



OVER HERD



Honey Bun in February 2010



Honey Bun in November 2011

New Homes for FOUR Horses

By Joanie Benson

Do you remember how skinny and pathetic Honey Bun was when she came to the sanctuary? With pus running out of her empty eye socket, and yet she was so happy to be with us. Our volunteer feeders were very judicious in doctoring the infection, and as soon as she was healthy enough, off she went for surgery to close the socket.

Once the mare was fully recovered, Norma Miller worked with her, both bare-back and under saddle, getting her ready for a new loving home. Honey Bun has a mind of her own and will do wonderfully if you ride correctly, but she will not be happy - and will be clear about it - with the rider who does not ride right. (Smart horse!)

As for our Pasture Pals - those horses whose days of being ridden are over - we always hope that they will be able to find a home, but too few do. Sweet Pea is one that we were concerned about, due to her club hoof in the back, yet she proved to be a lucky one.



Sweet Pea November 2011

A wonderful woman, who had previously been caregiver to a different HPS horse, chose Honey Bun as her riding horse, and made a second wise choice to take Sweet Pea as a companion. It makes life so much more manageable when you do not have to be concerned about keeping **two** horses exercised but instead

can just love on the second one. Faithful volunteer Kathy Haw delivered Honey Bun and Sweet Pea to their new home in the Hickory area. Current reports are "The two are doing great."

MORE GOOD NEWS: It is really fun helping a family when they are looking for horses for their children. First we work with the mom, since she knows her kids better than anyone else. Stacey came out to try the horses and see what she thought before exposing the children to the available horses. Several were selected as possibilities for the girls. Once that was done, the girls got to come to the sanctuary to meet the horses their mom had selected, with our help, for them. Sometimes we are fortunate to know the horse's history and whether they had previously been ridden by children. Most of the time, we have no idea if the horse has ever been around children; this can make a big difference. Sage (highlighted in the December issue of Over Herd) was the choice for the oldest daughter while Alamo was selected for the next younger daughter. Mom and Dad found a wonderful pony at another farm for the youngest daughter.

The oldest daughter is a good and confident rider, and Sage did great with her. Mom enjoyed Durango during her try-outs, and while he was very responsive for her, it was not so much the case for the middle daughter who needs to gain more confidence. BUT Alamo (also highlighted in the December issue of Over Herd) was a perfect angel for the young girl and will be just what she needs.

Deborah Baker, Norma Miller and Janet Elmo have been doing a great job of working with the horses and getting them ready to go. The Indoor Training Arena has been a life saver for working with the horses, often three to four times a week. Deborah is devoted to working with the herd members and getting them going correctly.

Thank you to all who recognized the importance and the value of the Indoor Training Arena in making it possible to return these wonderful horses to full health so they can have loving families of their own. We are certain that these four horses are shining examples of your faith and your generosity. We will continue to work with others in the herd to create more success stories to share with you.

Horsey Updates

By Joanie Benson

Wind Star: The 10-day EPM treatment has been completed, and the full blood panel and follow-up testing for the protozoa will be done on December 26th and then sent to the lab for testing. Wind Star had two choke episodes shortly after the treatment. We were able to resolve the chokes before a veterinarian needed to be called. (We got very lucky!) She is also exhibiting some breathing issues, and her white count was low before we started the treatment. A second blood panel showed that her white count was still down after the EPM treatment, so we put her on MMS to help clear the condition. The jury is still out as to whether the treatment she underwent will cure her EPM.

