

# Over Herd

*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year*

*The horses are thankful for the wonderful hay that is coming to them from upper New York State. It has taken your very kind generosity to keep them fed through these many months of horrible drought. It will be six more months until hay may once again be cut in North Carolina.*

*A good deal of the cost of the truck loads of hay has been covered by new humanitarians who have heard of the shocking amount of money we needed to feed the horses through this drought. You are true heroes! We have been operating on faith and our prayers are being answered. We are hoping that four more truckloads of hay will take care of the horses. The cost will be approximately \$14,280. Your caring has allowed HPS to purchase \$22,200 worth of hay to date. We could not have done this without you.*

*A hearty thank you to the kind folks who have come to help unload the tractor trailer loads of hay time and again. Please put the horses on your Christmas list. May God bless all the wonderful devoted people who care about the rescued horses.*

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:**

Show me your horse, and I will tell you who you are.

Author Unknown

## When The Heart Is Bigger Than The Purse

HPS is getting so many calls and emails asking us to take in horses. We only take in the horses in life threatening situations and not when the owners just want to be relieved of the financial responsibility of horse ownership.

A family that owned horses was convinced by their teenage daughter to take in two additional horses that were in immediate need of rescue. They could afford the horses they already had, with some sacrifices, but adding the cost of two additional horses proved to be too much. The family was not prepared for the expense or how to bring two emaciated horses back to health. Both horses came from Burke County. Once again it proves, "Love is not enough."



The first horse off the trailer was a palomino with skin stretched taut over bone. There were large deep bite marks all over her body. Some of the bites were infected and she had a huge worm belly. Her back end and tail were covered in diarrhea. The folks who rescued her told me that the people



who owned her had 16 horses and were selling all of them. They were told that the other horses kept her away from the food and that is why she was in such terrible shape. The owner had told them they had owned her since she was two years old. Her registration papers showed that she was born in Texas and has changed hands many times over the years. Her rescuers had only had her for three weeks and were not able to help her. They meant well, but were not giving the horse what she needed to recover. They were also adding oil to the feed of a horse with constant diarrhea.

Sierra was the name this 21 year old picked. She is in extreme danger of not recovering. Her blood work is all over the chart. With all the starved horses we have helped, we have never seen this before. Her anus showed no muscle around it and was open to about a four-inch circle. Our vets were as mystified as we were. Starved horses lose muscle as it is reabsorbed, but I have never seen it happen to the anus. I elected to put her on a new supplement that super charges the immune system. Sierra is still on the supplement and the anus has returned to normal. There is no more diarrhea, and she is finally starting to gain some weight all within two and half weeks. Sierra is not out of the woods... her jaw is swollen on both sides, and she may have abscessed teeth. I do not feel she is strong enough to handle dental work at the present time. It will be checked in the next few days. *Continued on page3...*

## What was Your Life?

Sometimes it is impossible to know much about a horse's history. A couple stopped by the sanctuary to tell us about a horse they knew that had been given to woman that did not know how to care for her. She was now wanting to give the horse to the first person that came along. The couple did not want to see this horse suffer anymore and once again end up in the wrong hands. They arranged her transportation to the sanctuary.

Everything they said about the horses was correct. She was about 18 years old and an emaciated black Quarter horse. It was easy to see that under the rack of bones was *Continued on page 2...*

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| What Was Your Life con't | 2 |
| Three Placed Horses...   | 2 |
| Can You Imagine?         | 2 |
| When the Hearts...Con't  | 3 |
| Notes from Joanie        | 3 |
| Monthly Donations        | 4 |
| Honors & Memorials       | 5 |

## Can You Imagine

You have had your dream horse for 20 years. He is a big, light colored palomino that you have done so many different things with, trail rides, drill team, and about anything you asked of him. Then your family finances take a deep nose dive.

At 24 years old Oswego was having health issues. The veterinarian was called and the owner explained the money problems. A full blood panel was done. He is overweight and his front hooves are tender. The vet thinks he had liver problems and an abscessed tooth. He had a nasal discharge and was put on antibiotics. When the owner asked about other problems, the vet pressed to euthanasia Oswego. A day was set to put him down.

She did not have the funds to run the needed tests or have any idea how she would pay for additional vet costs and care of the horse. When she brought up Cushing's syndrome the vet would not respond and just shrugged her off. As the day approached, she felt she was killing her best friend and there had to be something that could be done. The owner felt that he could be helped, but just did not know what to do, so she called HPS.

Carteret County was a long haul, and a friend offered their trailer to help bring Oswego to the sanctuary. She tried to be brave as she left him with us. We have kept in touch by phone. The laminitis has abated, the nasal discharge has returned, and the Cushing's test and IR has been completed. The owner was right about the cause of Oswego's problems. He has all the classic signs of IR and Cushing's. It would have been criminal to put this wonderful sweet horse down! Hopefully he will now live a long and happy life.



