

# Over Herd



Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc.

2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023

(704) 855-2978

On the Web at:

[www.horseprotection.org](http://www.horseprotection.org)

**Mark your  
Calendars:**

**Members Day  
April 9th**

**Lunch/Meeting at Noon.  
Please bring a covered  
dish to share.**

**Farrier Day  
April 30th**

**Please contact the ranch  
if you are available to  
help with the horses**

## Two Abandoned Horses

The call came on a Wednesday afternoon about two horses that could possibly be abandoned in Huntersville. Through the help of the caller, the owner of the property and her phone number were quickly established. I finally was able to reach the property owner to secure permission to go on the property and check on the horses. Ms. B. was very upset and concerned about the horses and believed that they had been moved off her property. She does not live in Huntersville, had not been on the property in years, it was under contract with a developer and the sale was due to close very soon. Ms. B. mentioned she was disabled and was in her early 70's.

There had not been a tenant in the house for over a year. The last contact with the horses' owner was sometime during the summer when she once again told her to move the horses off the property since it was under contract. There was also a problem with the field rent never being paid. Ms. B only knew the horses' owner by the name "Mary."

I called Judy Witmer and off we went to the property. The daylight was fast disappearing when we arrived at the 19 acres of over grown property. It took me climbing a high ladder up into a tree to spot the horses. We had a small bucket of feed with us and headed off towards the horses at the other end of the area. Every horse knows the sound of feed rattling in a bucket, so the horses ran right up to us. A palomino gelding and a chestnut mare were happy to see us.



**Anza & Mohave**

*Continued page 2*

## Welcome Windsong



**Come and meet Windsong**

Windsong is 12-year-old Thoroughbred that a 15-year-old boy bought last year at the end of the summer. She was moved to a boarding stable and placed in field boarding. Many horses do not do well with this type of boarding and need more than just hay and a field to graze in. Windsong had foundered and her hooves were long and weak. The owner of the stable tried to get the owner to move Windsong to full board, and they would not. The boy's mother refused to spend any additional money on her care and wanted the horse put to sleep. The owner of the stable was very concerned and called HPS. The stable owner called Dr. Jonathan Featherstone to examine the mare. He called us and felt the horse could be saved and returned to health. Windsong was so happy to be fed that she would greet the feeders by placing her head on their shoulder and gently pushing against their face. This was all well and good except she had lice. Horse lice will quickly get off people and this type is the kind that eats flaking skin. Not the blood sucking kind. Windsong had an oil bath with Tea Tree oil added to kill the lice. This is not the time of the year for a bath and 15 minute soak. Everyone fell in love with her gentleness and joy of being provided soaked alfalfa and feed. The large hay bale is usually where you can find her at other times. Her nutritional needs had not been met last year so she could not grow a winter coat. We have to watch her closely to provide a blanket when needed. Some cold nights we have had to keep her up in the barn.

*Continued page 4*

## Abandoned Horses...from page 1

Their overgrown hooves and large worm bellies seem to be the biggest problem. They were not the weight they should be, but not near as bad as what we see so often. The palomino was a couple of hundred pounds under weight.

The following day I was able to contact Ms. B's son who had most of the contact with Mary over the two years that they were aware of the horses on the property. The previous tenant had sublet the fields to Mary some time in 2000. When that tenant left in the beginning of 2002 is when the owners found out there were horses on the property. Even though a field rent was agreed to, it was never paid. The last contact was made with a past co-worker of Mary's who informed Ms. B that Mary was once again back in the hospital. This person agreed to see that the horses were removed. Since no more contacts were forthcoming, Ms. B and her son believed the horses had finally left their property.

Friday I typed a release for Ms. B to sign that stated the request for HPS to remove the horses and care for them. Sandy Babinski met with Ms. B and then took the release to Kathy Haw's home. Arrangement had been made for Kathy and John to pick up the horses and bring them to the sanctuary. Once John got the big chestnut loaded, the palomino popped right on the trailer.

The following Monday I was able to locate "Mary." She said the horses were fine on the property and would not address the fact that she had been told to remove the horses. She was being evicted from her rental house and said that was her main concern.

Mohave's, the palomino, teeth were in terrible condition and made it almost impossible for him to eat. No wonder he was so thin. He would take a big bite of his feed since he was so hungry, and then when he tried to chew would open his mouth and let all of the feed fall back out of his mouth. After the needed dental work was completed, Mohave could eat comfortably. He is gaining back his weight and it maybe slow since he is about 27 years old.

Anza is a beautiful chestnut and looks like a mixed breed of maybe Saddlebred and Quarter horse. The horses' worming was completed, and the worm bellies are going down in size. Both are very nice horses, and we look forward to being able to place them in loving homes.

