

Over Herd

Volume 8 Issue 12

SAVE THESE DATES:

Farrier & Volunteer Days:

**Saturday,
December 9**

**Saturday,
December 23**

We need all the hands we can get on these days. Please email HPS if you are able to attend for any length of time on either or both days. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Farrier day is potluck. Bring your favorite dish to share!

hps@horseprotection.org

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.

~Sir Winston Churchill

This month's NEWEST horses...

This month the 'Horse of the Month' article is being set aside so you can meet the 4 new horses at HPS. It has been a busy month and these special horses should be formally introduced! Please enjoy their stories that begin on the cover and continue on page 2.

Beautiful Foundered Paint



Kiowa is as pretty as a picture...until you look at her hooves. She has an unbelievable story that began in Cleveland County where five or six horses were running loose. The horse owner who rented the field did not even visit his horses once a month. Concerned folks in the area called Animal Control a number of times. Finally, when the horses were caught, they were placed in a woman's field with her other two horses.

Calls to Animal Control did not get the horses moved. After a month, the woman was able to locate the owner. He told her the horses escaped the pasture because someone had stolen his gates, but she checked the gates and found them intact.

At that point, she realized the horse owner had lied to her. Once again, the owner was contacted to remove the horses from her property. She could not afford the expense of feeding and caring for them.

Finally, the owner came to pick up the horses and left the little paint mare behind as payment for her care of the other horses. As months passed, the new owner became very attached to the mare who she enjoyed riding and having in the pasture with her other horses. *Continued on page 2.*

Bright Future for Thoroughbreds

When Deborah Baker and I checked on a call received about two horses in Cabarrus County, we found a bare field, no hay, and a small amount of poor quality grain. Both horses were very thin with hooves severely past due for a trimming. The gelding was in immediate danger of death.

At first, the owner was determined to correct what had become a very bad situation. It is often difficult for people to separate their attachment to a horse and the horse's well being, especially after owning the gelding for 17 years and the mare for 4 years. After financial problems escalated, this owner made the right choice by calling HPS to take Chesapeake and Canyon in and care for them.

Chesapeake, a lovely dark chestnut mare, is 22 years old with show and trail riding experience. She has gained a good deal of weight since Deborah and I first saw her. Chesapeake is a sweet horse and is very attached to Canyon.

Poor Canyon is in very bad condition, but each day we see his weight gain and improved attitude. Canyon is 25 years old and also has show experience. *Continued on page 3.*



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Amigo's Christmas Wish by An HPS Volunteer

Sometimes when I have the morning feed by myself I talk to the horses. Actually, they're excellent listeners when food is involved! This morning's topic was Christmas.

"It's coming," I warned the slightly hard headed ones that chose not to go into their stalls without a struggle. That's when I reminded them about Santa's naughty and nice list.

After the horses, chickens, ducks, cats, and dog have been fed each horse has to be examined for cuts, swelling, or any health problems. That was my chance to ask, "What would you like for Christmas?"

In my mind I heard each one say, "The new barn finished so we'll all have a warm dry place to eat this winter." I told you they have food issues. More attention, more apples, more brushings were also mentioned.

Then it was Amigo's turn. "What do you want, buddy?" I asked as I checked his legs.

Something made me stand up and look at him. He has the most expressive sweet eyes and through them he said softly, "My own special person like Montana and Dakota have. Someone that will come out to see me, brush me, love me."

That moment in the middle of a hectic morning he reminded me of how much these horses need to be special to someone. Could you help Santa and give Amigo, Laramie, Canyon and the others some of your time? You can sponsor a horse for just \$20 a month, but Amigo wants someone to love him. The fresh air and exercise would be good for you. Not to mention the look in Amigo's eyes when he sees his special person coming to give him his Christmas wish.

What Would You Have Done?

Imagine that you are driving along a country road in Cleveland County, and you see a poor, skinny, pathetic horse tied out on a rope. Well, if you are this kind gal, you stop and talk to the owner, which happened to be a young person. She was given the registered Appendix horse, and when she brought it home, her dad would not allow the horse in the field with his cows. The pitiful horse already had rope burns on both back pasterns from being ground tied. His hooves were ragged and broken and showing signs of little or no care in the past.



Our kind lady made an agreement to come back and pick up the horse. The next three days brought home the reality of trying to help a starved horse. There were several visits to the veterinarian's office with the horse in tow, and the realization of all of the inherent problems that have to be dealt with. What feed does he need? How much feed? How much hay should he have? Can he be out on grass safely? How to worm him and not kill him? What supplements does he need? Then the comprehension of the cost to rehabilitate a starved horse starts to sink in.

