



Over Herd

December 2003

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Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc.

2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023

(704) 855-2978

On the Web at:

www.horseprotection.org

and www.angelfire.com/nc/horseprotsocnc/

Christmas Joy at the Sanctuary By Joan Benson



Sky Ghost came to the Sanctuary in April of 2003. The poor girl had been bred at 30 years old and the result was a vulvae lip had been torn. She had mastitis that was difficult to cure in her debilitated state. Sky's legs were so weak we were afraid she might go down. The indication was that the calcium might have been taken from the bones for the foals she had over the years. **Today her recovery is a joy to see!**



Cherokee is the oldest horse at the sanctuary at the present time. He arrived at the sanctuary in July of 2003 in terrible condition. At his advanced age of 48 years old, we were praying for his recovery. Cherokee is a miracle baby and has made steady progress. Our vets feel they will be able to geld him in January 2004. "Come back here and let me take your picture!"



Sky Ghost and Cherokee are just two examples of the many horses that will see another Christmas because of the devoted folks that come to the ranch and give of their time, love and work to bring the horses back to health. All of this would be for naught without the warm folks who through their contributions keep the barn doors open. These are the Angels we pray for this happiest of holiday seasons.

Christmas eve, when the stars are bright, I will once again visit our stable of miracles and thank our God for the blessings he has bestowed upon the sanctuary. I will ask that each horse and person have the blessings and protection of our almighty Father in the coming year. For no greater gift could I pray for.

Mark your Calendars:

December 13th

Members Meeting

Come early/stay late! Lots of projects.

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



Meet the Members...

My name is Jenni Geiselman and I have been a member of HPS since Feb of this year and what a year it has been ! I have been a horse lover since I first read Black Beauty, as a child, but never had the opportunity to really become involved with horses until we found HPS while looking for volunteer work . I have a daughter, Mandalyn, and she shares my love for horses and we have become regular feeders during the week at the farm . We have learned so much from Joanie and all the other more experienced volunteers but the lessons dearest to me are the ones taught by the horses themselves . And there have been many of those Every horse out here has a very distinct personality and I love to watch them and interact with them . My favorite thing to do is to rest my head against the neck of one of these gentle giants and then feel their mighty head rest on my shoulder - it never lasts long enough ! It seems to me at those times that our breathing and pulse become one and a sense of sharing the same spirit envelopes me and no matter how crazy and stressful my day might have been - I find peace. I could fill this entire newsletter with all the things I love about these horses but I will close with my second favorite thing to watch . Three of these horses are always together and where one goes so do the other two and they are all closely watched over by Tundra, the keeper of the herd. Every night after feeding when she decides it's time to go back out to pasture, Tundra starts herding these three horses . And out they go together, with Tundra barking and jumping all around like a puppy and although none of these horses resemble Black Beauty, Ginger, or Merry Legs from the story of Black Beauty, the feeling I get from watching them is the same as the last scene of the book and you would only understand if you have read it. But it takes my breath away and keeps me coming back every week !



Jenni & Bo (hamming it up as usual)

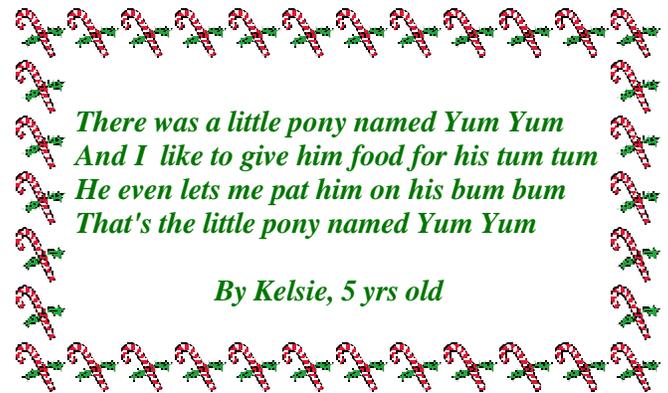
Another Important Way to Help HPS!

By Roberta McCardle

Would you like to do something to help at the ranch in a hands-on way but cannot commit to the rigors of the feeding schedule? Would you like to help but have some flexibility about *when* you come out? Do you own rubber barn boots or are willing to get some?

