



April 2006

Over Herd

Volume 8, Issue 4

Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc.

2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023

(704) 855-2978

On the Web at:

www.horseprotection.org

Mark your
Calendars:

April 8th

Volunteer day

Potluck lunch.

Spring clean up and repair of stalls. Spring shedding out of horses, Yard Sale prep. Please come help.

April 15th

Hoof trimming

Potluck lunch.

Holders and note takers are needed. Please call the ranch if you are available to help.

Angels and Tired Horses

Prologue

Many of the horses rescued by HPS came to us by no other explanation except that Angels guided us. Hear the story of our most recent rescues. We believe there must have been an Angel riding with our rescuer that day and gently guiding her to these two tired and needy creatures.

By Reporting Person

As I drove through the countryside, I admired the rich farmland. Being the horse nut that I am, I slowed my vehicle to linger a moment and admire any horses grazing in their fields.

Along the way I noticed a little bay horse standing in a field of cattle. The sun did not shine off his back like other horses, instead there was a long dark shadow. Having seen starved horses I knew the signs. Quickly I turned my truck around and pulled up along his pasture to investigate further. As I got out of my truck, I noticed another finer-boned horse in the same field. She was extremely emaciated. Her skin was draped loosely over her skeleton. Between her spine and ribcage was a long dark hollow where her flesh had melted away from her body. Hips and tailbone protruded and she dragged her feet as she stumbled along looking for a tiny tuft of greenery to eat. Clearly this horse was starving to death.

I contacted my friends at the Horse Protection Society and without delay Joanie agreed to ride out with me and investigate. When Joanie and I arrived at the horses' pasture, they were still standing by the road. She agreed that they were in danger so we proceeded to try and find the owners.

There wasn't a residence on the property so we first tried a mobile home around the corner but there was no answer. Next, we tried a house across the street from the mobile home. A friendly retired couple answered our knock on their screen door, and we asked them about the horses around the corner. The friendly people said the horses belonged to the owners of the mobile home and had been thin for a long time. It was a classic story. A father had bought his teenage daughter the little bay gelding many years ago and she quickly lost interest in him. The family left the horse in the pasture to languish away. Later another family member brought in the fine-boned mare, lost interest, and left her in the same pasture. As we tried to gather more information the friendly couple became quiet. They did not want any trouble with their neighbors and the screen door slowly closed. Our conversation was over. Joanie would have to return that evening.

By Vera Bennett

I thought it was odd when the gal pulled up to the ranch "all cleaned up" as we say, dressed as if she was going to work. I was halfway through the Thursday morning feed.



New mare upon arrival at HPS

Turn to "Angels" on page 3

Surprise Phone Call

When the phone is answered at the sanctuary, one never knows what may need to be dealt with. Someone wanting HPS to take in their injured horse, an abuse call, or a question concerning a long list of topics. But one day it took a bit to understand the caller. The nice gal was a representative for Dale Earnhardt Jr. Pit Board Charity. She informed us that we had won \$500. from the Daytona race since Dale came in 8th. Even I understand that you don't win when you come in 8th in a NASCAR race. It was explained to me that Dale's sister had nominated HPS for a list of 20 special charities. Each nonprofit is assigned two numbers. Ours are 8 and 28. When Dale races if he comes in at either 8th or 28th then we win any funds that have been collected that week by the Pit Board Charity. Dale feels that no matter where he comes at the end of the race, someone wins.

The next race was in Las Vegas and Joyce took Ted for his birthday present. They knew about the Pit Board Charity and were right on the start and finish line. Now they had a new reason to enjoy the race and see how Dale would do at the race.

Do you believe it, I am becoming a race fan.... Well at least a Dale Earnhardt Jr. fan! I even came inside to turn on the TV to see how Dale was doing many times during the race. (I couldn't help but root for him to come in first.)

Carol Neill has requested that we publish the following prayer as a tribute to all the dedicated HPS officers and members.

"You are the true blessing."