...continued from page 1 a beautiful horse. It is impossible to show how thin a black horse is in a photo.

Slow careful worming has allowed her to now gain over 10 pounds a day. The only other concern we have is an old injury to a back hock. Digital radiographs can be done when she is feeling better. Inca was a perfect fit for her new name.



Inca is enjoying the companionship of Sierra and Stardust. The three horses have completed their worming and are now allowed in a larger area.

A starved horse can eat almost a full bale of hay a day where a normal horse will eat about 20 pounds a day. The feed is doubled when a horse is a body score of one, and they need a huge amount of supplements to help aid their bodies to recover. Most people should never try bringing a starved horse back to health, unless they are receiving careful instructions from people who have done this many times over. It is too easy to do the wrong things, and the horse will die. One of the hardest things for people to understand is that veterinarians do not study malnourished or geriatric horses while in vet school. Their standard answer is to feed the starved horse senior feed. We do not agree! Too many senior feeds are full of fillers when the starved horse would benefit from a much higher concentrated pelleted feed. Their roughage should come from a very high quality hay and soaked alfalfa cubes. Very high protein is imperative to recovery. Inca loves attention and we need sponsors to help offset the high costs of returning her to full health. Let's make sure the rest of her life is wonderful.

## Three Placed Horses Return

Ambe Lewis has been checking on our placed horses. She gave us a heads up that things were not good with the three horses at one location. She talked with the people and had the vet come out. Worming was done and for a short time things improved. Then the hay shortage got worse and so did the horses. The husband needed to have both knees replaced and money was tight so everyone was concerned for the care of the horses. We had to get them back to the sanctuary.



Cloud Dancer is a true miracle and was always a favorite at the sanctuary. It is not fun saving the same horse's life twice. Cloud is now 21 years old and in terrible condition. His list of problems include: way too thin, his bad knee has not been treated in a long time, no supplements, a huge bean next to the urethra had to be removed by the vet and an infection in a front hoof. He is recovering and gaining weight.

It hurts our hearts so much to see our beloved Cloud Dancer in such bad shape. I will never understand how people can start off so well with horses and then just stop doing what they know they need to do to care for them. I am thankful he is back at the sanctuary and will receive the care he deserves.

When Cloud Dancer was first rescued, his owner was looking for someone to shoot him! HPS stepped in and no one was sure we could help him. His leg had been broken at the knee, and he had been left in the field with no care. We treated his knee with DMSO and over the next few months, the huge calcification went down to goose egg size. The first day he bucked up on his front legs, there was not a dry eye here. He was beautiful and a real favorite with everyone.

Legacy is now 20 years old. He was first rescued at 13 years old. He had spent 11 years locked in a small metal shed with no turnout. The owner kept him to ride to the bar since he had lost his driver's license. Legacy returned to full health and had to be retrained under saddle because of the horrific abuse he had sustained with his past owner. Cari Berns did an exceptional job working with him. Today he is underweight and about a 4 on the body scoring. He is quickly putting on weight.

*Continued on page 3...*



**HORSE  
PROTECTION  
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**“When the Heart is...” Continued from page 1...**We were expecting Sierra, and were surprised to see the other emaciated horse on the trailer. She is a 24 year-old appaloosa and wanted Stardust as her name. She came from a different owner and the folks had rescued her about six weeks ago. She was only slightly better than Sierra in body scoring. Both would be considered 1's. They asked what they should do to help the horse. I responded, “Leave her here.”

Stardust (see her picture on the front page) does not have other health issues to deal with and is gaining about 10 pounds a day. Her blood work was what would be expected with a starved horse. She has captured everyone's heart with her beautiful color and friendly ways. She will talk to you the whole time you are giving her the feed and soaked alfalfa. I think she is saying, “Hurry up! I am hungry you know!”

Both horses are loving the attention, the endless supply of hay, and the lack of competition from other horses. It is difficult to show just how bad the horses are in a picture. Their hair is always raised and standing up because there is no fat layer on their bodies. This adds the look of 100 to 125 pounds to each horse. If you have been thinking of sponsoring a horse, either one would be a great candidate.

**“Three Placed Horses...” Continued from page 1...**Phoenix had a terrible life before coming to HPS. He had gotten tangled in a roll of barbwire and had terrible infections where the barbs had cut him when he struggled to free himself. The vet thought he was septic and we would not be able to save him. He was so thin and sick back then. It is hard to remember when you look at him today. In the short time he has been back with us, he has regained his weight. Phoenix is only 10 years old and deserves a wonderful loving home.



