



## OVER HERD Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 5

May 2013

### Another Rowan County Horse

Last December, this sorrel gelding was taken in out of the goodness of the rescuer's heart. HPS received a phone call asking for the correct ways to return two starved horses to full health. I gave them the methods we use to refeed a starved horse. We talked several times and the sorrel was just not doing as well as the other horse. I had the owner come by and I gave her some MMS (Master Mineral Solution) and citric acid to mix with it to help kill off any pathogens that may have been preventing the horse from gaining his weight back.

The owner called again, quite upset, and felt the sorrel was losing ground fast and dropping weight each day. (It had been about four months since the refeeding regimen began, and he should have been almost fully recovered.) The report was that he was eating everything we told them to give him. We agreed to take him in to see if we could figure out what was going on. My first thought was that maybe the quality of the hay was causing the issue. Poor quality hay doesn't do anything beneficial for a horse.

When he arrived at the sanctuary, we named him Natchez and he was not just a little thin...he was very skinny! We started with more feed than we normally would since we had been assured he had been eating everything. To our surprise the only thing he would do is nibble at a little grass! Even though the report was that he was getting a half cup of Aloe Vera juice twice a day for ulcers, with him still being so thin, it appeared to us that the ulcers were not healed at all. The trailer ride to the sanctuary could have created enough stress to cause a flare up of his ulcers which, in turn, would have caused him more distress, making him feel so bad he did not want to eat. Our great volunteers immediately started giving Natchez the Aloe Vera juice by mouth until he started eating again. Within just a few days he was happy to receive his meals and starting to gain weight.

The owner who had turned him over to us stopped by to see how Natchez was doing and was pleasantly surprised at how much better he was looking in such a short time. We do think he is older than what they were told when they got him. No one wants to (nor should they) check his teeth until he is well enough to have his rabies vaccination. *(Continued on Page 2)*



## News from the Herd

**Zuni** gave us a bit of a scare when her empty eye socket swelled to what looked like a belly button. Our first concern was that the cancer had returned, but our hope was that it was an infection. There was a little extra warmth so we decided to treat Zuni for infection first after consulting Dr. Mary Gochnauer, who also hoped it was an infection. We treated Zuni with MMS (Master Mineral Solution) by mixing with a 10% solution of citric acid. It worked great and in just a couple of days the swelling was noticeably going down. Once again the pretty paint girl is doing great and there is no sign of the return of the cancer after her chemotherapy treatments.

**Anasazi, Aurora, Quera** and **Wind Dancer** all had clogged tear ducts which are ducts that run from the eye to the lower part of nasal cavity. These can become clogged resulting in the tears having nowhere to go except to collect and run down the face. Often you will see that the skin hair is missing around the lower part of the eye. It attracts flies which create more irritation to the horses' eye. It costs nearly \$59 to treat each horse, but it is money well spent as it can save the expense of a much more serious eye issue.

**Wind Dancer** has an old injury in a hock and we had digital radiographs done to be able to determine the extent of the damage. Five digitals cost \$225.00.

**Santa Fe** had his tendons ultra-sounded to check for degeneration and DSLD (Degenerative Suspensory Ligament Desmitis), at a cost of \$135.00.

**Salida** had a gas colic and, happily, recovered quickly with one tubing of mineral oil and water. (This will be on next month's bill.)

**All of the horses** are shedding out their long winter coats and currently look like moth-eaten old rugs. The older horses take much longer to grow in their new coats and their undercoat is like fine fuzz. It is better to let them look terrible rather than be cold at night. The younger horses' hair has grown in enough that we can shed off the winter coats. On the 80 degree days, we are starting to give the horses their spring baths. It takes a while to give baths to 45 horses!

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### **Another Rowan County Horse** *(Cont'd from Front Page)*

We expect Natchez to have a full recovery and then we can start to address his dental and any other issues that may arise. So many times things do not show up until after the horses are almost fully recovered. Natchez is sharing a small field with Pontiac, the paint gelding whose story *Found Running Loose*, was in our April newsletter. Pontiac is doing wonderfully and several times a day runs around and bucks in the small field he and Natchez share. He still has a good bit of weight to gain, but it is nice to see him feeling so much better.