We are starting up a new group of workers --- (see, you could get in at the ground floor!) We already have the feeding group and now.....we are going to have the **Pooper Scooper Squad** (AKA The Sanitizers, The Manure Meddlers, whatever!). We would like to have people commit to come *sometime* during either the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th week of each month and clean a specific area. For example, a family might commit to come anytime (either weekend or any week-day) during the 2nd week of each month and clean the triplex. We have several areas to choose from (HINT: Sign-up early & get your first choice!) -- the duplex, the triplex, the round pen, part or all of the big barn.

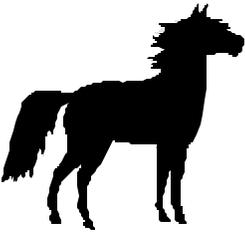
All levity aside, this is an important task that must be done regularly. Being a member of the feeding group is a substantial and on-going, highly specific commitment of time & effort. Even dedicated folks only have so much time to give. **We need to have more people jump in and lend a hand at keeping the stalls clean.** This would just be a once a month commitment, you could pick your own time to come, and it would only take an hour or two of your day. So.....if you want to help your horses, if you want to keep our small part of America beautiful, if you want to be able to *see* the fruit of your labor, if you want to be sincerely appreciated.....run, don't walk, to your computer and send me an e-mail! (or you can run to the phone & call -- see page 6 of this newsletter for contact information).



*There was a little pony named Yum Yum
And I like to give him food for his tum tum
He even lets me pat him on his bum bum
That's the little pony named Yum Yum*

By Kelsie, 5 yrs old

*In Memory of Night Mist
(AKA Black Beauty)
She reminded me so much of
Black Beauty.
I had the privilege of meeting Night
Mist and even though, I only saw her a
couple of times, her gentle nature
won me over.
Thanks for letting me meet such a
Beautiful Horse.
Tammy Pritchard*



News From The Herd

The fall can be very hard on the horses. They are growing their heavy winter coats and can't take them off when the days are 80 degrees. (We are running around in shorts!) The days can be hot and the nights cold. The fast changes are hard on them. We can tell they all feel better when the days and nights are cool or cold. A thin layer of ice has been found on their tubs a couple of mornings. When it is cold, we use floating water heaters to help warm the water so the horses will drink more water.

Sun Dance had a colic episode due to the hot weather. Even with the extra electrolytes we were giving her and the other horses, she did not drink enough water. This caused an impaction and the veterinarian gave fluids by nasal tube. She was concerned that it was a return of the serious liver problem of almost a year ago. We had faith that this was not the problem. Her attitude was poor, so we had a blood panel done and a thyroid check. Sun Dance's blood work-up was great and the liver and kidneys are working perfect. She does have hypothyroidism, but we are hopeful this can be controlled with the same medication that Desert Sand and Yum Yum are on. Sun Dance is 37 years old and with prayers, she will be with us for many years to come. I can't help but think back to this beautiful girl's life of abuse. At just two years old she started her horrible life that lasted for the next 24 years. She has been at the sanctuary for 11 years.

Mesa gave us a scare one Sunday evening. It was one of those HOT days, and all of the horses are wearing their heavy winter coats. We had seen her rolling in the pond just shortly before she was found in another area of the pond down and not able to get up. Several of us were able to help her out of the pond and get her up and walking. Everyone pitched in to give her a very quick bath to wash off the smelly pond mud. She was having trouble and gut sounds were not good. Thank heavens the Sunday gang of fruit and "vegetable dispersers" were here. Dottie Rebhan and Jo Anna Kesler continued to finish up the wheelbarrows full of salad to the horses. Kathy Biggers and I took turns dragging Mesa and a back walker was needed to encourage her to keep walking until the vet could get here. Up and down the driveway... back and forth... around and around the front yard... then into the side field... around and around.. dragging Mesa along. Then Mesa saw the red wheelbarrow delivering salad to the backfield horses. Her head came up, she turned fast and dragged me back to the barn. Could this be a new cure for the onset of colic? End of problem! Mesa wanted her salad and dinner. (We are calling it the Red Wheelbarrow cure.)

