

Over Herd

Volume 9 Issue 1

SAVE THESE DATES

Farrier & Volunteer Day:

Saturday, January 20

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

***Also, The Mane Event 2 is coming in June...see page 3.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

In riding a horse we borrow freedom.

~Helen Thomson

This Month's Featured Horse: Spirit

Spirit is a sweet Arabian gelding that came to the sanctuary 2 years ago. His former owner was a truck driver that left the care of Spirit to his new bride who was terrified of horses. Spirit was rarely fed and had no pasture or hay upon which to graze. He was starving and barely clinging to life by the time he arrived at the sanctuary.



4H member, Eileen Smith, shows off Spirit for the camera. Eileen comes to ride Spirit regularly.

Through proper feeding and careful worming Spirit quickly recovered. Other than being prone to eye infections Spirit's health has been excellent.

He has been under saddle for a year now. Eileen, a 14-year-old 4H member, rides and sponsors Spirit. He has proven to be a very easy-going fellow and a good children's or beginner's horse. He is western trained and safe to ride on trails and along roadsides.

Spirit is 28 years old and is a true testament to the Arabian breed. He loves to go riding and moves at a quick pace. We often compare him to another Arabian at the sanctuary named Navajo who is 41 and still a magnificent riding horse.

If you believe that you can offer Spirit the home he deserves, please contact the sanctuary and schedule an appointment to meet him.

The Incredible Year of 2006

The year started with working towards a new 14 stall barn, by drilling a new well, and trying to arrange for all the fill dirt and grading that would be needed. We only had a small portion of the money needed to complete the needed projects, but we were determined to move ahead.

The January newsletter reported the three new horses that had arrived at the sanctuary. Jingle Bells has returned to health after several bad bouts with several severe nasal infection. Her back leg lameness has improved greatly and is only noticeable occasionally.

Santa Fe has come such a long way. He has adjusted to the loss of sight in one eye that happened shortly before he came to HPS. The terrible scar on his back leg has lessened and his demeanor is improved. The damaged back hoof does not cause any problem now that it is being kept trimmed correctly. He is going to make a fabulous horse for someone.

When we took in the old mare in terrible condition, everyone was concerned. It is rare that we cannot bring a horse back to health. This was one came to the sanctuary too late to be saved.

Tonka was our very first Mustang to come to the sanctuary. He

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Did You Know...

- The capacity of a horse's stomach is only about 2 gallons.
- Thirty minutes after a horse stops grazing, the pH of the stomach drops to levels that can induce ulcers.
- The equine stomach secretes acid continuously.
- Death from colic is twice as high as other diseases, including trauma, in a normal farm population.
- Colic is one of the most expensive medical conditions in horses.
- Colic is diagnosed almost twice as often as other medical conditions.
- The small intestine of a horse is 70 feet long.
- The large intestine of a horse is 25 feet long.
- There is little difference in which breeds of horse are the most susceptible to colic.



Laramie's dropped pasterns.

Continued from page 1... **The Incredible Year of 2006**

was afraid of everything including most of the folks at the sanctuary. Today he likes to have the front of his face rubbed and will follow people around.

Gayle Cannon and crew along with Joyce Hixson worked hard to bring about the first Mane Event at the Catawba Country Club. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time and went home with their fabulous acquisitions from the live and silent auctions. The funds earned went to the New Barn Fund.

When you are up to your eyes another problem always gets added to the long list. The Catawba County Animal Control called just several days before the Mane Event. Liberty and Freedom were in terrible condition and needed immediate hoof care. Freedom has turned into one of the finest Quarter horses HPS has ever had the privilege to care for. Body, soul, and hooves have fully recovered. It will take Liberty longer for his front hooves to fully recover.



Freedom enjoying HPS awaiting a forever home.

Blackberry captured everyone's heart. The little black pony was happy to be with other horses after 20 years of living alone in an isolated field. Later in the year, her liver failed from a past long term poisoning to her system.

Early spring brought Feather and Yuma to the sanctuary. Both were very close to losing their lives to extreme starvation. After Yuma's teeth were floated, he quickly returned to good body condition. Yuma dragged his back hooves. He is doing much better. Feather also had weaknesses in her legs that become more pronounced as she gained weight. Both are on EPM supplements. Feather has difficulty gaining and holding her weight, and more tests are needed.

Starlight arrived in emaciated condition. Starlight has an approved application and will soon be ready to go back under saddle and then leave us for her loving new home.

The new barn was framed out and the roof installed. Once the underground plumbing and pipes for the electrical were completed the funds ran out. There were the still needed donations coming, but not enough to continue. I quietly applied for a grant.

Summer brought us 23-year-old Amigo. The hot, long summer was hard on him and his weight gain slowed. The cooler fall has been good for him. A small part of his top line still needs to fill in.

Continued on page 3.