*Thank so very much to the kind contributors who make possible the saving of the lives of these wonderful horses!*

## *What is Wrong with My Horse?*

Here's a little quiz to help you determine if you have issues in your relationship with your horse. If you cannot do the following things, you'll want to read on to see how to overcome them:

1. Walk out into the field and catch your horse easily.
2. Without using a halter and lead, pick up your horse's hooves and clean them.
3. Take your horse's temperature while he stands quietly.
4. Lead your horse from in front with a loose lead line.
5. Ride your horse out by him/herself.
6. Lead or ride your horse through gates easily or anywhere else you want to go.
7. In an enclosed area, ask your horse to follow you without using a halter and lead line.
8. Horse stands quietly while being groomed.
9. Horse stands quietly while being saddled.
10. Horse stands quietly for the farrier and veterinarian.
11. No need to tie your horse to groom, clean hooves, saddle or doctor. Will stand quietly in their stall.
12. Touch every part of your horse.
13. Your horse is not always looking for a treat.

If you can do all but only a couple of the above, then you may be doing most things correctly with your horse. If you cannot do most of what's on the list, your horse does not trust you to not hurt or scare him. It is time to rethink everything you are doing! (The other small possibility is your horse may be unwell.)

When horses first come to the sanctuary, many cannot do any of the items on the list. These horses have been mistreated, hurt and scared by past people. We have to go slow to win back the trust of these poor horses. We call them "Brain Fried." These horses have no reason to trust any human due to the poor treatment they have received. Most of the owners had no idea that what they were doing caused the issues they had with their horses. So here is what we believe:

1. Never use a rope halter. The knots are positioned to hit nerves on the face and will hurt the minute the lead line is flipped or pulled. Never use a chain across the nose. Don't you think it hurts? Do horses react docilely when they are hurt?

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## What Is Wrong With My Horse *(Cont'd from Page 3)*

2. Lunge whips move horses because they scare the horses. We get the horse desensitized to the whip before we ever use one around a horse by rubbing it over the horse's body while he stands still. You start by touching the legs gently and moving it away. Work slowly. Do not crack the whip, but just raise and lower it and point to the direction you want the horse to move. We do not lunge horses here!
3. Never lunge your horse! It puts too much torque on the inside legs and can cause injury to the horse. Also, it is mindless work that horses hate. Horses like to play and have fun. They like to hear you laugh and not be so serious. To exercise your horse when you can't ride, take it for a walk in a new area by leading it with you in front to build trust. If your horse charges ahead, it is telling you it does not trust you to be the leader.
4. Do not chase or push your horse away from you unless it is being aggressive. You want your horse to learn to trust you and come into you.
5. Scratch your horse's neck, chest and withers as a reward. Do not think that patting is a reward. Patting hurts horses since their nerves are so close to the skin and sends shock waves through the nerves. Remember they can feel the tiniest fly on the end of a hair.
6. Make your words count. Horses' primary communication is body language and silent communication. Human chatter is no more than mindless noise to horses. Often one word is much better to keep your horse listening to you.
7. Do not approach your horse head on until you have developed trust as they cannot see what is directly in front of their faces. Predators approach head on. Go to the left side only. Take a moment for your horse to acknowledge your presence and accept you into its space before you walk towards the left side.
8. Do not do all of the crazy desensitizing things like walking over a tarp until your horse fully trusts you. Then, you work slowly to not scare your horse, but to help it build courage and trust.
9. Work to build your horse's natural spirit, not to damage it. You want your horse to accept you as the leader and then he will follow you anywhere. Most people try to do this by destroying the spirit of the horse and they do not even realize the damage they are doing to the horse.
10. Learn to look at horses and evaluate their feelings. Is the horse happy or unhappy? Is the horse nervous and high strung or quiet and curious? Does it have to be with other horses to feel secure?
11. Provide your horse with a good nutritionally balanced diet with the correct amount of feed, forage (free-choice is the best) and supplements along with plenty of turn out time. If your horse is hungry all the time or stressed, you cannot expect good behavior. Horses expect their people to take care of them.