A Prayer for Animals By Albert Schweitzer

*Hear our humble prayer,
O God, for our friends the
animals who are suffering;
For any that are hunted
Or lost or deserted or
Frightened or hungry;
For all that must be put to death.
We entreat for them all
Thy mercy and pity, and
For those who deal with
them we ask a heart of
Compassion and gentle
hands and kindly words.
Make us, ourselves, to be
True friends to animals
And so to share the
blessing of the merciful.*

How Long Do Horses Live & What Is Their Age Compared to Humans?

At a recent British Equine Veterinary Association meeting, it was reported that the average horse lives 33 years and the conversion factor of 2.2 should be used to compare a horse's age to human years. Up until this latest study was done most people believed that a three year old horse would be equal to an 18 year old person. Anyone who has spent time with young horses would not think that the maturity level would be 18 years. I have always had a problem with the normal conversion that has been used for horses and felt that it was way off. This latest study is closer, but I still feel that the experts are off and the real conversion should be two years or less to one year of human years.

We have had a chance to deal with many older horses here at the sanctuary. Irish is now 43 years old. Yes she has been diagnosed with EPM, but that has not slowed her down. If anything since she has been on a new feed and the herbs for EPM, she has more energy than I have seen in several years. She now runs for the fun of it at times. The 2.2 years would convert her age to 94.6 years. If we use 2 years for the conversion, then she would be equal to an 86 year old person. This winter her face and neck has a lot more white hair than before.

Navajo is 41 years old and this would equal about 90 years using the 2.2 to figure the human years. The human years would be 82 if we use 2 years. Just in the last six months when there is a race in the big field, Navajo has not come in first place. He has come in forth twice that we have watched. We could see his sadness in not leading the herd. We have not seen him race since. He will run for the fun of it from time to time.

The point of this is to help horse owners realize that their 20 or 25 year old horse has many many years of usefulness left and should not be retired to the field. If we take the correct care of them from the time they come into your life, they can live a very long and full life. According to the new study the 20 year old horses is equal to a 44 year old person. Ask most people if they are used up at that age. It depends on whether the person has taken care of their selves. It is the same for the horses. If they are taken care of they will be a young 20 year old.

The old saying of "rode hard and put up wet" has many implied meanings. Horses are totally dependent upon our care and if we don't do it they are going to age faster and their bodies will wear out. Here are just a few of the many things that wear them out: Riders that are too heavy, not getting the best dental care possible, over working, poor fitting saddles, not getting vet care when needed, poor hoof care and wearing shoes, poor diets, feeding sweet feed, pasture feed only, poor worming program, over vaccinating, kept up in stalls, blanketing, no exercise, lunging in small circles, stressful situations on a continual basis and on and on.

Too many people never stop and think about what they are doing with their horses and how it will impact them. The care given today may determine how long your horse will live and the quality of their life in the future.

Angels Continued from page 1

She said she was made aware of two horses in a field with cows and the horses were very bad condition. Deborah and Joanie left shortly thereafter heading to that pasture to check on those horses and get what information they could. They returned about the time I was finishing feeding.

Joanie said both horses are in very poor condition, one, she said, may not make it through the week. Joanie asked if I could go back with her later in the afternoon in hopes of talking with the horses' owners. At five that afternoon, we left together and headed to the pasture. Before we left, Joanie showed me photographs she'd taken of the two horses so I wouldn't be caught by surprise at their condition. I was shocked. Both were thin and poorly, you could just about count every bone. Because it was my first experience at rescue/investigation, Joanie was careful to explain what to expect as we drove to the pasture. She told me the conversation with the owner will go in different stages, from possible anger, defensiveness, denial and then eventual questions about the horses needs and the possible expenses. She said in most cases, there is an eventual admission the horses needs is beyond their owner's financial/personal abilities and then relinquishes the horses to HPS.

