



What's Happenin' at the Sanctuary

- ◇ **PROJECT DAY** is scheduled for Saturday, April 10th. From 10:30—3:30, members are encouraged to drop in and help us prepare for our fund-raising Tack Sale, scheduled for May 1 & 2. You can come in the morning or stop by after lunch - there's plenty of tack to clean and organize. We need all willing hands. Bring your aluminum beverage cans while you're at it.
- ◇ **NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING** is scheduled for Saturday, April 10th (see a pattern emerging?). Training begins at 12:30 and will run until about 2:30. It includes a tour of the facilities and a Q&A period to answer all of your questions. Here's an opportunity to see what it takes to care for our large herd and to see what you can do to become a part of the care-givers.
- ◇ **FOOD LION GIFT CARDS** are still available and an important fund-raiser for HPS. Please contact Ashley Bethea to arrange to purchase cards (704-363-1685). If you shop Food Lion, this is a great way to buy your groceries and help the horses without adding to your regular expenses.
- ◇ **FACEBOOK**—we're baaaack! Due to an administrative glitch, we had to re-create our Facebook page. As a result, all previously signed up "fans" were lost! Please visit us again and sign up anew so you can stay current with your favorite horse sanctuary.
- ◇ **TACK SALE** - In addition to the normal stuff you'd expect to find at a tack sale, we'll have some cool miscellaneous items such as antique house doors and 200-year-old porch columns with architectural detail and more. **ALL ITEMS WILL BE PRICED TO SELL!** Mark your calendars:
 - Saturday, 5/1—from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 - Sunday, 5/2—from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Long awaited barns finally arrive!

Here is the first of two of the new barns being delivered and placed between the front pasture and the front barn. It won't be too long before horses are calling it "home."



Just about ready for the residents, the next steps are installing and gluing the floor mats, moving the fence line and laying gravel to help reduce the mud and improve drainage. Note the windows all around making for an airy and welcoming safe space for our charges.



The Loss of Amigo

by Joanie Benson

Each and every horse at the sanctuary is important to all of us, and some people have special attachments to specific equines. Perhaps the person has ridden the horse several times; perhaps it's because they've been the feeder and doctored the animal's ailments. Sometimes, it's just the personalities of human and equine that make for a special bond. Each horse has his own special way of telling us he wants attention - - a gentle nudge with his head or following a person around. One of Amigo's tricks was kicking the sides of his stall morning and evening, demanding his feed before the other horses were fed. He was second in command in his pasture, so this was his right.

Late last fall, when the weather turned frigid and wet and we had to stop exercising the horses, it became evident that something was going on with Amigo's tendons. They were treated every morning but still the gelding was deteriorating. Shortly, it became evident that he had DSLD (Degenerative Suspensory Ligament Desmitis). The diagnosis sent chills through us since there is currently no cure. As its name states, it is degenerative, and a degenerative lameness is often a death sentence in a horse. While the researchers continue to look at genetics (funding grants are available for such research), what we see is caused by people (see article on next page).

Often the horse with DSLD will be able to have a year or more. The latest research has found the front tendons are also affected, even before the horse starts to drop in the fetlock joints. Some people cannot recognize the symptoms nor understand the consequences of this illness. It's very painful for horses; they will often try to hide that they are in discomfort, but many of us have seen this enough times to understand the horse's behavior.

Amigo stopped kicking his stall. His high status position in his herd dropped to the point where he did not want to go to the hay feeder; instead he wanted to eat his hay off by himself or have it put in his stall.

All of the horses are so precious to me! But Amigo had a very special place in my heart. When I went to get him to bring him to the sanctuary, I stood up to a man with a loaded gun threatening to shoot me if I did not leave the property. I knew if I backed down, I might never get Amigo out of that terrible place.

I was devastated when Amigo came down with DSLD knowing there was nothing that could be done to help him recover. All I could do was give him a window of time. I would go to the barn, when no one was here, to spend some time with him and to give him a special treat.