### Gift Cards Help the Horses!

The Food Lion Grocery Cards are a win-win deal. My average monthly cost for groceries is around \$300.00. When I receive my monthly retirement income, I purchase three \$100.00 cards through HPS. In doing so, HPS receives a \$15.00 donation and I receive a 5% tax deduction for the total amount. The cards are convenient. I'm not writing checks or trying to list ATM card deductions. Just one check at the first of the month does it. See... Totally a win-win deal.

Vera Bennett

### URGENT REQUEST! SPRING YARD SALE ALERT!!!!!!

Now that I have your attention..... the time is fast running out to collect items for the Yard Sale. The trailer is not full, the porch is not full... please HELP us fill these up to overflowing so we can have a successful MONEYMAKING Yard Sale. We need your stuff, your neighbor's stuff and your coworker's stuff. Please collect anything you can and bring it to the sanctuary.

We have a schedule for Yard Sale help. We need people to help sort, clean, and tag items donated for the sale. We will be working at the ranch on the following **Saturdays 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30 from 9am-12:30pm**, so if you can come and help out, Joanie and Deb could really use the help. If anyone would like to help but wants to come at another time, please let us know.

We'll also need the guys or strong backed gals on **May 5, Thursday** in the afternoon and evening to move large pieces of furniture from the trailer and porch to the front yard. All of the tables need to be set up then also. (Recruit your husband, brother or son.)

**May 6, Friday** is the day we need many helpers to set up for the sale and will be working into the evening. All the merchandise has to be put out and organized.

**May 7, Saturday** we need lots of folks to help with the sale. Please call or email with the days you can come and help. Mark your calendars.

Deb: cell 704-798-6641; home 704-855-1267; email [de\\_bakre@yahoo.com](mailto:de_bakre@yahoo.com)

Joanie: 704-855-2978 or [hps@horseprotection.org](mailto:hps@horseprotection.org)

Thank you for making this important fundraiser possible

## Yowza! It's the Accreditation Survey!

By Snickerdoodle (with clerical assistance from Roberta McCardle)

Curious about the increased flurry of activity at the ranch lately, I (reluctantly) did some eavesdropping. Here's is what I have been able to piece together...

JCAHO, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Horsecare Organizations, is coming in less than a month to inspect us! They have the power to lock the barn door if we fail to pass. This is serious stuff. The survey team will consist of three veterinarians and one Gallup pollster. The first surveyor has an engineering degree in addition to her veterinary degree. The second veterinarian also has a MBA; the third veterinarian has a specialty in Infectious Disease. Evidently they will be here for four whole days. The herd has been discussing this with mixed opinions:

DAKOTA: "Well, this will be a breeze! We'll just spiff up and dazzle them with our good looks!"

TINKERBELL: "No, that's not the way to go. Everybody likes to eat -- let's find out what they each like and then wine and dine them. Let's help them see us through a rosy haze."

FIREBREEZE: "In my experience veterinarians do not easily succumb to the high life. Unfortunately, they tend to have good characters so that won't work."

YUMYUM: "No, no, no. We need to assign a congenial horse to escort each surveyor. That way we can control where they go."

DENALI: "What are we going to do about Sunset? She can be SUCH a grouch. We need to hide her behind a round bale or send her to Tamara's for that week."

"Guys, get a grip!" snorted Majestic. "I have been through this before and can tell you that NONE of your ideas will work."

All heads swung from the hay bale (Note: horses can talk and eat hay at the same time) to Majestic.

Nevada spoke up, "OK, then tell us what will work and what's going to happen."

"Well," Majestic began slowly, "it will be a L-O-N-G week. All you can do is your best and prepare, prepare, prepare. The engineering vet will wander around with a clipboard looking loose & slouchy.....be forewarned that this is just a facade. In reality, this surveyor has a mind like steel stall hardware. She will analyze every stall, every board, every nail, every gate. Safety is her game. She may even yell "Fire" and see how long it takes us to vacate the barn with her stopwatch."

"The MBA vet will spend the entire week with our Two-Legger going through the books. By the end of the week JB will resemble a wilted rose in the hot sun. The Infectious Disease specialist will read everything -- the feed notebook, the steno pad on the workbench, etc. He will also track & trend the cleanliness of everything -- stalls, feed room, fridge, etc. This is the snoopy surveyor.....you'll think that they have left for the day and then you'll find this one digging around some manure pile. Disgusting!"

"The Gallup pollster is the skulky surveyor. This inspector, apparently at random, talks to all members of the herd at one point or another. He encourages horses to complain. Oh, he is sly about how he does this, but make no mistake, he is a dirt-disher. We all know how WONDERFUL it is to be here -- to be fed, to get our medicine, to be treated kindly -- but some immature horses are flattered to be asked for their opinion and leading questions could make them say things that they don't really mean."

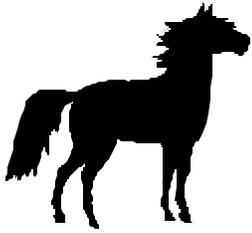
Wrangler interjected, "What kind of topics will the Gallup pollster want to talk about?"