Dropped Pasterns: Degenerative Suspensory Ligament Desmitis (DSLSD)

Any ligament injury brings a shiver to a horse owner since it could cause the start of degenerate suspensory ligament desmitis, also know as dropped pasterns, DSLD or coon-footed. This is a condition brought about by faulty healing of the suspensory ligament. This can cause a thickening and hardening of the ligament and its branches. The ligament loses its ability to support the horse. The result is lameness and a dropping of the fetlock joint and the pastern.

Under stress, the ligament can get tiny tears and strains. A healthy horse that is not under continual stress can repair minor injuries with new collagen. When a horse's condition advances to the point of DSLD, the horse will heal the ligament injury with cartilage instead of collagen. This results in a loss of strength and elasticity in the tissue and the ligament enlarges and hardens.

Some believe that certain horses may have a predisposition to DSLD based on their conformation. Other factors can be an immature horse started under saddle, too heavy a rider, and over working the horse. These are usually the reasons we see dropped pasterns with a horse at the sanctuary.

Once the fetlock has dropped there is nothing that can be done except to try and keep the horse as comfortable as possible until it is time to let the horse pass on. HPS keeps all of the horses on MSM, which has been proven to help with the early stages of tears and healing. In addition, MSM makes the ligament more elastic and helps prevent the small injuries.

Olympia, Tulsa and Quicksilver arrived together. Tulsa is diagnosed with Cushing's syndrome and is doing great. Quicksilver will be going with Wind Song as a "Pasture Pal." To my surprise, no one has put in an application for the beautiful Olympia, our first Hanoverian.

I took my vacation late summer and Deborah Baker came close to a nervous breakdown trying to handle everything while I was gone. Deborah and all the wonderful folks who help at the sanctuary did an incredible job while I was away.

Joyce and Ted Hixson put forth a \$10,000 challenge to help get the barn back under way. HPS needed the funds to purchase and install the rubber mats in the barn. The challenge was a huge success.

Popcorn rejoined us. Popcorn has settled right back in. She is going to need a little repair to the eye socket that had been sewn closed. Little Cracker Jack was foundered in all four hooves. His last trimming left him running and bucking with all four hooves coming off the ground.

Early fall brought the fantastic news that we had won a \$40,000 grant to help finish the barn. The plumbing ditches had to be filled and a small electrical pipe installed to get the electrical sign off we needed.

When Joyce and Ted realized HPS had a veterinarian bill fast approaching \$8,000, they offered a new challenge to help pay the bill. A member that wishes to remain anonymous added another \$1,500 to the challenge. The bill was paid in full and we even have a credit.

The year ended with the arrival of four new horses. The radiographs of Kiowa's front foundered hooves showed a 42 degree rotation. There was significant bone degeneration and no hope of recovery. It was kinder to let her go than to confine her to a continuing life of pain. Chesapeake was not in as bad shape as so many of the horses that come to us. She has gained all of the weight she needed and is going to make someone a wonderful riding horse. Canyon has done remarkably well in the short time he has been with HPS. He only needs about another 125 pounds to be fully recovered. Laramie is a sweet horse that has also done very well gaining weight. There is nothing that can be done for his dropped pasterns.

Harold Speck saved the day getting the new barn back on schedule. After repeated calls and promises to come do the concrete work, no one would keep their commitment. After only a little begging Harold came with his equipment and solved the problems we were facing getting the grading done. He also arranged for his favorite concrete finisher to do the pouring and finishing. The rain has postponed the work, but it should be finished by the time our contractor is back on the job by the first of the year.

Wow! What a year..... 20 new horses came to HPS, money in the bank to help finish the barn, two fabulous challenges and we are back to work on the New Barn. All of this has been made possible by your contributions. The 36 horses and the ones to come in the New Year need you to make this mission possible. How fortunate the starved and abused horses are to have you to care and make their lives possible! Thank you for your continued support.

Can Anyone Out There Help?

As you know, we are trying to complete the new barn. Here is a short list of things we need donated or money donated in order to help purchase:

Electrical supplies
(email HPS for detailed list)

On-demand hot water heater

2 overhead heaters

Small wash boom

Mark your calendar:

The Mane Event 2
June 2, 2007
At the Speedway Club at
Lowe's Motor Speedway
Silent and Live Auction!

New Barn Update

A huge thank you goes out to all of the kind people who have made it possible to move ahead with the new barn. It has taken a while to get back on track. It is always difficult when a project is delayed trying to get all the needed people lined up again and get the materials needed.

The concrete should be poured shortly, the mats are ordered, the glue for the mats has been ordered and the lumber is on the property. We have a good bit of leveling and compacting to do on the barn floor before the mats can be laid. We will be recruiting help.

With lots of prayers, we should see tremendous headway this month with the barn.



