



OVER HERD

June 2016

Equine Scams

It is the time of year when a lot of people will be shopping for horses. There are numerous scams and fraud that take place in the equine industry. Buy locally if at all possible since many of the scams take place over the Internet. If you are interested in a horse that will have to be transported to your location be extra careful. Research a seller by name, location, phone number, etc. before even contacting the seller. Do your homework carefully and ask for references, check identities, have the horse checked by a vet of your choice. Ask for a release so you may speak to the owner's veterinarian concerning any treatment the horse may have received. These tips are also for local sales of horses.

If an ad sounds too good to be true...**BEWARE** because it probably is. Often these are for horse breeds that are normally very expensive being offered for a low price. A few years ago there was a beautiful Friesian offered for a low price. I know of several local people who lost money on that one. The seller is always in a rush for you to send a money order or they may suggest you pay via PayPal for protection and promise a full refund if you are not happy. The horse is portrayed as well-trained and perfect for a family. Then there is the sale of horses the seller does not own. Each State has its laws for the sale



of horses when the board has not been paid. In North Carolina the boarding stable cannot sell the horse until they have followed the laws to get ownership. The bait and switch is an old game. Don't pay for a horse until it is in your possession.

Be very suspicious of sellers who are not forthright about their name, address, phone number or the location of the horse. Be very wary of anyone you can't talk to over the phone. Never buy a horse you have not seen unless it is from someone you know personally and have full trust in. Remember all paper work can be forged!

You see an ad picturing a beautiful horse, but when you arrive the horse is a bag of bones. In some cases people are conned into buying the horse with their heart rather than their head. The horse may have just been bought at the latest horse auction and who knows where the picture came from of the pretty horse. The correct thing to do is leave the place and call Animal Control. We have had people call us and tell us they have the horse on their trailer and are heading to us. That is how we got Kit Carson. (They did call and ask first.)

The kill buyers have found a new lucrative business to make up for the high costs of running a slaughter horse business. This is a topic I hate to even think about. For years when I lived in Colorado I bought horses at auction that would have headed to the dog food plant in Nebraska. The public learned of this terrible slaughter of healthy horses and the dog food plants closed. *(Cont. Page 2)*

Our Sincere Apologies

We extend our apologies for the late arrival of the May newsletter. Our printer was relocating their facilities and had a backup in jobs. Unfortunately, the HPS newsletter was one of those.

New Covered Hay Feeder

It has been a long wait for the new Covered Hay Feeder! We started the planning in December 2015 and then the rains came and so did the mud. This caused all of the contractors to postpone their scheduled work.

Finding just the right place to build the new Covered Hay Feeder was not that difficult. Keeping the two feeders in proximity and the same area would stop the large tractors and trailers loaded with hay from crossing the fields and creating huge ruts. The area between the two barns is a waste area and grows little grass. The new hay feeder is being built in part of this area and into the side field where grass grows poorly. This gives us a Covered Hay Feeder on either side of the two large barns.

The addition of the feeder will save hay and also save grassy areas in the large field where we normally put the extra round bales. This area will be reseeded this fall. A new rail system has been designed for each side of the feeders to help prevent the horses from pulling the hay throw the rails and wasting it. (We will see how it works before using the same system in the new feeder.) *(Cont. on Page 4)*

Equine Scams *(Cont. from Page 1)*

Every year the kill buyers send about 100,000 horse to slaughter in Canada and Mexico from the US. Horses are graded for slaughter the same as cattle. The facts are that the kill buyers are not getting rich selling horses for slaughter. Horses have to be healthy, free of drugs, a good weight, and not heavy boned. They are sold by rail weight which is about 60% of their full weight. For thin horses that price per pound may be as low as \$.25 a pound up to a high of \$.50 to \$.65 a pound for heavy horses. The price changes the same as beef and pork prices. So a healthy light boned horse that weighs 1,000 pounds may pay the kill buyer \$390. Now some kill buyers are purchasing horses that don't fit the criteria for shipping to slaughter. They are offering the thin horses with no warranty for much higher prices on the Internet with the threat the horse is going to slaughter. I have seen them offered from \$875 to over a \$1,000 or more. This is lining the kill buyers' pockets that allow them to buy more horses to send to slaughter. Many of the horses will never be marketed to the public because they are fat and healthy. If the skinny horse doesn't sell for the ridiculous price, the kill buyer will send it right back to the auction house.

Of course our hearts go out to each horse that ends up on a slaughter truck... but don't be suckered by the pleas on the Internet. If you want to save horses from slaughter go to the local horse auctions and you will find kill buyers there. Remember they are not buying a skinny horse, unless they are going to try and sell it to the unsuspecting public! There is a big difference between horse dealers and kill buyers. Dealers will sometime buy a thin horse. They can see the possibilities if the horse is given some feed. The scams are going on in NC also: <https://www.facebook.com/Carolina-feedlots-SCAM-Stories-1569629550013982/?fref=nf>

Remember to check with your local rescue that may have just the right horse for you! We have beautiful horses ready to go to quality homes.

“A horse is the projection of peoples’ dreams about themselves – strong, powerful, beautiful – and it has the capability of giving us escape from out mundane existence.” By Pam Brown b. 1928

Honors and Memorials

In honor of my wife, Alice. By Robert Bischoff



News from the Herd

The Herd has been enjoying the rotation of the small pastures. When the grass grows in the side field, the back field or arena field, we will open one at a time to give them a chance to enjoy the fresh grass. Once they have eaten down the grass, we will change fields and open a different one. The large pond field is never closed off to the horses and by opening the other fields one at a time it has taken a good deal of pressure off the grazing in the pond field. Of course, the herd always has access to as much hay as they want to eat.

It is wonderful to see the horses healthy and happy.

Topaz had a much needed Chiropractic adjustment. Normally we like to wait until a horse has gained more weight. In this case it has helped her to do it earlier than normal. The gentle therapy we have been doing has helped her back leg and most of the time she is walking more normally. When Topaz is at rest the pastern goes back to the abnormal position.

A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful Contributors

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**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.

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Address Correction Requested

New Covered Hay Feeder (*Cont. from Page 2*) It is thrilling to start to see a plan come together...finally. All of the needed fill dirt was delivered and compacted. Chris Corriher has provided all of the fill dirt and compaction for all of our construction projects. We have never had an issue with any of his work. I lost count of all the truck loads it took to level the area for the platform for the hay feeder. The next step is the posts erected and then the concrete



floor will be poured. Since all the contractors are behind now due to a week of rain in May, our date for construction maybe pushed back again. We were scheduled for the first week of June. The fill dirt is going to have to dry out before the posts can be erected.

Our sincere gratitude goes to the kind folks who made this possible. As most of you know, HPS will not start a new project until we have all the funds needed. This policy has kept us debt free and will continue.

We will keep you updated on the progress of the new hay feeder.