succeeded, but we did earn his trust - a fact we took great pleasure in. He loved attention, and we reveled in giving it to him, at even having the opportunity to do so. We were inexperienced riders (and still pretty much are), but he put up with a lot from us. As one of my daughters put it, "you could almost hear him roll his eyes" when we made silly mistakes. But he never lashed out or startled. Proud, steady, levelheaded and dignified. He may not have come running to us, but when we went out to see him and called his name, he would pull himself up a little straighter, and hold his head a little higher. That's when I knew he cared for us too, in his own special way.

Many people have said to me that I should take comfort in the fact that we helped make his last months on earth more pleasurable. Maybe that will eventually take hold in my mind, but for right now, I still feel it was he who was cheated. He gave us so much more than all the rubs, treats, or attention we gave him. I feel we took away more from our relationship than he did or ever could. He taught me patience, and he helped open my heart and showed me with love. I looked forward to getting away from the often-frantic pace of the world, and spend time with him. I loved to wrap my arms around his neck, smell his mane, and gather strength and peace from his steadfastness. He made me feel safe, calm, and secure.

Someone once told me that we grieve for that which is significant to us. Also, that when we grieve, we truly are grieving for ourselves, for that which we have lost. With Chief's death, we truly lost something very significant to us. They say you never forget your first love, and I feel that with Chief as "our first horse", there will always be a special place in our hearts for him. We were so proud of him, and we loved him with all our hearts. Because to us, he was very special, "one of a kind" and we will miss him terribly.



## News From the Herd

**Tonto** is gaining weight and his energy levels have increased. After his worming we put **Meadow Flower** in with him to keep him company. The two are doing very well together.

**Gold Rush** had a false pregnancy complicated by an infection. For a few days we thought she may have been bred before she came to us. Even the mammary glands had milk and her size would make anyone think she was about to drop a foal.

**Salida** and **Mancha** have been wormed the required three times. Two light wormers and then Ivermectin. They have been able to join the other horses and are quieting down nicely.

**Cheyenne, Phoenix, and Star Fire** have had runny noses. The changeable weather is very hard on the horses. Hot one day and then below freezing at night. Most of the horses look very shaggy since we do not want to shed the horses out yet. We could still have some very cold weather.

We are in need of most of the supplements that the horses benefit from. Financially this is a very difficult time of the year for HPS. We do not have the funding to meet all the needs. We pray that each person who has not aided in the support of the horses in awhile, will find it in their heart to make a donation.

## Hoofbeats...

By Roberta McCardle

Spring is here at last! Flowers bursting forth, new grass, milder temperatures, and that fresh, indefinable “spring” smell in the air...all these things taken together mean Spring. This also brings to mind spring cleaning. When you are doing your cleaning keep the HPS yard sale in mind. Our yard sale will be on June 8<sup>th</sup>....so check out your houses and bring your items down to the ranch. If you have a large item and no way to transport it, call HPS to arrange for pick-up. We will be glad to do this and are most grateful for any items donated. Please don't forget that donated items are tax deductible.

Your generosity in helping the horses this way is appreciated! Spring cleaning also brings to mind other kinds of cleaning. If everyone could clean up after themselves, especially tack and tack boxes, that would be great. The tack boxes were scrubbed on a recent work day and we were amazed at the avoirdupois of sand & dirt contained therein. We now have a sign-in book in the tack room. The only items that do not have to be signed out are halters and leads. If you use any other items, then you need to sign the items both out and in, in the tack room book.

Newsflash...Margie Doyle has graciously agreed to orient new members. Thank you, Margie! We are working on a policy and procedures pamphlet and hope that this proves to be a useful tool. That's all for now – take care & God bless

(PS Angel would like to say, “Take time to sniff the clover”).



*Happy Birthday  
Spunky!  
Love Ya, Shannon*



Given in fond  
memory of  
Boo Wabbit  
By Sara Lewis



**HPS T-Shirt & Polo Shirts are on sale now....order yours today.  
Deadline to order is April 15th**

**T-Shirts are \$11.00  
Polo's are \$18.00**

**Logo will be in white**

**Shirt colors available are:  
Gray Blue Maroon**

**Sizes available are:  
Small Medium Large X-Large**

Shirt Style:

Color:

Size:

\_\_\_\_\_ T Shirt  
\_\_\_\_\_ Polo Shirt

\_\_\_\_\_ Gray  
\_\_\_\_\_ Blue  
\_\_\_\_\_ Maroon

\_\_\_\_\_ Small  
\_\_\_\_\_ Medium  
\_\_\_\_\_ Large  
\_\_\_\_\_ X Large

Total Price enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**New TLC Sponsors:**

- ♥ Carol Murphy
- ♥ Darcy Potestive

**Donations:**

Lorri Barrier  
 Anne & David Perrotta  
 Judith & Gene Hoots  
 Melody Murphy  
 Joan Benson  
 Andrea Schmidt  
 Jane Gaultney  
 Ingrid Schreiber  
 Brenda Porter-Howell  
 Sandy Babinski  
 Marcy Levine  
 A nice family in SC that  
 wishes to remain anonymous

**New Members:**

- ◆ Gene, Sandi & Kristin Lane
- ◆ Erin & Nicole Foley
- ◆ Darcy Potestive
- ◆ Rebecca & Jason Causby
- ◆ Elizabeth, Krista, Jamie,  
Kartie, Trevor Thompson
- ◆ Kristy Cody
- ◆ Kathy Wilson

**HPS Needs List:**

**For the Horses:**

**Purina Strategy**

(Angel needs this special feed)

**Ivermectin Wormer**

(it's \$150 each time we worm all the horses)

**Shredded Beet Pulp** (we go thru 3-4 bags per week)

**Supplements**

(contact the ranch or Erika Torrence for details)

**General Barn Needs:**

**4"X 4"X 10' treated posts**

**2"X 6"X 10' treated lumber**

**Metal hay feeders**

(to hold the round bales and prevent waste of the hay)

**Cut away Western Saddle Blankets**

**Long Western reins**

**Western Saddles**

**Miscellaneous Operating Needs:**

**Stamps**

**Printer Ink Cartridges** (Contact Ambe Lewis, Editor)

**Computer Paper**

**3 Hole Sheet Protectors**

**Donation Form:**

Your name:

Your phone number:

Your e-mail:

Your Message (for newsletter):

Is this for a memorial donation? Yes No

Whom do you wish to Honor:

Their e-mail:

Their Address:

Any donation amount is appreciated: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to **Horse Protection Society**.

For a \$25 or more donation the honored person can receive a year of "Over Herd."

Would you like the newsletter sent? Yes NO

**Please clip and mail to: Horse Protection Society  
2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023**

**HORSE PROTECTION SOCIETY  
OF NORTH CAROLINA INC.**

2135 Miller Road  
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and [www.angelfire.com/nc/horseprotosocnc/](http://www.angelfire.com/nc/horseprotosocnc/)

**Making the World a Better Place for Horses**

It is the mission of the Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc. to make the world a better place for horses through education, rescue and rehabilitation.

Founded by Joan Benson and incorporated in 1999, we continue to reach out and to grow. We are always seeking new members.

HPS is a fully incorporated 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. Your donations are the main source of income to support the sanctuary and are eligible for tax deduction.

**Horse Protection Society  
2135 Miller Road  
China Grove, NC 28023**

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