Unfortunately, he did not have as much time as I had hoped for, as the front fetlocks started to drop. We had no choice but to let him go! We will not let the animals in our care suffer when there is no other way to end their suffering. Amigo will always be in my heart, as he will be in the hearts of the people who truly loved and cared for him.

Beware the Beautiful Weekends

by Joanie Benson

Hooray - - warmer weather and beautiful sunny days have started to arrive. The horses have been shedding out their winter coats, and their short summer hair is already starting to come in. We know to not overdo spring clean up work on the first pretty days or we will pay for it sorely! Yet, for many horses, this is the time of year when their torture begins.

The winter this year was so harsh that most horses were not kept in their regular exercise, and no doubt enjoyed being big slugs in the fields, lying around and eating. We admire those owners who worked hard all winter long to keep their horses in good muscled condition, but they are few and far between.

For all too many horses, the first pretty weekend means they will be loaded into trailers to head out for all-day rides. Some people will ride their horses hard, galloping them, despite the fact that their mounts are terribly out of condition. Even an hour of light walking while carrying a rider might be too much for many of the horses. Numerous horses will sustain permanent injuries, starting them down a road towards arthritis, DSLD, bowed tendon, bruised soles or a long list of other possible ills. These abusive owners will **not even notice** that their horse is having issues and will set off for more riding the next day. These wonderful loyal creatures will do what their rider asks..... even if the cost is their own untimely demise.

Too many people have no idea how to condition a horse or even what a conditioned horse looks like. Older horses take longer and more work to bring to condition and then to keep them conditioned. Proper conditioning is not a once-a-week hour-long ride. Much like a person beginning an exercise program, the horse should be started out slowly and methodically. She should be worked every other day, with light walking to start, building the time that the horse can comfortably work until muscle has been toned. Once the horse is going well on the flat, walking him up and down hills also helps. The horse's heart rate, pulse and respiration should be monitored closely to avoid undue exertion, just as one would monitor himself in a body-conditioning regimen.

People who ride poorly cause much more stain on their horses and can cause unknowing damage. Just because horses are large animals doesn't mean they can carry around your extra pounds without physical hardship to their backs and legs. People who love to ride but are overweight need to consider the impact of this on their mounts. Horses break down due to riders more than due to any other cause, but because the riders can throw away that broken animal and get a new one, they often take no responsibility for what they have done to the horse. I cannot help but think about some of the poor babies who have come to the sanctuary worn out by this type person.

The calls will come for HPS to take in their damaged horses or perhaps they will just be turned out of their homes to die, like Rawhide and Corn Flower. May God bless all the fine horse people who really care about their horses' well being, who treat them with respect and love even though they are "only" animals.

From Anna Sewell's classic story Black Beauty:

"...we call them dumb animals, and so they are, for they cannot tell us how they feel, but they do not suffer less because they have not words."



Horse Angels of the Month

As readers of this newsletter know, HPS would not be able to rescue and rehabilitate any equines without the assistance of many, many volunteers. When a call comes out of the blue, as did the one from Cynthia

Smith asking if a group of energetic young women might be of assistance, we are thrilled and grateful.

Girl Scout Senior Troop 3144 from Central United Methodist Church of Concord, NC, arrived early one Saturday morning. The plan was for them to help us prepare for our May fund-raising tack sale. As we went through the large trash bags and plastic cans, out came blankets, saddle pads,



Senior Troop 3144 from Concord, NC with sanctuary resident, Twinkie.

English and western cinches, leathers, and a large assortment of equipment. The gals did a great job cleaning and pricing each item. They went off for a bite of lunch and then were back at work, making a big dent in the amount of cleaning and pricing that needs to be done. It was a pleasure to see how well they worked together and still found time to laugh. They plan on coming back several more times to help us to get ready for the tack sale. We look forward to their next visit to the sanctuary.

HPS extends our heart-felt appreciation to this wonderful Girl Scout Senior Troop of angels!