Wrangler poked himself in the eye and needed to see the veterinarian. We had tried a couple of days of triple antibiotics with little results. When his eye was stained and showed a small scratch on the lens. Wrangler had to wear a Fly mask with duck tape over the eye area for several days, and have treatment three times a day. We had to duck tape the fly mask on him since he is a master at getting them off

It Can't be December!?!..... By Joan Benson

Where has the year gone? Christmas is just around the corner and then it will be the New Year. We are so happy to have all the wonderful folks who have joined the HPS family this past year. You have made life for the horses so much better.

The work progresses on the big barn as we have the funds and the people to help. The west side of the barn is weather proofed in and the cold breezes and rain will be stopped. We always need more members coming to the sanctuary to lend a hand with the horses and on-going projects. I wish that each and every one of you could share in the horses' recovery. Watching them return to health and to trust people for maybe the first time in their lives is a joy beyond belief.

The Christmas season is a time of reflection for me. To think about the year behind us and what we could do better. We keep trying to improve everything that takes place here. We welcome your input. So many wonderful ideas come from our members. Not long ago, one of our feeders suggested changing our feeding instruction book. All the feeders agree it is a great improvement and makes the instructions easier for them.

The feeders become a close-knit group of people, and know each horse very well. Their conversation often includes the funny antics of the horses under their care. The feeders are here in the cold rains, freezing winds, and the hottest of days. Then there are the days that everything is just perfect. The horses all going into the correct stalls with no problem, and the weather is perfect. There is extra time in a busy schedule to play with or brush some of the babies. There is nothing more peaceful as the sky darkens and the sun sets, than the quiet munching of the horses in their stalls.

We are often blessed with the sight of a beautiful rainbow that makes caring for the horses during the storm all worthwhile. The sunsets over the open fields will rival any you might see in the world. My favorite is the sunrise over the lower fields. (I see most of them.)

December makes most of us think about the dreaded "Tax Time." For the members who have been coming to the sanctuary, remember you can deduct your mileage to and from the ranch. Please check your tax forms for the deduction amount for each mile. If you have picked up supplies, this mileage is deductible, too. Any supplies or presents you have brought or sent to the horses should be on your list, also. It is impossible for us to try and keep track of all the items that arrive here. Sometimes we do not even know who donated an item. We will be sending out tax notices after the first of the year to each person. If you do not receive yours or you have had a change of address, please let us know.

I would rather think about the holiday season and its many joys rather than taxes right now. But some of you well-organized folks may be getting your records together now.

Our prayers are for many blessing to come your way and that the peace of the season brings you joy.



Do you think Sue and Bo are going to make a bid for a spot on Santa's team????

Magical Evening of Giving

As of this newsletter we don't know who the raffle tickets winners are from the exciting night at the Carolina Mall's Magical Evening of Giving ...but we do know one group of sure fire winners....the HORSES!!! This fund raiser concluded on Sunday night Nov 23 with a festive evening at the mall and the best part of it is for each ticket sold 100% of the proceeds went to the horses . A big WHINNY of THANKS to the following folks who sold tickets (and of course a equal big THANKS to those out there who bought tickets!)

- Diane Reed*
- Tammy Pritchard*
- Jim Ladislas*
- Roberta McCardle*
- Kathy Haw*
- Ambe Lewis*
- Lee Ann Dean*
- Brown Hobbie*
- Jewel (with a great first name like that ...who needs a last name!)*
- Charlie Adams*
- Valerie Berns*
- Erika Torrence*
- Mary Walters*
- Christie Henderson*
- Elizabeth Richardson*
- Patricia Schaeffer*
- Jo Ann Burleson*
- Dottie Rebhan*

The Giving Tree

By YumYum (with clerical assistance from Roberta McCardle)

Well! For once we know what the Two-Leggers are planning. Cherokee heard a couple of them talking about doing a Giving Tree again this year. They are going to put up an outdoor Christmas tree and put tags on it with gift ideas for the equine here at the ranch. People can then choose a tag and provide that item.

This was the main topic of discussion at our coffee klatch the other day. Initially this sounded so good. Some of the horses that have been here awhile, however, soon set the rest of us straight.

"Yeah, it sounds nice alright," said Summer, "but you ought to see what those tags say first. Usually it's things like shampoo or hoof picks."

