



June 2006

Over Herd

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Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc.

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On the Web at:

www.horseprotection.org

THE JOURNEY OF MIDNIGHT SUN

By Deborah Baker

**Mark your
Calendars:**

**Volunteer Meeting
& Farrier Day**

June 10th

**Please join us!
It's summer bath
day for the horses,
contact the ranch
if you are available
to help.**

**Lunch/Meeting at
Noon. Please bring
a covered dish
to share.**

When horses arrive at Rocking Horse Ranch, they begin a journey of rehabilitation. Their goal is to find a permanent, loving home.

Every year the sanctuary takes in abused horses. Some stay for a few months and then move on to wonderful new homes. Others may need several years to recover both physically and psychologically. One such horse is a pretty, seal brown mare we have named Midnight Sun.

She arrived at the ranch in June 2004 both starved and abused of undetermined lineage, breed, age, and training. Due to her timid nature, she was put in with the old ladies but she failed to ever bond with any of the other horses. HPS members became use to her constant presence in the big old barn. She felt safe surrounded by walls, and followed us up and down the aisles looking for treats as we cleaned stalls. One day another member mentioned that Midnight needed a sponsor so I committed to being hers. Our first time together, I attempted to groom her in her stall. She was very nervous and we did more walking in circles around her stall than grooming. I could hear other members outside the barn around the hitching posts working with other horses. One day I thought, "We'll be out there, too." A few weeks later she would stand loosely tied in her stall and allow me to groom her.



Continued on page 4

Liberty & Freedom Have Their Day in Court

By Joan Benson

It seemed a long time until the date was set once again for Liberty and Freedom. They first came to the sanctuary February 8th, three days before The Mane Event that was held in Catawba County. When the county attorney Anne Marie Pease called from Catawba County and asked if we could pick up two horses as quickly as possible, I thought of Wendy Daniel. Wendy has dropped everything a number of times to go and pick up horses for us. I knew the horses were in bad shape as soon as I saw Wendy's face. She said, "I don't know how they can walk with hooves this bad, and I was worried about them making the trip." They unloaded fine and then when put in the large round pen they both laid down. I was horrified by what I saw.

After many trimmings, the hooves look normal, but the joints have suffered from the long-term neglect. It had to have taken years and years for the hooves to get as long as they were. Marilyn and Anne were outraged the day of the first trimming that took them several hours for each horse.

May 24th I was off to the courthouse in Catawba county armed with large pictures of their hooves and their body condition then and now. I was so glad to see Wendy arrive and felt much better. The defendant Linore Hamlette was present and so was his court appointed attorney. Nick Matkins was the District Attorney handling the case. Adrian Parsons, chief animal control officer, was present. The stage was set and all of us were nervous. *Continued on page 5*

It has Taken a Year....

The last two weeks of May were very exciting for all of the wonderful folks that help here at the sanctuary. A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all the kind folks who have made it possible to start the barn construction. Over the last year, the donations and The Mane Event added up to \$54,200. Sky rocketing construction costs have limited the work that can be completed with the funds that are available.



Each person, that has done work on the project, has helped as much as possible. Morgan Well Drilling had to deal with the December rains and a much deeper well than any of us thought we would have to drill. Jerry Freeze did the grading and provided the fifty-two loads of fill dirt. The first problem was locating the fill dirt since where Jerry planned to get it, closed. When the dirt finally started to arrive so did the rain..... and more rain and more rain. March 13th Jerry was finally able to put the final additions on the grading. In the mean time, HPS was working with Mid-State Metals, John Jancic, for the metal roof, sides and wood to determine what the increase in costs would be since we looked at prices a year before. We had worked on the plans and gone over and over them. Yet John's input and suggestions were wonderful.

John introduced us to Mannie Troyer. Mannie and his sons did the construction of the frame, stall posts and the roof in just two weeks. Mannie had suggestions to make the barn even better in design and construction, also. The barn started out as 68' by 58' and ended up 72' by 60' with a two foot overhang.

When the funds are available to finish the barn, we would not consider working with anyone other than John Jancic and Mannie Troyer.