Monthly Donations & Contributors

Spring is a time of rebirth and renewal. Without the dedicated supporters who contribute to HPS each month, the starved and abused horses who are brought to the sanctuary on the edges of death would have no chance for a new chance at life. We are so very grateful. THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts and may the Lord bless you.

Elaine Addison
Sybil P. Athey
Margaret & Joseph Bachofner
Robin Barker
Barbara & Hal Barnes
Gail & Tim Baxter
Neva R & Amy Beaver
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Elaine M Wilson
Alston Osgood Wolf
Marie Wrinkle
Linda Yarrington
Jennifer L Zirt
Nancy Zuilkowski

Honors and Memorials

*In honor of Tiffany Ferebee's birthday.
From Chris & Charlotte Ferebee*

In honor of the Catawba College Theatre Department.
By Kathy & David Pullium

*In honor of Carolyn Alexander.
By Barbara White*

In honor of Marilyn Swimmer's birthday.
By Stewart & Julie Roberts and Carol Shafraneh

*In honor of my wife, Carolyn, on her
birthday. By Gerry Osborne*

In memory of
Poco, a Quarter-
horse mare who
lived to be 38
years old, beloved
by Robin Konieczny
By Veronique
Singerman

*In memory of Amigo. "Don't cry because it's
over, smile because it happened."*

By Dottie Rebhan

In memory of Northern Mystic.
By Patricia Viles

In memory of Katie's pony.

By Ann Rutenberg

*In memory of Blue, Marilyn Swimmer's
beloved Saddlebred mare.*

By Janet & Lou Elmo

*In memory of Jet, Joy Simon's
sweet Doberman.*

By Janet & Lou Elmo

Honors and Memorials

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*In memory of Kate,
by Ashley Smith*

*In memory of Kate, Ashley Smith's little one who left her on
3/3/10.
By June Stilwell*

Honors and Memorials

**In honor of our uncle, Bill
Gregor, who loves horses. He
is retired and lives on a farm
in Scotland. This is in honor
of his recent birthday.**

By Andrew & Susie Hall

**For my
beloved husband
of 58 years.
By Rebecca Lylerly**

**In memory of
Jan Smith
By Ann N.
Kenny**

Honors and Memorials

Honors and Memorials

Donation From: _____ Phone# _____ Address _____
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 Please use my donation for: \$ _____ New Barn Fund \$ _____ General Use
Angel Sponsor: \$20 for 1 month \$60 for 3 months \$120 for 6 months \$240 for 1 year
Whom would you like to receive your Honor, Memorial, or Angel Sponsor (please circle)?

Name: _____ Phone _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____ 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 or more donation, the named person can receive "Over Herd" for 1 year.
 Mail completed form to:
 Horse Protection Society, 2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023



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 organization. Your donations are the main source of income to support the sanctuary, and are eligible for tax deduction.

The Officers of the Horse Protection Society of NC meet on the second Sunday of every month. All members are welcome to attend these open meetings, held at the ranch in the home of the Executive Director. The role of this body is to make decisions regarding the day-to-day activities at the sanctuary and to ensure that those decisions are properly implemented.

HPS Officers

President	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com
Vice President			
Treasurer/Medical Needs	Ashley Bethea	704-855-5447	abethea125@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Tammy Seifert	704-243-4444	tlc.homes@live.com
Corresponding Secretary	Jane Oglesby	704-896-8251	janeog@bellsouth.net
Executive Director	Joanie Benson	704-855-2978	hps@horseprotection.org
Newsletter	Janet Elmo	704-843-2073	janet48@windstream.net
Web Administration	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com
Web Administration	Stephanie Maleady	704-560-9712	slmaleady@windstream.net
Feeding Schedule	Joanie Benson	704-855-2978	hps@horseprotection.org
Stallion to Gelding Support	Janet Elmo	704-843-2380	stalliontogelding@gmail.com
Pet Finders	Heather & Ian Yarnot	704-779-2908	ian_yarnot@hotmail.com
Historian			
Riding Program Coordinator	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com
Equine Placement Review			