We went to the home that appeared to belong to the barn and pasture and spoke to the lady there. With the help of her and another person who arrived shortly after us, one of the horse's owners was contacted by cell phone. The owner asked us to meet him at the pasture. We drove back to the barn and pasture and waited. He arrived, and just as Joanie predicted, an angry man came out of that truck. He wanted us to watch him as he fed the two horses in order to know he was not starving them. He walked over to an old abandoned, junk truck sitting in the pasture, pulled a bag of poor quality sweet feed from the front seat, and poured it into two feed buckets. As we watched the horses attempting to eat, about a dozen cows approached them and kept trying to eat their feed. The two horses were constantly kicking and moving to defend their food. While we watched the horses attempting to eat, Joanie began explaining to the owner the horses' conditions and the care that would be necessary to bring them back to health.

The owner continued to be defensive until Joanie showed him the photograph of the horse in the worst condition she'd taken earlier that day. The owner almost didn't recognize his own horse in the photo and admitted, "It looks bad". His anger faded and began asking about the proper care and feeding these horses would need. Joanie began with the professional care from a veterinarian these horses would need, then the proper feed and supplements. She also suggested a change in their environment such as stalling them before feeding them so they wouldn't have to fight to defend their food, and could eat without stress. The owner concluded that he was not personally capable of providing for the horses' needs and asked Joanie to take his horse to HPS and care for her. He then called the other owner and explained what he'd learned about the horses. The other owner also relinquished his horse to HPS.

I was very proud of Joanie; she was empathetic, diplomatic and firm. She was able to rescue these horses from starvation and neglect while leaving the former owners with their dignity. It was a good day.

By Reporting Person

I was so glad to hear that the owners had agreed to relinquish the horses to HPS. Charles Lentz arrived at 8 a.m. sharp to help Joanie and I pick them up. Secretly, on the ride over there I was afraid that we might be too late to save the mare.

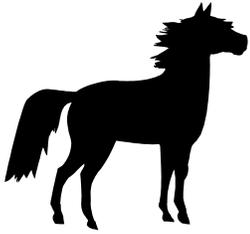
We pulled the truck and trailer into the pasture and drove as close to the area where the horses usually stayed early in the morning as we could. Then Joanie and I got out and looked for the horses. After wandering through the fields and woods for about 20 minutes we saw a flash of white. It was the mare's white stocking and the gelding was nearby. We spoke quietly to them as we slowly approached. First the mare and then the gelding let us gently slip the halters over their noses. We made promises of sweet hay and talked about the wonderful life they were beginning as they followed us to the trailer. Charles had kindly parked the trailer so that their poor bodies had only to step up a few inches to get inside and they safely loaded.

Half an hour later we pulled into the sanctuary and opened the trailer doors. Ears pricked forward, the little gelding and mare stepped out of the trailer and into a new life.

The two horses have been with HPS such a short time that they have not picked new names yet. All they care about at the present time is food. The gelding is over 30 years old and the mare is not far behind.



Come and meet the new gelding



News From The Herd

Fire Breeze and Spirit have had continuing eye problems. Fire Breeze was even checked for Glaucoma. He has the start of cataracts. Spirit has tiny ulcers in one eye and uveitis in the other eye. With careful treatment they should have a full recovery.

Jingle Bells gave us a scare when it was thought that she might have strangles. The good news is that a culture showed she had three other pathogens that can be treated with a strong antibiotic. She is recovering quickly and will be happy to get out of isolation soon. It took a number of vet visits to figure out what was wrong with her.

Urgent!! Spring Yard Sale Alert!!

Help! Time is quickly running out to collect items for our spring yard sale. The trailer is not full, the front porch is not full...please help to fill these up to over flowing so that we can have a successful **MONEYMAKING** yard sale. We need your stuff, your neighbors' stuff, and your co-workers' stuff. Please collect anything you can and bring it to the sanctuary. Remember to tell people that their donations to the HPS yard sale are tax deductible. We also need help cleaning and pricing. Take a box home with you or work on it at the ranch.