When it was suggested to call HPS, it seemed like the perfect answer for this horrifically neglected horse. The veterinarian had him at her clinic and called to see if we would be willing to care for him.

Laramie has fit right in at the sanctuary. He has been wormed, and his rain-rot is being treated. He has the use of the round pen in the front field, but prefers to stay in the pen rather than join the other horses. He does not feel strong enough yet and likes his privacy. Cracker Jack, our little Shetland pony, comes to visit and eat his hay.

Laramie has dropped pasterns and may never be able to be ridden again. This usually happens when a rider is too heavy or if the horse is exercised too hard. Laramie is gaining weight quickly and enjoying his regular feedings. Even with all Laramie has been through, he is a sweet boy that enjoys attention. Please help with Laramie's ongoing care and expenses. Laramie will send his thank you and wishes for you to have a very merry holiday season.

Continued from page 1... Beautiful Foundered Paint

Then on a fateful day, the mare foundered when she was left out in a freshly fertilized field. Eventually, both a farrier and veterinarian were called. After radiographs were taken, the vet's prognosis was not good. He told the owner it would take \$500 a month to bring the mare back to health.

The horses were kept in a field on family property that was a good distance from her home, making it very difficult for her to visit or care for them every day. Her elderly mother would look in on the horses, but the little foundered mare needed more attention and financial resources than her new owner could provide. Kiowa's hooves were in terrible condition and there is no doubt this contributed to her poor prognosis of recovery.

Upon arriving at the sanctuary, Kiowa was very ribby and off on the top line. After several corrective trims, she is now moving around normally in the field. Judging by the size of the crest on her neck, the mare was overweight a short time ago. Her nutrition has to be carefully balanced in order to aid recovery and grow healthy hooves.

Kiowa's recovery is going to take time and she needs your support. Make her and the other horses' Christmas and New Year a happy one by seeing they are provided with everything they need.



Another Great Day!

Remember the challenge mentioned in the November newsletter? If HPS could get 25 people at the sanctuary on November 11, Joyce and Ted Hixson would contribute another \$5,000 to be used toward our huge vet bill. For each additional person over 25 they would give another \$100. And an anonymous HPS volunteer also offered to donate \$1,000 if we got 25 people to volunteer that day.

Well, over 40 good-hearted folks came ready to do whatever they could to help. Some had never been to the sanctuary before. Bless each and every one of you who showed up to earn the challenge that will pay a vet bill that is critical to the care of the precious horses at HPS. Thanks to all of you~ It was truly a day of "Heart, and Hands, Helping Horses."

Miracles Continue at the Sanctuary

Early last summer Joyce and Ted Hixson provided the funds to have a tax audit done by a CPA. The goal was to be able to apply for a grant to help complete the new barn.

Out of all of the possible grants in the country, less than one percent is for animals and of that very little is marked for livestock (horses). Also, most grants are not for capital improvements.

Joyce found a possibility. The application was quietly written and rewritten so folks would not be disappointed if we did not receive the needed help. Joyce and I agreed that if we did get a grant, we wanted to do something special to announce it. Time passes slowly when you are waiting.

Then one day months later I was opening mail and inside was this huge check with all those zeros. I lost my cool for a few moments. I couldn't wait to call Joyce and tell her the great news.

Joyce and I agreed on a weekend that she and Ted would be able to come to the sanctuary to help make the announcement. Joyce planned a game to throw people off what was really going on. We played "Deal or No Deal" with gift bags and envelopes. While everyone was looking at what they had received, Joyce and I unrolled a large copy of the check. We just stood there as people started to look up and realize what they were seeing. I wish I had a picture of the look on their faces when they saw the copy of the \$40,000 check from the Peterson Charitable Foundation to aid in the completion of the new barn!!!

Getting everyone geared up to go back to work on the barn was a challenge in itself. I love it when our prayers are answered! Say a prayer that we can have the horses using the new barn by the first of the new year, before the weather gets really cold and ugly. We still need more funds to complete all of the extras that are so needed, like overhead heaters and an on demand hot water heater. We are going to need the wood for framing and the stall walls and doors donated from lumber companies. We also need the electrical supplies donated. Please contact us if you can help collect any of these items. But what a great start!!!

\$6,000 Challenge Outcome

Love those miracles that happen here at the sanctuary. Joyce Hixson heard about the difficulty HPS was having getting our huge vet bill paid off. She offered another challenge of \$5,000 and an extra \$100 for each additional six hours of work done at the sanctuary. About a third of the people who came to help with the \$6,000 challenge were new to the sanctuary and many long-term contributors came. Our veterinarian bill has been paid in full from the Challenge funds donated by Joyce and Ted Hixson and another member who wishes to remain anonymous, who has contributed \$1,500. HPS has another first: a credit at the veterinarian office. *Continued on page 4.*

Continued from page 1... Bright Future for Thoroughbreds

He is going to be a real looker when he reaches his full weight. Canyon is a pleasure to spend time with and enjoys attention.