Jerry Ellenburg of Eagle Electric has contacted Duke Energy to run the new service for the barn. (We met Jerry in 1999 when he wanted to learn about horses and introduce his children to them.) There is not enough money left in the savings account to do the electric work now.

Some of you may remember Aimee and Brian Taylor and their two wonderful boys. Aimee is notorious for her hysterical behavior at one of our Yard Sales that kept us all laughing. Brian owns Lakeside Plumbing and will be helping with the barn.

Please continue to support this important project so that it can be finished.

Need a new barn? We highly recommend the following businesses:

Mid-State Metal, John Jancic – 704-278-3050

Mannie Troyer – 704-798-4338

Morgan Well Drilling, Mike - 704-933-0479

Freeze Excavating, Jerry - 704-857-9304

Eagle Electric, Jerry Ellenburg – 704-724-3224

Lakeside Plumbing, Brian Taylor – 828-478-9240

PANTY HOSE AND BANANAS

By Deborah Baker

Sunscreen, knee high hosiery, diaper rash cream, cotton balls, bananas, Beta-Carotene (25000), Vitamin E (400IU), Lutein, milk thistle drops, mouthwash, antifungal cream, betadine...This is a weekly HPS shopping list. People often ask what we really need at the ranch. Many items are easily picked up at the local supermarket or drug store.

Why do we need knee high hosiery? Well it isn't for Joanie. It's for our donkey, Snickerdoodle. In the summer, she suffers so badly from fly bites that her ears and legs become bloody and raw. We cut the feet out of the hose and put them on her legs. Then attach another pair to her fly mask to protect her ears.

Did you know that both Fire Breeze and Morning Glory get a banana at each meal to prevent diarrhea? That's 28 bananas or 5 to 6 bunches a week! However, the bananas need to be very ripe. If they are even a little green then they don't work. Want to confuse the cashier in the checkout line at the supermarket? If you do, then buy a cart full of ripe bananas. When she jokingly asks if you have a monkey, respond 'No, I have a horse.'

Some of our white, light colored, or blaze faced horses have pink skin that is very susceptible to sunburn and skin cancer. We apply sunscreen with a 30 SPF to their noses and faces. Snowstorm always preferred the baby powder scented one and loved to have his nose and mouth rubbed with it.

Diaper rash cream is also needed by the lighter horses. Many of them get skin irritations around their mouths and noses during the spring and summer. Sky Ghost loses almost all the hair on her face if she doesn't have diaper rash cream applied daily.

We go through tubes and tubes of anti-fungal cream every week for fungi growing on the horses' coats or pasterns. Night came back to us with a very bad case of fungus on his rear pasterns. Thanks to the diligent care he has received he is almost fungus free. Currently Wrangler and Fire Breeze have the same problem, and Midnight Sun, Santa Fe, and Montana have fungi under their manes. We need any anti-fungal cream that can be found at any drug store.

Mouthwash? None of the horses have bad breath but sometimes poor Willow and other new arrivals bring a case of rain rot or rain scald with them and mouthwash is a safe, effective, and inexpensive treatment.

Horses can be very susceptible to eye diseases. Navajo, Montana, Santa Fe, and Morning Glory each came to us with the loss or the use of an eye. We have successfully staved off blindness so far in Spirit, Wrangler and Fire Breeze. Beta-Carotene (25000) and lutein have been instrumental in preventing further deterioration of vision in both groups of horses.

In addition to Beta-Carotene (25000), vitamin E (400IU) is used as an antioxidant by our white or light colored horses. We use approximately 25-30 beta carotene and 10-15 vitamin E per day. Irish Night, our 43-year-old, takes a long list of vitamins and supplements including vitamin e, and milk thistle drops for liver function. I like to believe that she has reached her ripe old age thanks to the attention that has been taken to supplement her diet.

Not only do we use cotton balls for cleaning cuts but we also use it to paint DMSO onto swollen joints and sore muscles. The triple-size-ones are best for holding enough DMSO for horse-sized- muscles. Thirteen horses receive DMSO on a daily basis and we have to use a clean one on each horse.