"Summer's got it right," interjected Navajo, "the stuff is terrible -- Excalibur, hair detangler, Red Cell, vitamins, etc."

Cherokee was shocked, "You can keep that Excalibur stuff away from me!"

I couldn't keep quiet, "You mean that they think we want Red Cell for Christmas! That's downright awful. I wouldn't give that junk to a cat!"

With calm, stentorian tones, Firebreeze took over the discussion. "Guys, we don't have to take this. There is an alternative."

All heads swung toward Firebreeze. With ears pricked, we eagerly awaiting his thoughts.

"All we need to do is wait until dark on the day that they put the tree up. Then, a couple of handy horses -- say Laredo and Teton (they're both dark) -- could ease up to the tree and take the tags down. YumYum is quite the scribe so he could re-write the tags and put some decent gift suggestions on there. We slide back over to the tree sometime during the night to re-attach the tags and voila, the Two-Leggers will get us nice presents."

"Hotdog, Firebreeze, that's a grand plan," exclaimed Sundance, "and it's beautiful in its simplicity. Let's figure out what we really want. YumYum, you take notes."

"New, pretty halters," said Moonglow, "I'm so tired of the same old thing."

"More apples, more alfalfa," said Bohdan, "and some Noxzema skin cleaner. I get so weary of having a muddy nose."

"More of those GREAT horse peppermint treats from Tractor Supply," chimed in Da kota, Desert, and Sugarfoot simultaneously.

"Don't forget bananas," interjected Morning Glory.

"A Palm Pilot to help keep the feeders on track," sniffed Queen. "Some of them do not always FEED ME FIRST in the barn group."

Gentle Reader, the Herd kept going and after an hour, I ran out of paper. You will just have to stop by & visit the tree to see what's on it. Who says that horses cannot organize themselves and do long-range planning.....YAHOO, it's going to be a good Christmas after all!

NOTE: We are having a Giving Tree at the ranch this year but the horses have no idea what HPS needs! We do NOT need halters and we do NOT need more treats. We DO need Red Cell and we DO need vitamins -- Soft gel Vitamin E 400 Units strength only and Soft gel Beta-Carotene in the 25000 unit strength only. If you cannot get a tag off of the Giving Tree or if you cannot get to a store, a financial donation would be a much appreciated alternative. Thank you and God Bless!

*In loving memory of Night Mist
you will be missed
with love
Mary Schwarz-Lutz*

Tis' the Night Before Christmas

The stable is quiet with no fights,
 And the horses are sleeping this night.
 The cats in the hayloft and Tundra at rest.
 The moment reflected by the stars shinning bright,
 And then in the sky we saw such a sight.
 The cats, the dog and all the horses awoke
 To a brilliant new star's shinning light.
 They spoke that beautiful night,
 In soft whispers, "Look and behold."
 The peace of the hour was held onto tight.
 With rays glistening like heavenly torchlight's
 And shined down on their humble barn.
 The Angels were in their floating flight.
 Our Lord's words were heard with his might,
**"All creatures who have breath give praise
 to the Lord, As my Son was born in a stable
 like yours."**



Spunky Dagenhart would like to honor all of the following folks for what they have done for my guys and me.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| The Whitman Family | The Hageter Family |
| The Mchugh Family | The Greene Family |
| Karen Lynd & Sara Marie | Cammie Donnen |
| Shirley McVicker | Shirley Anderson |
| Shannon Caviness | The Huffstickler Family |
| The Huffstickler / Caruso Family | The Buchanan / Wright Family |
| Lillus Kurland & Brenda | Stephanie Ghoens Gandy |
| Morgan Ray | Rusty Spur—Bobbie |
| Monogram Magic – Ruby & Beth | Neighborhood Feed – Tom- |
| Woof 'n Hoof – Donna | Wilgrove Express |
| Style-A-Rena – Ted | Kathy Stogner |
| Perry's Market | |
| Parelli Natural Horsemanship | |

Merry Christmas! Spunky & My Boys

Grazing Gossip

By Val Berns

Moon: This sun feels so good; my tummy is warm with yummy hay.

Summer: mmmhmmm. There is some nice cool hay under here.