**HORSE
PROTECTION
SOCIETY**

In honor of Janet Elmo. ~By Wink & Kathryn Bullard

In honor of Polly & Bill Woods. ~By Wink & Kathryn Bullard

In honor of Dottie Rebhan. ~By Anonymous Donor

In memory of Jan Eutsler Smith. ~By Dorthy & Chris Dyer

Tiffany Ferehee has been honored by David Ferebee.

Jo Ann Means has been honored by her husband, Don Means.

In honor of Alyessa Wainright for her love of horses. ~From Aunt Sheila

In honor of Spunky Dagenhart and the pure light and love she gives to so many.
~From Jennifer Caruso

In fond memory of Jan Eutsler Smith. Jan has loved horses since she was old enough to sit in a saddle, even if someone had to hold her on. She will be missed by all of us who loved her. In memory and celebration of Jan Eutsler Smith's life.

Janet & George Grater, Richard & Susan Laney, The Point Lake and Gold Club, Francis and Jessie Cuccaro, Eutsler Family Association, Merle E. Gowdy, Charles and Coles Jackson, Rob & Freida Schipman, Tamera, Molly & Ronald Green, Margaret Lowder, Judy & Billy Layton, Randall E. Riggins, Juddie Bacot, Noel & George Newsome Jr., David & Magdalene Underwood, Joanne & James Kaltreider, Betty Ann & James Crawford Jr., Kimberly & Gary Franceschi, Fricka & Stephan T. James, Patricia & Blake Leckie, George & Barbara McDonald, Lyn & Reese A Steen, DDS, Barbara & Bill Eutsler, Jr., Anne Kenny, Jerry & Cara Munday, Sandra & Michael Talbert

Postcard from Indigo!

Greetings from Myrtle Beach! We arrived safely and the beach is beautiful! My two-legger brought me and two of my friends here to participate in the 25th anniversary American Heart Association Ride – a –Thon . It's one of the few times us horses are allowed on the beach. Friday we got to walk around the campground. It's huge and horses were everywhere. According to the two-legger over 1000 signed up. There was a lot of neighing going on! They also took us down to the water. Those waves are scary, but I liked the sand. It felt so cushy under my hooves. Later that afternoon we watched a costume parade; the winning entry was a couple horses dressed as scarecrows. Very funny!

On Saturday we went on the big ride. Ten miles down the beach, lunch, and then ten miles back. We had a bit of a rough start. My friend, Fancy, decided something was not right and started bucking. Next thing we knew her two-legger landed in the sand ...saddle and all! So we had a short break while the two-leggers figured out how to get the saddle cinch straps fixed and get going again.

There was so much to look at: the waves, water, sand, planes coming in for a landing, two-leggers, and other horses, who, in my opinion, just kept getting too close to me and my friends. Especially gelding Charley....those other mares were going to snatch him ! He's just the cutest blond palomino, but don't tell him that; he's got a big head as it is! I made my displeasure known by pinning my ears back at every chance...my two-legger kept telling me to stop!

We had fun though and my two-legger said I was soooo pretty with the wind blowing through my beautiful black mane.

On Sunday , we took a short trip down to the beach. I ventured a bit closer to the waves, but they are still scary! The trailer door is opening, soon we'll be on the road headed home. I can't wait to tell Starburst all about my weekend. She'll be so envious!

Love, Indigo (with help from Kathy Haw)



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.

Florence Nightingale: The Wind Beneath Their Hooves

by Amanda Cowtipper



Well, her name is really Tundra. Her breed is Italian Maremma, one of several European herding/guard canines; she is a descendant of the great white Eastern sheepdogs that slowly spread over Europe a thousand years ago. Maremmas are independent and aloof. Actually, aloof doesn't quite cover her 'attytodd'...she weaves her way around tall grass, horses, geese, cats and chickens with benign movements. Humans are her least favorite species...rarely does she come less than six yards into their space.

She eats only when 'her' horses are munching their meals. You

might gain this dog's half-hearted trust after years of dancing attendance around the farm. She has to ensure that you have some dedication while on the job. She has high standards...except for the time that masculine Border Collie romanced a female that was guaranteed spayed. She went up to the house--to Joanie--to announce her joyous gift on Christmas Eve, "Hey boss, I need a little help here." I understand Tundra was a great mother. Stands to reason...she takes her job seriously, as should we all. Oh, by the way, if she seeks you out...it isn't for your sparkling personality. Go and see what this dog needs. If this professional caretaker needs a two-legged, it's because we have opposable thumbs and can use a telephone.

Tundra does not grant interviews, so all information comes from a secondary source.

Respectfully submitted, A. Cowtipper

Monthly Donations

Mary Beth Abordo
Amanda Arganbright
Sheila & James Austin Jr.
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Sharon Barger
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Horse Protection Society of North Carolina



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China Grove, NC 28023

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

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.

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