"Ah," said Majestic, "is the temperature of your alfalfa satisfactory? How often is it served? Do you know what your rights are as a resident here? If you have pain, how fast do the Two-Leggers respond? What happens if you want to swap stalls with someone else? Are you always treated with courtesy? What do you think of the hay? What is the quality of your treats? And so forth, and so on."

"So what can we do to prepare?" asked Wrangler. "This seems hard."

"Study," said Majestic, "everyone needs to be familiar with our policies & procedures and know safety stuff. We will begin daily review sessions on Wednesday."

QUESTION FOR MEMBERS: Do you know where the HPS first aid kit is located?



## News From The Herd

**The Herd:** Many of the babies who have different health issues benefit from chiropractic adjustment. Karla Cristy adjusted 13 of our horses. It has made a marked difference in their comfort levels. Karla felt that Beauty's back hindquarter problems are more neurological; so more tests are needed to diagnose her lameness.

The dental work on the herd is underway. About 25 of the horses could benefit from some work with the power floats.

**Sophie** has found the perfect caregiver and is now in her new home. Thank you Tamara Eichorn for making this placement possible with your wonderful training.

**Wind Walker** is available for placement. She is at Tamara's stable for a refresher course in training. Remember she is a beautiful black Tennessee Walker with a long mane and tail.

**Snowstorm & Salida** had to be returned to the sanctuary. People's lives change and the sanctuary is a safety net for the horses when folks' lives take a turn. Salida is a nice easy-going horse suitable for a beginner. Stormy is a great child's horse, and we are hopeful that both will be placed quickly.

**Morning Glory** was thought to have a very bad runny nose by both Sue and Valerie at an evening feed. I came down to check her and found she had a terrible choke. I immediately headed to call South Ridge Vet Clinic only to find that it would be hours until they could come. I called every vet office in Rowan and Cabarrus County. Everyone was out on emergency calls and it would be hours and hours until they could come. Finally I got Dr. Strong from Large Animal Veterinary Services from Cornelius. He was in Hickory and had two quick stops... hopeful.... and could then head this way. Chokes are very, very serious and need to be seen by a vet as soon as possible. All I could do was massage her throat, give her some Banime and wait. It took Dr. Strong about 45 minutes to totally clear her choke.

**Montana** benefited from the first acupuncture ever done at the sanctuary. Dr. Lisa Busko is studying this valuable tool to aid many conditions of our equine friends. Montana has been a mystery as to why he just seems off and not fully healthy. Dr. Busko asked if we had a horse she could practice on and I thought of Montana. It was very interesting to watch and to see Montana walk off with more energy when the acupuncture was completed. The next day his chiropractic adjustment seemed to help him even more than usual when his rib out of place was adjusted.

**Sonoma and Shiloh** are with Janie Smith at her stable. Both horses have approved applications and are under trial placement. Sonoma is being worked to see if he is appropriate for a 10-year-old little girl.

### Food Lion Grocery Card by Dianne Doub (5% to the horses)

**Easy to purchase, easy to use --  
Everything to gain, nothing to lose.  
Shop at Food Lion for all I need  
And know that I'm doing a good deed.**

**From Lisa M., I order my card --  
From \$5 to \$499, it's not hard!  
My kitty and I have to eat,  
Knowing 5% goes to HPS is a treat.**

**Tax deductible is 5% of my card amount,  
Every little tax reduction counts.  
What else can I do to help, I think --  
To HPS my MVP Food Lion card is linked.**

**Knowing that Denali, Navajo and friends need a barn,  
I'm going to fill out that Food Lion Gift Card order form.  
Although I have not many coins to send,  
May these two simple things help spirits & bodies mend.**

## Windsong...from page 1

Denali is in love, hanging out with Windsong to the point we had to move him closer during feeding or he would not eat with her out of his sight.

Windsong is gaining the needed weight quickly, which is usual with the younger horses. X-rays have been taken of her hooves, and trimming has been started to reshape her deformed hooves. One front hoof has been so neglected it looks clubbed. The rotation is not as extreme as so many foundered horses we have helped.

Come meet this wonderful horse, and please consider being her sponsor. Windsong will steal your heart.



**Special "thanks" to our monthly financial contributors:**

Patrick & Elizabeth Antrim  
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 Sue Wortman  
 Kim Wrenn  
 Nancy Zuilkowski

*We would like to thank each and everyone who was praying for Sarah's recovery. Sarah can see again, and she is without pain. Thank you all very much.*  
*God Bless you,*  
*Mike, Doris, and Sarah Lane*

*Happy Birthday Spunky.....*  
*Dang, you're doing good for your age!*  
*Beth, Abby and The Zoo*

*In Memory of my Mother, Peggy Richards*  
*8-17-05 to 3-4-05*  
*and in honor of Sue Prudhomme,*  
*"You'll Never Walk Alone."*  
*By Carol Neil*

**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**

## Horse Protection Society of North Carolina



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## 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

### HPS Officers

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