The rewards of a trusting relationship with your horse are endless, but trust doesn't occur just because the horse belongs to you. As in any relationship, it takes time and effort to build. Not only is that time important, but the process of building the relationship can be great fun for you!

# *A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful Contributors*

Sybil P. Athey  
Amy & Douglas Bernstein  
John & Claudine Binnie, Cedar Ridge Farm  
Alice L. Bischoff  
Judy Blackmon  
Teresa M. Bonk  
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Melanie & Amanda Dortschy,  
Horse Shadow Run  
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Sue Wortman  
Linda D. Yarrington  
Cole & Sherry Young  
Linda G. Young

# Special Honors and Memorials

The Horse Protection Society sends its sympathy to Joan Frivold. Erling and Joan delivered fruits and vegetables to the sanctuary for many years until their source was no longer able to supply the goodies for the horses. We will all miss Erling.

In honor of Floyd on our anniversary, April 16th. By Betty Lentz

In honor of my wife, Betty on our anniversary. By Floyd T. Lentz

In loving memory of our daughter, Kristen. By Mark & Barbara Hinds

In memory of Loretta Campbell. By Barbara Campbell

In memory of Milly and Gypsy, my two best friends and companions. Life has never been the same without you. I miss you to the moon and back and more! By Pam Carlton

In memory of my dear friend, Marty Frech. I still miss her everyday. By Cathy Burton

In honor of the volunteers and the generous veterinarians, Dr. John Parks and Dr. Chelsey Miller. THANK YOU! By Alice Bischoff

In honor of Tom, Roberta and Sampson McCardle. By Linda Sufficool

In honor of Janet Elmo's birthday. By Sharon Bromberg

*The Horse Protection Society sends our deepest sympathy and sincere love to our great friend and dedicated volunteer Sandy Fisher .*

*Our love and support are always here for you.*

# The HPS Officers



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## Free Grocery Coupons and Help Feed the Rescued Horses

This is so easy and you get to feed your family for less and help to feed the starved horses too. Just go to : <http://www.commonkindness.com/> To the right is a “Find” block for nonprofits. Type in **Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc.** A page will come up for you to sign in under our name. Then, when you print coupons and use them at your local grocery store, a small percentage comes to HPS. Why spend more for groceries when you can save using coupons and donate at the same time? Thank you for helping.



## Tack and Treasures Sale

**Come one come all!** It is time to repost the sale on your Facebook and email your friends to remind them of the HUGE SALE to be held in our indoor arena. **May 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and May 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.** HPS has collected equine tack in every variety of English and western. There is even English riding clothes and boots.

Many of Treasures are new items, collector things and very nice slightly used things, jewelry, designer items, a variety of prints and water colors and framed prints. There is an antique oak table and a newer wood table with four chairs in great condition. Everything is priced to sell! Sunday there will be 25% off of anything that is left. How about the 52” wall TV! 1950’s collector things like a Stainless Steel coffee set and other things.

Last summer HPS ran in the red most months and the sale is to help us through these months that donations are lower. We know it is impossible to make enough funds to cover all of the deficits if we have a repeat of last summer and early fall.

If you can’t attend our major fundraiser (Tack Sale and Treasures Sale) on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, would you consider sending in a donation to help your horses? Any amount that you can spare will be greatly appreciated and put to very good use – we promise!



Donation From:- \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my donation for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ General Use , Angel Sponsor\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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 or more donation, the named person can receive "Over Herd" for 1 year.

Mail completed form to:

Horse Protection Society, 2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023



# June Newsletter Notice

*Anyone who would like to have an Honor or Memorial placed for June newsletter needs to have the information to HPS by May 20th. We have to close the information for the newsletter by that date in order to have it to the printer in time for delivery the first of June.*

# Spring is here...