The good news is that both horses have had good care the majority of their lives, helping them to quickly regain the needed weight. Only time will tell whether their hooves will abscess, a concern our farrier expressed due to their terrible hoof condition.

For now, this pair remains in the halfway house until Canyon is stronger and ready to join the other horses. It is very expensive to bring these starved sweethearts back to health. Please send a Christmas blessing to help with their expenses or become an Angel Sponsor for our new friends, Canyon and Chesapeake.



**HORSE
PROTECTION
SOCIETY**

In memory of Judy Butala. ~By Alice L. Drake
 Happy Birthday, Dottie Rebhan! ~By Miriam Park
 In honor of Michelle Jewett. ~By Carla M. Saunders
 Happy Birthday Laura Knight! Thank you for helping the horses with a donation instead of getting presents. Laura has done this in the past also.
 In honor of Brittney Liddic's Birthday. ~By Carrie & Clyde Hensley
 In honor of Mrs. Margaret Monds. ~By Margaret & Ernie Lane

The Horse Protection Society wishes to express their sympathy to the family and friends of Jan Eutsler Smith who passed away November 17, 2006. Her great love of horses is well known. Jan will be missed by all of us.

In memory of Jan Eutster Smith. ~By Jim & Margie Wannamaker, Jr.
 In memory of Jan Eutsler Smith, our dear friend and valued client. ~By Ron Bryson
 In memory of Jan Eutsler Smith. ~By Frankie & Jay Huges
 In honor of Mrs. Margaret Monds. ~By Margaret & Ernie Lane
 In memory of Jan Smith of Charlotte, NC. ~By Everlyn Whitley
 In memory of Jan Smith. ~By Susan & Robert Schipman
 In memory of Jan Smith. ~By Dotty Short
 In memory of Jan Eutsler Smith. ~By Betty (B.J.) Moore
 In memory of Jan Smith. ~By Paddy Morton
 In memory of Jan Eutsler Smith. ~By Carolyn S. Parks
 In memory of Jan Smith. ~By George and Helen Lineberry
 In memory of Jan Eutsler Smith. ~By Bonnie Meadows Huntley
 In memory of Jan Eutsler Smith. ~From James R. Guy Jr. & Family
 In memory of Jan Smith. ~By Georgie Heizer, Roy & Nancy Heizer and Scott & Louis Heizer Cashill
 In memory of Jan Smith. ~By East Mecklenburg High School Athletic Booster Club
 In memory of Jan Smith. ~By Jimmy Edwards
 In celebration of Jan Smith's life. ~By Jane Belo
 In memory of Jan Smith. ~By Jim & Joyce Biggerstaff
 In memory of mycousin, Jan Smith. ~By William & Mary Helen Blackwell

In Honor of Joanie Benson's Birthday
 "Heaven in sunshine will requite the kind." (Bryon)
 ~From Judy Witmer, Lisa Murray, Kathy Haw,
 Dottie Rebhan, & Roberta McCardle

A big thank you and in honor of **ALL** they have done for my guys and me. I wanted to continue the tradition of giving a donation to HPS in lieu of gifts for Christmas - MERRY CHRISTMAS

Horse Protection Society
 Joanie Benson
 The Whitman Family
 The Hagerter Family
 The McHugh Family
 The Greene Family
 Shirley Anderson Cook
 Shannon Caviness
 The Huffstickler Family
 The Caruso Family
 The Buchanan/Wright Family
 The Sanderfer Family
 Lillus Kurland & Brenda
 Stephanie Ghoens Gandy
 Morgan Ray
 Monogram Magic – Ruby and Beth
 Rusty Spur – Bobbie
 Wood'n Hoof – Donna
 Style-A-Rena – Ted
 Wilgrove Express
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 Kathy Stogner
 Karen Lynd & Sara Marie
 Parelli Glenn Group – Cammy and Everyone
 Shirely McVicker
 The Davis Family
 Parelli Natural Horsemanship
 The Tilley Family
 The Furr Family

MERRY CHRISTMAS! ~Spunky and Critters

Continued from page 3... **\$6,000 Challenge Outcome**

The following list is some of the items completed November 11th: the large metal gates got wire brushed and painted silver, the outside of the tack room got stained green and the roof was repaired, glass was put back into the feed room, new lights got hung in the old barn and the block feed room, the old wood storage building got cleaned out and the good wood put back in, the foot deep leaves were picked up, an old dead tree got cut up, the floor of the new barn was cleaned of all the manure and leaves, old fence posts were pulled, the back fence in the pond field had old barbed wire removed, an old pile of large tree branches in the pond field was burned, the roof on the tack room building was repaired, the hitching posts were re-stained, etc.