Wrangler: It's great we have this available. This sanctuary is a really good place. I'm thankful for my interrupted trip to the market. But I really do miss my previous 12-year-old friend. I can be ridden, but only by lightweight two-leggers. My knees are not what they used to be. I wonder if anyone would be interested in sponsoring an appaloosa?

Summer: Boy howdy I'm glad you didn't make it to the market too!! You know, you guys are good grazing buddies. Moon? Moon! Wake up!

Moon: Aw Summer, can't a girl get a nap. I can relax in my life now, not having to worry about how much my feet and legs hurt. The two-leggers here see that we get our hooves trimmed and shaped on a regular basis so we don't suffer any muscle or bone damage due to overgrown hooves! I feel sad I can't be ridden, my back is not strong enough, not to mention it's been over 10 years since I was ridden!! Some people who liked horses but didn't know a lot about us rode me some, but I suffered pain and they just left me in a pasture as something pretty. I am a beautiful white when I'm all cleaned up. That's why they named me Moon Glow here. I'm a little unfamiliar with being close to people because of all those years alone, but I'm hoping there's a sponsor that would like to meet me halfway...

Summer: I understand that feeling of worry. I'm thankful my previous owners let me come here and have tests run. Somebody told them I had a brain tumor and talked about letting me move over the Rainbow Bridge! The tests told the two-leggers that I had a bacterial infection that affected my spine, therefore my balance. They were able to raise enough funds to get the necessary medicine to fight and kill that infection! It was also finally realized that I have an old injury in my stifle joint, that's why I lean some. None of my symptoms were because of a tumor! We are all so blessed there are people who care and are knowledgeable enough to look a little further into the health of horses.

Wrangler: I'll say. And all these interested ones that like to sponsor us to help with our medical needs, and work on making us feel and look pretty by spending time with us grooming, talking, walking, and sharing treats. Friends, lets bow our heads for a moment of silent thanks.



Pictured: left to right – Wrangler, Summer, Moon Glow



Another Way to Help the Horses

HPS members/friends/families (must be over 18) can work at the Kohl's on Highway 29 in Charlotte (just down the road from University Hospital) to supplement the staff during busy holiday shopping times. Available dates and shifts are listed here Please notify Roberta McCardle by phone 704-637-9049 or email at rmccardle@salisbury.net with the **day** and the **shift** you can work. Once you sign up, we will get the Kohl's guidelines out to you (i.e. no jeans). Don't forget -- you get a one-time use 15% off coupon to use at Kohl's. When your shift ends you can shop till you drop and save \$\$\$! Kohl's staff are delighted to have our help. This is a pleasant way to raise money to help the horses through the lean winter months when our donations historically drop off.

THANK YOU FOR CARING.

Special Thanks to the following who donated time to work at Kohl's over Thanksgiving weekend to help the horses!

Valerie Berns Joy Dwelle
 Kathy Haw Sue Meyer
 Roberta McCardle Diane Reed
 Charlotte Revels

Kohl's Open Work Days

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Wednesdays | Dec. 3-10-17 12 Noon—4 PM & 6 PM -10 PM |
| Saturdays | Dec. 6-13-20 8 AM -12 Noon, 12 Noon - 4PM & 6 PM -10 PM |
| Sunday | Dec. 21st 12 Noon - 4 PM & 6 PM -10 PM |
| Tuesday | Dec. 23 12 Noon - 4 PM & 6 PM -10 PM |

Winterizing the Barn.....Chapter 2

By John Kiwacka

It's hard to believe that another year is passing us by. Last December we wrote about our future plans for winterizing the barn for our equine friends. Well, we have enclosed the west side of the barn and looks pretty good, if I say so myself. We even had our first test of high winds and cold weather this past November. In fact I went to the ranch just in case.... I am happy to say the barn was warmer and old man-winter wind could not blow threw our panels and Mr. Sunshine came threw just fine and kept the barn a little warmer. We have one 12 foot section on the west side on the north end to finish and the entire north side to start. We have constructed and stained the frames for the north end of the barn and are ready for assembly. All we need now are the funds to buy the clear panels. We are hoping to be able to finish the north end before January. Lets pray the weather holds for us. We have been patching and patching our barn roof too, but we are not winning the battle. We stop one leak and find two more. Because of these leaks and the wet spring and summer, we have lost a lot of the red dirt we spread in the barn and stalls last year. Our barn roof tin needs replacing. This past year, we had hoped for enough funds to repair our roof. Also, we had hoped for enough funds to purchase the T-11 siding and lumber to enclose the south and east end of the barn. In addition, we had hoped to put down several loads of road base on the east end of the barn to combat our mud problem and erosion issue. But alas we just didn't have enough leftover funds for these construction projects. We have faith that we'll get the funds we need to accomplish one of the above projects. If you know someone who knows someone who could donate some of the needed materials please ask them.