The next time you go to the drug store think about the horses at HPS and pick up a bottle of vitamins, a bag of cotton balls, or some knee high panty hose. The next time you walk along the aisles of the grocery store swing by the old fruit bin and pick up several bunches of bananas then come by the ranch and visit us. Your helpful donation would be appreciated by all.

MIDNIGHT SUN (cont. from Page 1)

Next I tried getting her to leave the barn. Our goal was to walk all the way around the pasture. I hoped to one day see her grazing in the field with the other horses. I led her out of her stall about fifty feet and then she stopped and refused to budge. I coaxed a few more steps from her and then released her. Back to the barn she went. We continued this every time I went to the ranch. Every time she went a little farther but then galloped hell bent back to the barn when I released her. By the end of winter, I had gained her trust. She would go all the way around the pond with me, and she would stand at the hitching post with the other horses to be groomed.

By the middle of spring, she had returned to a healthy weight but we detected soreness in her hip. This had to be checked before we tried to saddle and ride her. A chiropractor came out and adjusted her twice before we felt she was ready to be saddled and ridden. But I was busy with yard sale and barely had time to come out and brush her and walk her much less try to ride her.

In the summer we introduced her to the saddle and bridle very slowly just letting her sniff them and then wear them while I led her around for walks trying to build more muscle tone. This went on for several more weeks. Finally we decided to mount her. First Joanie rode her. Midnight was agitated and acted like an abused horse. We kept our first session to five minutes. We continued to work with her once a week but she never calmed or improved. Instead her agitation escalated. She pawed the ground, threatened to roll and tried to rub off her bridle on any surface or person she could get near. We tried numerous bits and bridles trying to find one that she would take but nothing worked.

Finally we consulted Tamara Eichorn, a very good trainer that we had used before. She suggested that we go back to square one with Midnight and try sitting on her bareback for a few minutes in her stall.

So here we were a year after I had first started working with Midnight and we found ourselves back in the barn. I sat bareback on her in her favorite spot by Majestic's stall while another very patient HPS member held her lead. We talked softly to her and struggled to keep her calm for a full 5 minutes. However, week by week we managed to sit quietly for a few more minutes. First 5, then 7, then 10, then 12 minutes. Then we became brave enough to have someone lead her a few steps in our corner of the barn while I sat bareback on her.

After a few sessions we graduated to the grooming area outside the barn. Once outside the barn, we practiced standing quietly while I sat on her. After a few times, we started using a side walker to lead Midnight Sun while I sat on her bareback using a side-pull bridle. The side walker had a difficult task to keep Midnight from rubbing against her but eventually she learned to walk along quietly. Each time we went out Midnight Sun became more relaxed until we were able to remove the lead and use the reins with a side walker nearby.

Now I am riding her in the front field without a side walker and can envision the day when we will be riding trails together. We have more issues to work on together. She hates a bit and will not tolerate one without becoming extremely agitated. Most of her side teeth are missing in her lower jaw due to either abuse or starvation and we believe that is the reason she fights a bit. We're looking into using a bitless bridle or a hackamore in the future rather than the side-pull bridle. Meanwhile it is wonderful to see her grazing in the pasture with the other horses and when I call her name she lifts her head and comes prancing forward to meet me for a ride.

*In loving memory of Farrah.
She brought great joy and we
will miss her.*

*By Carrie & Clyde Hensley
for Brittney Liddie*

*In honor of Dottie Rebhan
and the wonderful notes, and
in honor of all the folks
there at HPS.*

Thank you, Spunky Dagenhart

Stalked! By Dakota

It's been the talk of the herd. I cannot remember the last time I felt this embarrassed. It's all that loopy Salida's fault! She thinks she's a showgirl -- swishing her tail, tossing her head, showing off her trot, etc.

It happened last Saturday. It was a lovely day -- warm but not too hot with a gentle breeze. I was minding my own business enjoying the hay bale. That delightfully drowsy feeling threatened to overcome me. Then I heard Seneca say, "Psst, Dakota! The Two-Legger is letting us into the pond field. Let's go!"