Anasazi: She kept scratching herself on a post and a tree. Sometimes horses will do this when their winter coats are coming in. Her coat was late due to her starved condition. We did not think much about it until Deborah and I got suspicious as the scratching got worse. When we checked her, we found lice everywhere on her body. There are two main types of lice: one is a blood sucker and can easily be cured by administering Ivermectin to the horse. The second type eats the horse's dander and is much more difficult to cure. I waited a couple of days until the temperature was over 60 degrees. Then Debbie D'Amato, Judy LeGrett and I went to work covering Anasazi with oil. We waited 20 minutes with the oil covering Anasazi, and then washed it off. Thank heavens for Dawn soap. The mare was a perfect angel the whole time she stood in the wash stall; she seemed to enjoy the attention. A second treatment, seven days later, was required. So we gathered together and got to do it again, only this time we used peppermint Castile soap. Getting all the oil off is almost impossible this time of the year. Happy to say that Anasazi is gaining her weight and looking so much better.

Kit Carson: His diarrhea had not gotten any better, and one of our vets suggested trying acupuncture to address the situation. I learned it would take three to four treatments before we would see a marked difference. Dr. Lisa Busko has treated him twice thus far, and the jury is still out as to whether this will help him. We strongly believe the issues are directly connected to years of improper or complete lack of deworming and the damage that caused to his intestines.

Diego: Diego got kicked right below his withers and it swelled up; he was very sore. We were using several different treatments to no avail. I suspected an infection, so we put him on MMS. The area is being treated with DMSO and is slowly going down. We expect he will be all better when we say "So Long" to him in January when he moves to his new Forever Home.

Spirit: Small accidents can happen so fast! Spirit was eating his breakfast and somehow punctured his face on the side. We had a hard time getting the bleeding to stop so we could see how bad the puncture was. The area needed to be shaved, but it was not going to be possible without some drugs on board. Once Dr. Bob Gochnauer shaved the area, it turned out to be larger than it looked with all the hair. About six stitches were needed to close it. We think he hit a facial artery which is why it was hard to stop the bleeding, but he is recovering well now.

And that's all the Horsey Updates for now!

Happy New Year to You!

By Joanie Benson

Wow! 2012! How did we get here so fast? I guess I have been so busy everyday that the 13 years since the beginning of HPS have just slipped by with great speed. Some of you may not realize that the first rescued equine came to the sanctuary in January 1991, and the horses have not stopped coming since then. I have been working with rescued horses for 21 years!

When reviewing the past year, each of us has our own important things we are "Thankful" for. First on my list are the kind folks who make it possible for the sanctuary to continue to care for so many equines in desperate need. *None of this would be possible without you.* Second are the devoted members who selflessly give of their time to care for all of the horses. When most people are snug in their homes on holidays, members are here caring for your horses. Third are the grant funds that allow HPS to continue to grow, plan new projects and aid the community. We have big plans for the coming year and you will be hearing more about this in future newsletters.

If you were to ask the folks here at the sanctuary what they are "thankful for," it would be warm boots, heavy socks, funds to supply the horses' needs, and wonderful homes for the re-covered horses they love so very much. They are thankful for the new Indoor Training Arena because they see the horses progress as they are worked over the weeks. The feeders are thankful that the weather has stayed so pleasant going into winter, unlike last year. The rains have mainly been at night or stopped during feeding time. They are thankful for the people who come and help clean the barns, the veterinarians who save a horse's life, and when one of the babies recovers from devastating starvation and is now happily running in the fields with the other horses.

If you asked them what they would like for the coming year, it would be wonderful homes for the horses, no shortage of funds, more feeders to lighten the load each feeding, and more quality folks to help work with the horses to get them ready for their new lives and homes. And having the weather stay mild is a big one.

All of these folks have the same life issues to deal with as everyone else, but you do not hear complaints about life or the material things they are missing that other people may have. More than likely, the first thing you will hear when they return from a vacation or other absence is "Oh, I missed the horses so much."

All of us wish you good health and a blessed New Year.