A huge horse hug from all of the horses to the following folks who made this possible.

Kaitlyn Addington, Deborah Baker, Joanie Benson, Leslie Bernstein, Therese Bertolette, Catherine Briggs, Wink Bullard, Jane Cacchione, Deb Carl, Patty Castiglia, Debbie Cort, Dave & Lisa Davenport, Jerry Ellenburg, Janet G. Elmo, Debbie, Nyla & Thomas Feeney, Stephan Fekete, Gary Fose, Marilyn Gilligan, Jesse Hahn, Kathy Haw, Leai Ho, Mary Isaacs, Jim Ladislas, Teresa & 'Sophia Lamb, Caryn Lambert, Breanna Lyons, Brenda Lyons, Nicole, Lynn & Ryan Manske, Roberta McCardle, Shannon McCoy, Kim & Krista Miller, Lisa & Bob Miller, Randall J. Montrie, Cathy Morris, Lauriane Nicklas, Brittany Odom, Colleen O'Malley, Barbara & Frank Osborn, Erin Ovealey, JoAnn, Brandon & Brayton Rabon, Aaron, Lisa, Bonnie & Alexandria Reinhardt, Amy & Brian Rosenstein, Chrissy Simmons, Aileen Thomson, Cindee Torba, Debbie Trinkle, Cindy Trobaugh, Cherie Werfel, Michelle D. Willey, Nathan Wrights, Carol Xiques.

Reminder: If you have email access and would prefer/be willing to receive your Over Herd issues via email, PLEASE contact Shelly Walsh at shellywalsh@bellsouth.net.

Emailing saves precious pennies for HPS!



HPS would like to thank the monthly donors for your continued generosity and love for the horses in our care. You are helping us make the world a better place for horses through education, rescue and rehabilitation. If your donation was later in the month your name will appear next month.

Fowl Confusion by Yellow Cat with clerical help from Roberta McCardle

"Pssst," whispered Fancy Pants to Jurassic, "we've got a problem."

"What do you mean?" he inquired. "Don't you like where they're putting our corn again?"

"This is far more serious than that! There's some kind of big Two-Legger holiday coming up and it involves roasting (shudder) a bird! It could be any one of us."

"THAT is serious," Jurassic said meditatively. "Let's gather all the birds for a meeting."

I observed a flurry of activity and decided to eavesdrop. Birds have interesting conversations and you never know when a bit of information might come in handy. I saw them heading to the tack room and wedged myself into the wall of the adjoining tool shed.

"Cock-a-doodle-do!" intoned Jurassic. "This meeting is now called to order."

"I don't know why he should be in charge," whispered Mama Goose to Papa Goose. "We've been here longer."

"Shhh! Listen up people. We have a problem! The Two-Leggers have a holiday day coming up, which they celebrate with an ancient ritual that involves roasting a bird! I know it seems uncivilized and shocking but it's true. I have it on good authority. The question is, what are we going to do about it?"

"Oh, no!" opined Young Goose. "We are plumper and tastier than you chickens. Everybody knows that Ebenezer Scrooge got a goose for Tiny Tim's family, not some little chicken."

"We're doomed!" shrieked Mama Goose, and buried her face under a wing.

"Now, Mama, it's not over until it's over. I have a plan," said Papa Goose.

"What's the plan? Please tell us!" said the smallest chickens in unison.

"Well," said Papa Goose slowly, "what if we put so many tasty things out for them that they forgot about the bird course? There's a microwave in the tack room. We could whip up something delish. Those nice people are still bringing in some fruits and vegetables. We could do a soufflé, a salad, and dessert. We could dazzle them with great food!"

There were cries of "There's the ticket!" "That's a fine idea!" "That Papa Goose has a good head on his shoulders!"

Assignments were rapidly made and cooking teams were put into place. Fancy Pants took notes for follow-up and the meeting broke up. This was most interesting! When I returned to the haymow for my mid-morning nap, I shared what transpired at the meeting with Calico Cat.

"What a bunch of dumb clucks!" she said. "Don't they know that Two-Leggers eat turkey on their holiday?"

"I didn't tell them because I have a plan as well. We are going to let them cook up a storm and then we'll pounce with a show of teeth and claws and drive them off. Guess who will dine on a lovely Christmas dinner in the tack room?"

"Us?" questioned Calico Cat.

"Yes, dear," I said. "Us."

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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 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

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Check out our Web site:
www.horseprotection.org

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
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«first»«last»
«address»«city»

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