Construction Christmas Wish List from the Horses

- 4 floating heaters for the water tubs
- 3 Loads of roadbed stone
- 2 Loads of clean fill dirt
- Lots of Tin roofing...26" x 10ft or 12ft for the barn
- Lots of T-11 Siding for the barn
- Lots of 2"x4"s 8ft 10ft 12ft for stalls and barn repair
- Lots of 1"x 6"x 8ft 10ft for stall repair
- 100 T-post



The West side of the barn sporting the new weather proof panels.

Special "Thanks" to the following for all the donations over the past month:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Trina Barnett | Roberta McCardle |
| Timothy Benton | Jill & Charles Messer |
| Helen & John Bishop | Richard & Debbie Miller |
| Teresa & John Bonk | John T. Morris. |
| Peggy & Raymond Bouley | Lori & Daniel Perro |
| Rosalind Braatz | Ann Powlas |
| Jackie Brewer | Barry Powlas |
| Catherine & K.A. Briggs | Tammy Pritchard |
| B. Robert's Food, Inc | Kathryn Reaves |
| Denise & Eugene Brown III | Dottie Rebhan |
| Jo Ann Burleson | Margaret Reed |
| Julia Church | Elizabeth Richardson |
| Veda Len (Spunky) Dagenhart | Kathy & Kenneth Rodgers |
| Stephanie Funderburk | Salisbury Woman's Club |
| Ron & Melissa Hannah | Marvin & Verna Saunders |
| Susan Harnach | Patricia & Howard Schaeffer |
| Heather & Carey Head | Mary Schwarz-Lutz |
| Hillside View Stables | Allson & Jan Valentine |
| Brown Hobbie | Michael Webb |
| Lillus Kurland | Paul & Cindy Wilcoxon |
| Sara Lewis | Sue Wortman |
| Ellen Lopez | Kim Wrenn |

Hay! Er, Hey!

Have you re-linked your Food Lion MVP card for 2004 yet? Time is rapidly passing and the year will be over before we know it! It only takes a few seconds to do this at www.foodlion.com -- click on more information for the Shop & Share program and when that comes up click on re-link MVP card. You will then be prompted to enter your twelve (12) digit MVP card number and the first few letters of your last name. The computer pulls up your info & after confirming that the Horse Protection Society of NC is listed as your charity of choice, you hit "finished" and you're done & out of there! **If you don't re-link by 12/31, your purchases in Quarter # 1 (Jan-Feb-Mar) will not count toward helping HPS!** You can obtain MVP numbers (need address & phone # too) from friends, co-workers, etc. -- remember, you do not have to be a member to help in this way. Don't forget to tell people that doing this does NOT affect their MVP savings in any way, shape, or form. The total of their purchases just counts toward the total for HPS. If someone is new to the program, it only takes a few more seconds to enter their information. So.....the next time you see a member of the Fund Raising Committee, proudly look them in the eye and say....."I've re-linked my MVP card!" YumYum says **THANK YOU** and is delighted to learn of a fund-raiser that involves food (Navajo thought this was a pretty great thing too).

Thank you to the folks who have been shopping on the I-give web site. HPS received their first check. We are hoping this will build, as people become use to using the site.

This is in memory of a little quarter horse named "Holly." She was my husband's beloved horse when he was a young man. He said, "She was fast, gentle and smart." By Margaret Reed

Special thanks to Irwin Industrial Tools for photocopying the monthly newsletter.

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 INC.**

2135 Miller Road
China Grove, NC 28023

Phone: 704-855-2978
Email: hps@horseprotection.org

Web site:
www.horseprotection.org
and 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
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HPS Officers

| | | | |
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| Placement Coordinator..... | | | |