IN HONOR OF:

The birthday of Susie Lurz - by Flo & Mel Kostur

Louie Elmo - by Janet & Lou Elmo

Sharon & Charney Bromberg - by Janet & Lou Elmo

Lisa Murray's January birthday - by Sybil Athey

Donna Sherrin - by Janet & Lou Elmo

Marilyn & Harry Swimmer - by John & Diane Kibler

Tommy & Spencer Register - by Loretta & Ron Wachs

Floyd Lentz's birthday on 12/2 - by Kim Clark

My mother, Betty Lentz, for Christmas - by Kim Clark

Joe Snipes - by Dale Mcandrews

Tiffany Ferebee - by Charlotte & Chris Ferebee

William Cottrell - by Rebecca Cottrell

Alice Bischoff - by Scott & Kathy Bischoff

Susan & Andy Mackay - by Janet & Lou Elmo

Joanne Johnson - by Suzanne & John Casey

The December birthdays of Dottie Rebhan & Jodi Douthit - by Sybil P. Athey

Cody, the Wonder Horse, with Moucho Smoochos - by Wink Bullard

Merry Christmas to Kara Bramley, from Aunt Laura, who has sponsored Inca for you.

For our granddaughter, Mary Miller, a lover of horses. Merry Christmas from Grandma & Papa

Special messages

Caitlyn Blumreich is a 4th grader who ran a bake sale fundraiser. "My dad suggested we have at least 12 items. I wanted to support a horse for one year. But now I want to support two horses, at least for as long as it can. It was hard to do all the math, but I got through it."

THANK YOU, Caitlyn, from the horses!



Anasazi, hang in there girl. You will get the help now.

By Lisa Hachey

MEMORIALS

In memory of Snoopy. By Jane & Rachel Billingsley

In loving memory of Snickers, gentle pony and boon companion of Miss Angel Lehouf.

By Roberta McCordle

In memory of Sunni 1976 - 2009. By Mary Myers

In memorium for a wonderful companion, Sirius, who kept watch over She who watches over the horses.

By Janet Elmo

MONTHLY DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTORS

The outlook for our New Year changed from dim to bright as our mail carrier brought bountiful gifts from our dedicated supporters. 2011 was a tough year for many people, and here at the sanctuary we also worked hard to cut expenses while keeping our herd's care from being cut, too. Your faith in what we do and your love of the horses are keeping us afloat and focused on our mission. Just looking at the photos on our Page 1 is proof-positive that your efforts and generosity pay off handsomely.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. May 2012 be a wonderful year for us all.

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Volunteer Editorial Assistant wanted to work with the Over Herd editor. Work from home 2-3 hours per month. Experience with Microsoft Publisher helpful. For more information, contact Janet at janet48@windstream.net.

ALUMINUM CAN FUND-RAISER UPDATE

We almost did it! Roberta & Tom took in their last load of cans on 12/17 and got \$155.00 for the horses. This brings our 2011 calendar year-to-date grand total to \$**934.90**. Their goal had always been to make \$1,000 in a year, but just couldn't get there. The McCardles have been doing this for five years, and are handing back the reins to this meaningful task. We can't thank them enough for their dedication and labor. They are great friends to the horses and to the sanctuary, and we are glad to know they will still be around.

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The People's Corner

Health Tips from
 Joanie Benson
 Coming to you from
 Joanie's personal ex-
 periences or research

I suggest you buy products made in the US. If you do not, it can affect your dog and even kill him (by purchasing the chicken jerky products imported from China). Of course the FDA has put out a warning, but has not taken them off the market. Purchasing any food product from China is a bit like playing Russian roulette as their country's food quality standards leave much to be desired!

Please check where your food is manufactured before buying. Many canned goods come from China and other countries with poor quality standards. When you buy prepared foods, some of the ingredi-ents may come from China; this does not have to be listed since the product is put together in this country. This is another reason why you should not buy prepared foods.

The other issue we need to look at to keep our pets and ourselves safe is the green symbol that denotes the food was blasted with ionizing radiation. The deadly process can render the food toxic. Australia has outlawed the practice. The symbol looks harmless enough, unless you know what it means.



Be informed to be safe.

H				
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