A nice gallop by the pond sounded marvelous. I'm a big fella and it's nice to get over in the other pasture and really open up & go. My whole back field group briskly moved over to the pond. Some horses are splashers and love to get in the water and smack it with their hooves. Others of us just enjoy the ambience. It was a perfect treat for a perfect day in early summer.

It was pleasant to socialize in person, er, in horse, with some of my pond pasture buddies. It's always nice to have a chat with Wrangler and Night. We were enjoying ourselves when that pushy Salida thundered into our circle. My friends were quite startled and rocketed away. Salida backed me up into a corner, "Hiya, Big D, how are you doing today? My goodness, don't you look great!"

"Uh, I'm fine, thank you, Salida. How are you today?"

"Let's go on a picnic, just the two of us," she suggested.

Well! Gentle Reader, I did not care for the way this was going. She still had me cornered in a stall. I'm a big horse but Salida is a stalwart girl and she had determination in her eye. I don't like to fight (so déclassé!), especially against a mare, but I will if I have to. How would I explain new nicks in my coat to my beloved two-legger? Salida was just entirely too pushy.

Enough was enough. I barreled past her and let her see what the bottom of my hooves looked like. THAT should let her know how I feel I thought.

I completely underestimated Salida. She was not the least deterred and apparently did not care what kind of a spectacle she made of herself. She chased me! I let myself go into a full gallop -- other horses stopped what they were doing to watch and you could see their manes and tails ruffling in my wake as I thundered past.

"Hotdog!" said Navajo, "Look at Dakota go!"

"Wow, I didn't know Salida could run like that, she's gaining on him!"

Two turns around the pond and that brazen mare was still behind me....like a Pinkerton, she was determined to get her man, er, horse. I had to do something fast! JUMP, I thought. I'm a taller horse and I can out jump her. I summoned my strength and tried to remember everything I'd heard Monty say about jumping, especially the take-off and the landing parts. I leaped the ditch and raced back into my pasture. I took a quick right and sped into my stall. I grabbed my door and slammed it shut behind me. Whew! A close escape --

Thank heavens, the herd was soon divided back into our usual groups and the gate was closed. For the next week, however, Salida hung over the fence, walking back & forth, watching me. This is horse stalking and it's not right; I'm going to report her.

Liberty & Freedom (cont. from Page 1)

I had a chance to show the pictures to the interested people involved and all were appalled. I was told later the defendant saw me showing the pictures and saw the looks on peoples' faces so he decided to settle the case rather than fight it. When Nick told us of the settlement, everyone was okay with the agreement. HPS got the horses; Hamlette has to do community service, pay court cost and can not own another horses until he has received acceptable training in equine care.

Hamlette purchased both horses in Oklahoma on January 2001. Freedom is a registered Quarter Horse and was born in 1996. He won a few hundred dollars in two races. Hamlette was his forth owner. Liberty is registered with the American Paint Horse Association, and was born 1998. He also was raced and was in the money five times. He had one previous owner. Hamlette paid \$4,000 for the two horses.

Now it is time to plan Liberty and Freedom's continuing treatment. Both are now about a four plus on the body scoring chart, so they have a small amount of weight to still gain. One more trimming and then we should get x-rays of the joints and their hooves. It is the only way to determine the extent of the damage that has been done from the lack of trimming compounded by starvation. Please help us with the on going expenses for these two beautiful horses.

HELP Reduce mailing costs!

If you currently receive the newsletter by mail and have a high speed internet connect please help us reduce the mailing costs by letting us add you to our email list. Just shoot us a quick email at horseprotectionsoc@vnet.net to be switched over. Thank you!

