



OVER HERD

July 2016

How was Your Memorial Day Weekend?

It came to our attention that a 31 year old Quarter Horse was at a boarding stable and the owner could not afford the special feed or the farrier care that the horse needed. This great old horse was going to be euthanized! It took coordination between the owner of the horse and the stable owner for HPS to pick up the horse. (The stable owner was relieved that the horse would be coming to the sanctuary.) No one wanted to see this ex-show horse euthanized. He has been on a diet of sweet feed for all of the years he spent at the stable and an EPM test will need to be done when he has gained some weight. We will have Topaz tested at the same time.

Part of Memorial Day weekend was spent picking up the poor horse in Mecklenburg County on Saturday, thanks to Tom McCardle's help with driving the truck and trailer. Our folks were great making sure that everything was ready for the trip, his stall was clean with lots of hay to munch, the water tubs were scrubbed and filled and field had some nice grass for nibbling.

The owner had not seen him in years and years according to the stable owner. His hooves desperately need trimming, and of course he needed hundreds of pounds of weight. He was a high one on the Henneke Body Scoring.

His face is very gray from a halter being left on. Beyond the bony look is a beautiful horse hiding underneath. It is going to be very stressful for this boy since he has been at the same stable since about 1995. He is having issues with eating hay and I am sure he needs dental work done. (If he has any teeth left.)

After a couple of weeks, it was time to pick a list of names and give him a chance to pick a new name. Omaha came out the winner.

Hopi and Topaz have joined Omaha in the side field and are making a nice happy little herd. Omaha is gaining weight nicely, and as we would expect for the weeks he has been here. Our vet was amazed to see how well Omaha was doing in such a short time.

Both Topaz and Omaha could use Angel sponsors to help offset some of their expenses.



Building Trust and Bonding with Horses

Members and visitors are surprised how friendly and quiet our horses are when meeting new people. Most want to greet new folks and come and smell them. It is the horses' way of introducing themselves.

The human needs to first seek to understand and listen to the horse. Just quietly be with the horse and listen, observe and don't talk.

Understand that the horses' view of their world is fundamentally different than humans; they are prey animals (fight or flight, highly sensitive to all stimuli) and dependent upon the herd for security. A horse doesn't just give trust to humans. You have to earn it by building a bond and then trust may follow unless you act in untrustworthy ways. Some of the things that break trust with a horse are asking them to do mindless work that they hate. Examples are using a rope halter that will hurt the horse's face even with the slightest tug, lunging a horse, punishment when a horse doesn't understand what you are asking of them, yelling at the horse, scaring the horse, yanking and pulling on the lead line, walking aggressively towards a horse, using a whip to move the horse quickly, and on and on.

(Cont. on Page 2)

News from the Herd

Teton had a slight colic, but with the assistance of Dr. Mary Gochnauer, he recovered quickly. His girlfriend Salida, deserted him after checking things out.

Baby had a slight colic and when she was examined internally by Dr. Mary, it was discovered that Baby has diverticulosis. Pouches have formed along her intestine walls at weak spots. We have to watch for infection in her intestines. All of this could have been caused by not being dewormed correctly all the years the past owner had Baby. This is a very serious illness.

Chicopee and Frosty somehow got small cuts that need a few stitches. We think we found a small sharp area that may have caused the cuts.

Building Trust and Bonding with Horses (Cont. from Page 1)

The horses at the sanctuary are treated gently and given choices, and they feel safe when started in gentle training to work towards going under saddle.

Autumn was a difficult horse to build trust with. It didn't take much for Autumn to decide she didn't want to do what you were asking of her, like move into her stall, she would threaten or just turn and give you a bite.

Kim was concerned when she was asked to try and build a bond with Autumn. A plan was developed to just start being with her in the field, close but not so close that she would move away. There were rocky moments, but Kim didn't give up. Little by little a relationship was built.

Today Autumn is under saddle and she and Kim have a great partnership. The story below is by Kim and Autumn.

"I was hanging out in the pond field quietly and talking to Autumn and Commodore at about 8:15 pm. I heard growling behind me and turned around to see a dog that was apparently not too fond of humans, but walked right by a bunch of horses. Of course, I stayed relaxed and tried to talk to him....but he came closer and was snarling at me with teeth bared.

Autumn flared her nostrils, snorted, pinned her ears, and stomped her foot. The dog froze but didn't back away. Autumn bared her teeth, snorted louder and charged at the dog. The dog took off! I didn't move a bit during this. She came back to me and gently nudged me and literally rubbed her nose on my cheek. I swear she was telling me she's got my back and was making sure I was okay. The funny thing is I was never really scared. I somehow knew it was going to be okay.

I seriously feel like she was telling me that she's not going to let anything happen to me. That is what I always tell her when we are together. Autumn is an interesting soul and set in her ways, but she can be a protector and she let me know tonight that she feels like I belong to her.

I left there crying tonight, but not because I was sad, upset or scared. It was happy tears! I always knew she cares for me, and I had a bond with her, but tonight she showed me that I have built a wonderful bond and partnership with her."

There is no set training pattern here at the sanctuary. Each horse is evaluated to help them over any issues they may have. Many of the horses have been abused and gentle easy working with them is so needed and this is true for any horse. Building trust first and then a bond can be built. It is important to think about your relationship with a horse as a partnership and not "master and servant." In a partnership each has a say and needs to be respected,

Honors and Memorials

In honor of Bo. By Glenda Walters

For my special daughter -in-law, Ann Harrison Birthday June 29th. By Mom Stacker

In honor of our daughter-in-law, Kim Sadler. By Rebecca & John Sadler

In memory of the Great Comanche, July 14, 2000. always missed, always loved. By Roberta

In memory of my brother, Richard Cashwell. By Brenda Cashwell Hemperley

You are doing an excellent job caring for the horses. By Gloria Berthelsen

In honor of Floyd Lentz on Father's Day. By Betty, Kim, and David

A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful Contributors

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Double Your Donation

Wouldn't you like to be able to double the amount you can help the rescued horses? Some of the folks are able to aid HPS receive matching funds from the company they work for. Some companies even will match donations for folks who have retired. Some will match a percentage of your contributions. Here is a website that lists many of the companies: http://www.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/Corporate-Matching-Gifts_1_.pdf?docID=170677

Not all corporations will match donations to animal groups, like IBM, but most companies will. There are companies that may not be listed and the only sure way is to check where you are employed. The extra funds from matching grants, makes a big difference to help HPS's budget each year. Most of the time, it is easy for an employee to set up the Matching Funds Grant. Thank you for checking where you are employed. Every donation is important and grants are such an added bonus.

Donation From: _____ Phone# _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____ Please use my donation for \$ _____ **General use.**

Angel Sponsor: \$20 for 1 month \$60 for 3 months \$120 for 6 months \$240 for 1 year

Whom would you like to receive your Honor, Memorial, or Angel Sponsor (please circle)?

Name: _____ Email address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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.

www.horseprotection.org



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The New Covered Hay Feeder

Hurrah!! We are down to the last two items needed for the New Covered Hay Feeder. We are waiting for the concrete floor to be poured. Metal pipe rails need to be made for each side of the hay bales that will be placed in the center.

This will be a great addition for the rescued horses. The shade and protection it provides is wonderful and the hay that will be saved is great.

A huge horsey 'thank you' to the folks who have made this possible!