Please come spend some time with these three wonderful horses. It would help a great deal if they had Angel Sponsors.

*I received this very touching note.*

My name is Haley Brown and I am 11 years old. I love horses and have been riding them for almost 5 years now. For the past year I have been raising money for endangered animals. Soon after raising money for a little while, I realized that my money would not make much of a difference in the world of endangered animals. The organizations that help those animals need thousands of dollars. One morning, I read your article in the newspaper. I thought to myself, “I could really make a difference in this woman's life.” So I present you with this \$550 dollar check. I am thankful for people of your kind that help animals.

Sincerely,  
Haley Brown

*The world is a much better place with Haley a part of it.*

Jackie Cornatzer and friends raised over \$600 for the rescued horses with their sale of cooked pork, chickens and turkey breasts. The food was wonderful.

*A huge “Thank you” to all of the kind folks who helped with this fundraiser! Thank you to everyone who supported this effort.*

Ruthie Smith was so touched by the hay shortage that she wrote a letter to all her friends asking for a donation to aid in our plight. The response has been wonderful. *Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness in aiding our efforts to raise needed funds to feed and care for the rescued horses.*

Meredith Ferraris, 12 years old, raised money to help feed the horses by selling lemonade. Can you believe over \$60!  
*An entrepreneur in the making! A big “Thank you” to a special young lady.*

The Sundance Saddle 4H Club did a fundraiser and made over a \$100.

*It was a pleasure to have them come and visit the sanctuary. Thank you to a very caring 4H club.*

If you missed the *Carolina Traveler* on WCNC November 17<sup>th</sup>, you can go to our web site and click on the link. A big “Thank you” to Mike and Adam for their very tasteful portrayal of HPS. This has helped to make it possible to bring in two more truck-loads of hay. <http://www.wcnc.com/video/index.html?nvid=193611> *It was a true pleasure to meet you! Especially since I am a big fan of the Carolina Traveler.*

This is just a small sampling of all the wonderful people who have stepped forward to help at the sanctuary and to contribute in this time of horrific need for the horses. The vet bills are skyrocketing with the new horses and the tests that needs to be done. All of the horses are due for dental work. The need never stops and with your help, the horses will continue to receive the best care possible to protect their health. Their Christmas and New Year will be a happy, healthy one. Please remember them through the Christmas season and pencil in a gift for them. Please remember the kind members in your prayers that are here at the sanctuary feeding and caring for the horses even on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. May God bless you and bring you the joy and happiness you so deserve for your kindness and caring of God's creatures.

# Monthly Donations

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Mary & James Ziemer  
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**HORSE  
PROTECTION  
SOCIETY**

Merry Christmas!!! A thank you and honor to all that has been done for my critters and me. A Merry Christmas donation has been made in honor of Joanie Benson, HPS and the volunteers, and a bunch of other special friends. With much appreciation!!! ~By My Critters and Me (Spunky)

In memory of Jan Smith. ~By Beth Talbert  
For Patty, our beloved kitty for 20 years. ~By Jo and Mike Rowell  
In memory of Dakota. ~Mary Walters  
In loving memory of Papa Bill Long for his birthday on October 4th. ~By Kate, Molly Zan, Ellie and Megan  
In Memory of Dakota. ~By Sue Wortman  
"In memory of my beloved cat, Mini-Mouse." ~Sara Lewis

In honor of Maggie Hollar. ~By Carol Ann Gunsch  
In honor of my daughter's birthday, Brittney Liddic. ~By Clyde & Carrie Hensley  
Maggie Hollar collected donations for the rescued horses in lieu of presents at her 10th Birthday party-sleepover. ~Thank you Maggie, all your friends and family for their generosity.  
Many thanks to Kris and Suzie for their kindness and love. ~Cole and Rach  
To Honor our granddaughter, Avery Medlin on her 6th birthday. She loves horses. ~By Vicki and Henry Medlin  
To honor Mrs. Margaret Monds. ~Given by Margaret & Erhie Lane  
In honor of several horses I feel fortunate to know and/or ride in Watauga County. They are: "Domino", "Blue-Eyed Wonder horse", "Tiger Lily", Buckwheat", "Hanaho", Makota", "Tye", "Annie", "Star", Filli", and "Maymay." ~By Mary G. Barcellona

***HPS's mailing list is growing every month. If you have a printer and would be willing to receive your "Over Herd" newsletter by email please let us know. Please put your full name on the email to [hps@horseprotection.org](mailto:hps@horseprotection.org). This will help us save postage and printing costs. Thank you, Joanie Benson.***

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Would you like the above recipient to receive "Over Herd" - **Yes No**

Your message for the newsletter:

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**\*\* 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

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[www.horseprotection.org](http://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.