Day to Day

Every mornin' I wake up from day to day,
The TV announcer says there ain't no way,
That our soldiers, our fighters out there alone in Iraq
Have any chance of soon comin' back.
They're sayin' all of this when there's people cryin'
Because people are dyin'
And others are sighin'
Because they've given up tryin' to bring 'em back home.
And through all these hard times I can't help but dream.
This dream that I have it's like the beam
That holds my beliefs, my faith upright
Even while the nation's become so uptight
This vision, this dream that I keep on seein'
Is what makes up my soul, my very bein'
This reoccurring dream, every day and night
Makes me wonder, wonder and pray in fright
That I might lose this vision.
And you might wonder what my vision could be
What could be so great, what it is I see.
Well listen now so I might be heard
Hear all of my thoughts, my every word.
You see it's a dream, of a beautiful flight
A flight a winged horse takes every day and night.
Carrying, bearing a burdensome load.
Carrying the seed of freedom men once sowed.
And once it was sowed, had grown through history,
Upon the chariot that the winged horse bears for me.
A beautiful horse, of red and gold,
Represents the stories of young and old.
And each onyx spoke of each shining wheel,
Represents just how I feel
The need to live, just to breathe.
This need I have, it's making me see the
With longing.
Longing for the right I once owned.
Longing for the right just to be known.
To laugh to love, for peace, to fight;
To hate, to curse, to live, for light.
The light, my light that gleams off of my horse,
That washes away all previous remorse.
And while I'm here, dreamin' away,
There's just one message I'd like to portray,
Only one thing that I've gotta say,
We all need some love, gotta get it some way,
Because I know, no one can take this pain from day to day

-Eileen Smith

Eileen has been faithful in helping to keep Spirit exercised.

*In memory of our much loved
Donkey "PACO"*

By Cathy & Ben Byers

*In honor of Joanna Kesler
for earning her
Master's Degree*

*From Lisa Murray &
Dottie Rebhan*

In honor of Tiffany Ferebee

*By Charlotte, Chris,
Christipher & Collins Ferebee*

*Happy Mothers Day
to my wife Betty B. Lentz*

Love Floyd Lentz

*Happy 1th Birthday
to our Great niece, Summer*

By Linda & Don Shepherd



Your kind donations make rescues, rehabilitation, long-term care for the sick and new homes possible for the healthy horses. None of us wants to think about what would happen to these horses if you were not there to care. Thank you for all the wonderful donations for the Yard Sale. HPS made about \$6,000. This will once again help pay our vet bill, have some needed tests done and allow more of the horses to have dental work done. Unfortunately, the money does not go far when caring for 33 horses.

Sheila & James Austin
Dr. Tim & Gail Baxter
Pat Constantine
Betsy D. Dean
Carrie & Clyde Hensley
Leai Ho
Lillus Kurland
Jill & Charles Messer, Jr.
Barbara Moore
Colleen O'Malley
Harriet Seabrook
Jerry Smith
Denise & Ken Titsworth & Amy Harber
Jim & Judy Udick
Michael & Suzanne Webb
Shelagh A. Winter
Amy Boger & Reece Ridenhour
Teresa & John Bonk
Cori Brennan
Cathy & Ben Byers
Kathryn Clancy
Simmer Clarkson
Courtney Conder
Spunky Dagenhart
Leatrice Davis
Janet G. Elmo

Anita M. Engle
Charkitte & Chris Ferebee
David & K.D Ferebee
Susan Ferguson
Jennifer Frye
Michelle C. Hartzell
Sarah Marie Helms
Joyce Hixson
Joanna Kesler
Susan Kotraba
Betty & Floyd Lentz
Kathy, Lex & Lauren Lofgren
Roberta McCardle
Rev. Yvonne McJetters
Lisa Murray
Mary Myers & Ronnie Burgess
Tammy Pritchard
Dottie Rebhan
Jo Rowell
Linda & Don Sheperd
Stephanie V. Slavin
Sharon R. Smith
Karen Tilly
Mary Walters
Sue Wortman
Kim Wrenn

*In honor of
Tiffany Ferebee*

By David & K.D Ferebee

*In memory of
John Adam and Sudi*

By Mary A. Myers

Donation From: _____ phone # _____
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 # _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email address _____
Would you like the above recipient to receive "Over Herd" - **Yes No**
Your message for the newsletter:

Any donation is appreciated. Please make your check payable to Horse Protection Society. For a \$25 of more donation the named person can receive "Over Herd" for 1 year.

Horse Protection Society of North Carolina



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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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