

OVER HERD



February 2017

Happy Valentine's Day

Horses have their favorite girlfriends. Some mares would rather hang out with other mares and some geldings would rather have another gelding as their best friend. There is always a leader in the twosome.

Autumn and Commodore have been together for a long time. Freedom tried to woo Autumn away from Commodore, but the bond was too strong.

Teton and Salida are an item and Teton follows her where ever she wants to go.

Flame and Cloud are a bit of an unlikely pair. Cloud is moving so much better with the continuing DMSO of atrophied muscles on the inside of both back legs. The muscles have softened and most folks would not notice the short step with one hind leg. Cloud keeps improving even though it has been a long haul to cure her. Following Flame around has been good for her. **Frosty** wants to make this a threesome.

Desperado and Chippewa are an example of gelding friends.

Chiclet and Chuckles are best friends and **Eclipse** keeps them in line if they get too rambunctious. Both will often crowd into the stall with Eclipse. If something scares them, they run to Eclipse.

Honey Bun and Strudel are two mares that are always together.

An unlikely pair is **Kit Carson and Memphis**. Memphis is 31 years old and very possessive of Kit Carson, 15 years old. She obviously prefers a younger man.

Freedom and Shasta are another unlikely pair. Shasta won out of default when Autumn rejected Freedom. But Freedom dumped her and seems to be more interested in Frosty. Cloud still hangs close to Freedom from time to time.



Topaz and Omaha do great together and when topaz lays down, Omaha stands guard of her.

For years **Cree, 34 years old, and Natchez, 29 years old**, were a pair. Cree pushed to have **Sierra** join their twosome. Natchez has been a good sport about Sierra, which surprised us. Sierra is now 31 years old.

Tacoma and Pecos have been best friends for a long time. Both are geldings.

Bandolero is a flirt and the younger mares are enamored with him. He is often seen with **Rain, Sparrow or Shasta**. This group is always changing.

Chicopee thinks he is a big horse and wants to hang with the big boys like Tacoma and Pecos. Chicopee bounces around from group to group.

Rising Sun is the boss mare of the whole herd. The only horses we see her hanging with are mares. Sometimes **Shasta and Saragon** are with Rising Sun.

Cayenne, Hopi and Ebony Star are normally alone. They just don't seem to want to be with any particular horse most of the time. They will join other horses heading out to the big pond field as the other groups often will. Sometimes we see them mixing with other groups.

The Challenges of Equine Care

Each year it becomes more of a challenge to care for horses and give them the long lives they deserve. Our biggest problem is the horse feed that is available on the market today. The horse feeds are full of GMO food, genetically modified. (Sometimes called GM or GMF.)

Each modified organism, whose genetic makeup has been modified using recombinant DNA methods. This creates unstable combinations of plants that do not occur in nature or through traditional crossbreeding methods. The plants are developed to be sprayed with Roundup type Glyphosate or one of the other toxic sprays. Fields may become herbicide resistant “super weeds” and “super bugs,” which can only be killed with more toxic poisons like 2,4-D (a major ingredient in Agent Orange)

It sounds innocent enough until you realize the plants are taking up the herbicide and it becomes part of the food base.

Bt use to be sprayed on the outside of the corn to help prevent bugs eating the corn. Now the Bt is part of the ear of corn. Bt blows up the digestive track of bugs that eat it. Examples of GMO field crops include Bt-potatoes, Bt-corn and Bt-sweet corn. Soybeans, corn, Liberty Link corn, canola, sugar beets, cotton, and now alfalfa are all part of the GMO Roundup ready. It can be sprayed on the crop and the Roundup (glyphosate) taken up, but will not kill the plant.

One of the off-label uses that farmers use the herbicide spray for is grains. The spraying is taken up by the grain plant causing the whole field to be ready to harvest in about 10 days.

I was appalled when I was looking for a good grain free cat food and dog food and saw beet pulp listed in some cat and dog food. Beet pulp can be as much as 15% sugar. Since when is it good to feed sugar to dogs and cats?

Horse feed can contain soy, which also can disrupt hormones, corn, wheat middlings, alfalfa and beet pulp along with other things. Since the listed items are GMO products we are also feeding our horses Roundup.

Independent research has shown there are many health issues attached with people eating GMO. Most of research on animals has to do with small births, deformed births, cancer and digestive issues. (This the short list.) *(Cont. on Page 4)*

One Month into the New Year

All the tax notices have been mailed. If you have any questions, please email or give us call. Please help in any way you can with the elective vet care we need to have done for the horse(s) that was listed in your Tax Notice letter. We will keep you posted as to how we are doing raising the needed funds.

Often the first part of a new year, it is time to review your Last Will and Testament. If at all possible please remember the rescued horses. A legacy left to aid them can make a huge difference in their lives, sometimes for years to come. Legacies have been a God-sent in the past that have eased the financial pressure of the huge constant expenses for the care of so many horses. Thank you for caring.

There are more grants available for Fluffy and Fido than any other animals. Then comes all the other animals, like wolves, whales and on and on leaving livestock (horses) at the very bottom of all funding across the country. HPS has been blessed by the grants that we have received that have helped to build all or our wonderful barns and other buildings, but we couldn't have done it without our contributors. Grants that allow for general use are always a blessing!

It gladdens our hearts to receive a gift from someone who may have been affected by the economic down turn able to once again remember the precious horses. Every donation helps add to the budget and make all HPS does possible. We pray that this year is going to be the best since the economy down turn.

All the horses are doing excellently! It is wonderful when none of them need to have a vet visit. Healthy and Happy!

May this year be filled with joy and blessing.

Honors and Memorials

In loving memory of my dad, Richard Fortner, who passed away on Oct. 20, 2016. By Diane Etheridge

In honor of Tiffany W. Ferebee's Birthday. By Ann & Benjy Seagle

In honor of "Red Dog," handsome Hunter Jumper, who passed this fall and was owned by Whitney Sasser.
By Claudia Sturges

In memory of Michael Allen Hubbard. By Mary Whisonant

Kathy Cook loved creatures great and small. By Julie and Keith Wilson

In honor of Alice Bischoff. By Scott & Kathy Bischoff



A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful Contributors

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The Challenges of Equine Care *(Cont. from Page 2)*

Other developed counties have outlawed GMO coming into their country as seed. Many require imported food with GMO in them have to be labeled, even dog, cat food and animal feed.

The only organic horse feed that I have heard about in North Carolina is about \$50.00 a bag. Purina and Southern States have an organic chicken feed and the price is not too bad depending on how many chickens you are feeding.

We have always had so many horses live into their forties and I think this is going to be much more difficult to achieve. Our last 41 year old horse had to be let go due to a fast growing tumor on her chest.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a large enough property where we could grow all the feed and hay for the horses without using toxic sprays!