We will need guys and strong-backed gals to help move furniture to the front yard on the afternoon and evening of Thursday May 4. We'll have to set up tables for the sale and will need people to help. Please recruit husbands, sons, and friends.

On Friday May 5th we'll unload the trailer, unpack the boxes and organize items on the tables. We'll work into the evening and will need lots of volunteers.

The yard sale will begin at 7a.m. Saturday May 6th and will continue into the evening. We'll need volunteers for both the morning and afternoon shifts.

Please collect items and call Deborah at 704-855-1267 or email her at de_baker@yahoo.com to let her know when you can help out.

The Passing Parade

By Snickerdoodle with clerical assistance from Roberta McCardle

One day while several of us were enjoying a quality moment at a big new round bale, I was struck by a sudden thought.

"Hey, guys," said I, "let's do something special for Easter. Let's have an Easter parade."

"By golly, Snickerdoodle, I think you're on to something," said Nevada, "you've always been a smart little donkey. That's a great idea!"

That's how it all began. I cannot tell you of the myriad conversations that took place in the ensuing days around hay bales, between stalls, at the water tubs, etc. In short, any place horses gathered, that was the topic of conversation. Who should lead the parade? What should we wear? What is the order of the herd? (This precedence stuff can be mighty ticklish).

In order to be fair to all, the consensus of opinion was that the parade should have different sections.....the first section would be Wisdom. Morning Glory and Navajo were the obvious choices for this. Other sections would include highest kickers proportionate to body size (you go, Tonka!), most improved feet (Majestic), flashiest coats (FireBreeze, Hawkeye), sweetest personality (Spirit, Wrangler), the Beautiful People (Dakota and Knight), those with the most melodious names (Windsong), most muscular hindquarters (Monty, former jumper), most loyal friends (Summer, Moonglow), etc. We all lined up to practice. Gentle Reader, there was a place for everyone and it was a lovely sight. So....if on Easter day, you see some dust rolling up from your road and hear the thunder of many hooves, stop what you're doing, step back, & take a look -- and watch the HPS parade pass by!



“Thanks” to the following who made financial contributions to help support the horses needs this month!

Sandy Babinski
Deborah Baker
Vera Bennett
Betty Bentley
Lynda K. Black
Dawn Brent
Mary & Ron Britt
Lucy Buchanan
Steven & Pam Carlton
Shannon Caviness
Kathryn Clancy
Pat Constantine
Lori & Keith Dossey
Eva Duggins
Dale Earnhardt Jr.
Doug & Nancy Evans
Debra & Ralph Grosswald
Eunice Holt
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Kathy & Lex Lofgren
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Colleen O'Malley
Dale Jr. Pit Board Charity c/o Sonya Clay
Dottie Rebhan
Amy Regenbogen
Jo Rowell
Roshni & Jacob Sacks
Patricia & Howard Schaeffer
Gail Shinn
Stephanie Slavin
Cindee Torba
Mary Walters
Michael Webb
Shelagh A. Winter
Sue Wortman
Kim Wrenn

*In honor of
Father Tom's Birthday.
By Dottie Rebhan*

*Sandy Babinski has
been honored by her*

*Jack & Spunky Dagenhart
have been honored
By Linda & Tom Kovach*

*Happy Birthday Spunky.
By Shannon Caviness*

✂

Donation From: _____ phone # _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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 Please use my donation for: \$ _____ New Barn Fund \$ _____ General Use
 Angel Sponsor: \$20 /1month - \$60 /3 months - \$120/6 months - \$240/1 year
 Whom would you like to receive your Honor, Memorial, or Angel Sponsor (please circle)?
 Name: _____ phone # _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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 Would you like the above recipient to receive “Over Herd” - **Yes No**
 Your message for the newsletter:

**Any donation is appreciated. Please make your check payable to Horse Protection Society.
 For a \$25 of more donation the named person can receive “Over Herd” for 1 year.**

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.

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