



# OVER HERD

April 2017

## Getting the Perfect Photo!

Trying to get a good photo of Waco and Tacoma with Kelly was a little like...well, herding cats only bigger! Here are some outtakes from the session with these two goofballs.



## Waco and Tacoma

By Robyn Martin

My daughter Kelly and I have been volunteering at HPS for almost 10 years and have fallen in love with all of the horses. It really wasn't part of the plan at all initially to have our own horses. Life doesn't always go as planned and sometimes you find yourself doing the unexpected.

During the process of training the horses at HPS, we develop strong bonds. It is the purpose of the training program to help the horses develop with the intention of placing them in other homes. That was the case with Waco and Tacoma.

When Waco first arrived at the rescue, everything was new to him. When I first began working with him he required a great deal of time and patience, since he had no training. He wound up making the best progress, going from being anxious and hesitant to

an eager participant under saddle. When Waco found a great home, it was the hardest thing to let him go. I wasn't ready to take a horse at the time, and felt the best thing for him was to let him



go to a new home. I know I'm supposed to be disappointed when horses return to the sanctuary but I was so excited to see him, I couldn't hide how happy I was.

In the meantime, Kelly had developed a strong bond with Tacoma. Tacoma had returned to the sanctuary from a placement home that did not work out. Pairing Tacoma with Kelly for training was perfect for the both of them. He became more trusting and her confidence as a handler and rider had taken off. Tacoma has done things for Kelly that he had never done before.

It became obvious that neither one of us could continue working with these horses at HPS in order to give them away. They both had already found their person. We have found a lovely stable to board them and are completing the final preparations in order to give them a forever home. We couldn't be more excited to be taking this next step.

## Red Alert Update

**EPM testing:** You wonderful contributors have made it possible to have all the horses tested for EPM. The testing was done March 27<sup>th</sup>. The newsletter information has to be to the editor by March 20<sup>th</sup>. Next month we can let you know how many horses tested positive with this life threatening disease. Hopefully we will have enough funding to treat the hoses that may need it. The best scenario would be all the horses tested negative.

## News from the Herd

**The Herd:** The warm weather has caused the horses to start shedding way too early! We will let them look rough until the weather settles to a warmer time. Everyone has been healthy and doing great.

Some of the horses have been a bit off their feed. They have been enjoying the new spring grass that is coming up from the reseeding last fall. Even our “barn hangers,” Cree, Natchez and Sierra have been out in the big field everyday nibbling the fresh grass. Then the horses will gallop back in to spend time at the covered hay feeder.

**Rising Sun and Saragon** are new best friends..... At least for the time being.

**Nova and Hopi** are spending time together. (Sometimes we are surprised at which horses pair up.)

**Topaz** has to have the veterinarian come and put her on the ground to be able to have her hooves trimmed. She has never been safe to trim her back hooves and when she kicks out, it could seriously hurt someone. I have never met a horse that can blow through the sedative so quickly and need more. Headway is being made with the hooves and we are hopeful she will continue to recover. Each six weeks it cost just under \$300.00 to have the Veterinarian provide this service so she can be trimmed.

We have her on Previcox, which is used for dogs for pain. A quarter of a tablet has made a great difference in her ability to move more normally. The Previcox doesn't have the harmful side effects of other pain relief used for horses.

**Sierra** somehow poked a small hole in the top inside of a front leg. We had one of our veterinarians look at the wound and treat her with Excede, a good antibiotic, and remove a small amount of necrotic tissue. We also had a culture done to make sure the Excede was the correct antibiotic for the infection.

## What Will Happen to Your Animals?

In the last few weeks HPS has received a number of phone calls from adult children wanting the Horse Protection Society to take in their parents' horse/s. Sometimes the parents' health no longer allowed them to care for their animals. In some cases the parents have died and left no provisions for the care of their animals.

One of the worst phone calls was from the son and his wife. The parents had provided a good amount of their estate to the care of their horses. The couple said they needed the money and spent it all... not caring for the horses. Now, they were broke having spent all of the estate and need to find a home for the horses. The parents made the mistake of trusting this couple! The couple didn't feel the least bit bad about what they had done.

Folks have gotten in touch with us that were friends of the deceased and had agreed to take their horse. But life changes and they were not in a position to be able to honor their agreement.

One couple contacted HPS and thought a \$1,000 would be generous to take in their two horses. Of course, we turned them down. These were 24 year older untrained mares that would live out their lives with HPS since no one would want them. With our commitment to care, the horses could have lived into their late thirties or forties. The \$1,000 might pay for two months of care for the mares, providing they were up to date on vaccinations, hoof care and dental work. Sometimes the cheapest way to provide for your animals is a term life insurance policy.

We love our cats, dogs, horses and other animals. It is the time of the year that many people are reviewing their Last Will and Testament. Please make arrangement for your animals. Rather than look to family and friends, you may want to consider a nonprofit organization with a good history. Make sure you visit the location to make sure you are comfortable with the care of the animals they are presently have under their care. Also think in terms of who will transport the animals to their new location. How quickly will they be notified and can the animal/s be released from the estate?

*(Cont. on Page 4)*

## Honors and Memorials

Happy 14th birthday Catherine Laws, 4/10/17. Love you Gigi

In memory of Pookie. By Kristi Hartwig

In loving Memory of Eric Dineley. By Penny Williams

In memorial to my Amazing horse, Reflection, 29 years young! I'll always remember her curiosity, determination, antics and utter sweetness! By Luann Peterson

In loving memory of "Lay Lay." Her soulful eyes will always be in our memories. What a wonderful life she had with your love and devotion! By Ruthie Smith

In memory of "Lucky" our beautiful Lab dog. By Al and Pam Colle

In Loving memory of our daughter, Kristen Hinds. By Barbara and Mark Hinds

## A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful Contributors

*Your kindness has made it possible to schedule all of the needed elective veterinarian care and to supply all of the horses needs this month. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to each and every one of you.*

Carolyn H. Alexander

Sybil P. Athey

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\*\*For a \$25 or more donation, the named person can receive "Over Herd" for 1 year.

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China Grove, NC 28023

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### What Will Happen to Your Animals? (cont. from page 2)

You can check the organization out on Guide Star to see how financial stability they are. Do they have debt? Do they have funds in reserve? Is their income enough to care for the animals they are presently caring for? It is very important to contact them and ask if they are willing to take the animal/s in and how much would be left for their care. The funding should not have strings attached. There are so many expenses that indirectly benefit each horse here. An example is reseeding the fields each year. If you don't trust the organization with the funding, you shouldn't trust them with your horse or other animals. It is so important that the organization will always take the animal back if place in a home. We just took a horse back that has been in a wonderful home for 15 years, but life changes. Not all recues will take a horse back after it has been place. Are they too small and only have room for a few horses?

Please don't put this off and make arrangements for your animals. Horses are the most difficult to find a good place to care for them.

