



OVER HERD

Newest Horse at the Sanctuary

Sometimes I think nothing can surprise me about the lack of care for horses. And then I got a phone call from a young man that shocked me. The sad tale started three and half to four months ago when the owner told me his horse was shot by a small caliber bullet. At some point he did call a veterinarian to check the horse's infection in his hip. Different courses of treatment were recommended, but sadly there were no follow ups and the owner decided to just give a course of penicillin. The infection followed a course inside across the hip and the owner cut the hip open on the other side to let it drain and then started him on the penicillin.

The introduction of penicillin in the 1940s began the era of antibiotics. Since then there have been stronger and better antibiotics developed. If the needle is not changed after every injection in the infected area it can transfer the infection and can cause an infection even when care is taken.



The owner told me that he couldn't afford the horse's treatment and would we take him? Later he mentioned that the horse may have run into a nail in the barn instead of being shot. When we were making arrangements for the owner to deliver the horse to Dr. Meeker, he asked if he could have the horse back after he was better or if the vet bill was not going to be too expensive he would just keep the horse instead of turning him over to HPS. I said absolutely "No." Either we take the horse and take care of whatever he needs or he could just keep the horse and be responsible for his care. He came by and signed the horse over to HPS.

The horse was located in Davie County and we had him delivered to Davie County Large Animal Hospital for Dr. Meeker to check him over. Dr. Meeker felt it might be a long course of treatment and possibly surgery to open up the area and remove the infected tissue. Surgery could cause more nerve damage. This big horse cannot swish his tail at the present time. *(Cont. on Page 2)*

Calendar for 2018

The Horse Protection Society will be producing a calendar for 2018. It will be the best one yet! We are just giving you a heads up to wait for our beautiful calendar and not buy one ahead of time. We are already working on the pages. They will make a lovely gift.

Red Alert Veterinarian Care Update

A short time ago I got wonderful news concerning the treatment for EPM of the 22 horses that tested positive. Dr. Ellison has donated the needed medication for all of the 22 horses that need to be treated. This kind donation will save HPS \$4,400.00. We will still be paying for the retesting eight weeks after the horses are treated. This will cost \$1,341.00. We have had a few horses in the past that had to be retreated after the first treatment and then retested.

There are three types of protozoa that can be passed on by opossums. Cree tested 32-64-64 on 10/4/12 and was treated twice. Then he registered 2-2-2, which is what we want to see as a result of treatment. Cree still tests a 2-2-2, which was a surprise since he is one of our oldest horses. The 2-2-2 is considered negative.

The horses that have been treated are: Bandolero, Cayenne, Chiclet, Chicopee, Chippewa, Chuckles, Cloud, Commodore, Ebony Star, Eclipse, Flame, Freedom, Frosty, Hopi, Natchez, Nova, Pecos, Rain, Saragon, Shasta, Sparrow and the new horse. Some of the numbers were as high as 64-64-64, and that is the highest we have ever seen.

Some of the horses that don't need treatment tested negative as long as five years ago. And some of the horses tested positive that were treated last year.

I put all the information for each horse on a spread sheet to help determine how the horses are becoming contaminated with the EPM protozoa and look for correlations. Also, to determine whether the horses may have a natural resistance.

Facts: The contamination could come from opossums on our property, in the feed mill or in the buildings where the hay is stored that we purchase.

We had to order hay from Virginia and feed it for an extended time because of the draught. We have no idea how the hay was stored or in what type of building.

I have visited about 10 feed mills since I have lived in North Carolina. Everyone had opossum tracks in the mill. I have requested that the mill we purchase our pelleted feed from to put out traps to catch any opossums living in the mill.

Our one hay supplier keeps live traps out and baited all the time. He also has metal building for storage. Our other hay supplier has old wooden building that would be more attractive for opossums to live in. We have asked him to keep traps out to catch opossums.

We have purchased two live traps and have them set and baited on our property. It is so important for the horses' continued health that we solve the issue of where the contamination is coming from. The cost of testing and treating the horses every year would be prohibitive. We have always tested and treated new horses when they come to HPS or are returned to us. We will keep you updated on the results of catching opossums progresses.

Please, please encourage anyone you know who has horses to go to <http://pathogenes.com/> and arrange with their veterinarian to have their horses tested for this terrible illness. They just need to insist the vet pull the test and send it off. The treatment from this company has worked well for our horses. This could save the horses' lives.

Newest Horse at the Sanctuary (Cont. from Page 1) We transported him from Davie County to the sanctuary and Dr. Elise Lavie arrived that day to start his treatment. We elected to use Excede[®] for his antibiotic treatment. Extended dosing regimens have been investigated, and it has been shown that dosing on days one and four, followed by once weekly for up to five doses will provide effective concentrations in the blood for up to 32 days. We have arranged for Dr. Elise to come and give the injections and check him each time he will be receiving the Excede[®].

He is a black Tennessee Walking Horse and underweight by about 150 to 175 pounds but gaining nicely, all four hooves are over grown and chipping. The guess is that he is about 15 years old. He is being very patient with the daily doctoring. Of course, we have been taking extreme cautions since we didn't know what the infection was until the culture result came back and it is E-Coli causing the infection. (Penicillin won't cure E-Coli.)

The large pus pocket next to his tail was not getting smaller even with expressing the pus every day. The pus can solidify and this is what had happened and the area needed to be opened and cleaned out if there was to be any chance of saving him. We have thought about sending him to Dr. Meeker's facility in Davie County, Davie County Large Animal Hospital, for his care. Dr. Bob Gochnauer made a suggestion of treatment that would allow us to keep him at the sanctuary and allow him to be turned out, with his best friend Strudel rather than kept up in a stall day in and day out at the vet hospital. By remaining at the sanctuary he can also receive his long list of supplements to help build him back up.

This is going to be a long expensive time to get him better, if it is possible. The odds are not good, but we have to try. The blood panel didn't have any surprises and was better than we expected. Please say a prayer for his big boy that so deserved better care and now he will receive it because of our contributors that have a generous heart towards abused and starved horses.

Honors and Memorials

In loving memory of Art Shoe, he always had a love for horses. By Sandy Foltz

Happy anniversary to my wife, Betty, April 16th. By Floyd Lentz

In memory of Barbara Sue Johnson and her beloved horse, "Charlie Brown." By Connie & Charlie Sherrill

In honor of Charlie Fredrick. By Doug Stacker



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Odd Visitors to the Sanctuary

Over the years we have had some different birds and animals show up at the sanctuary. To name just a few: pot bellied pigs, peacock, domestic goose, a mink, various domestic ducks, injured pigeon, kitties, baby skunks, Kingfisher, various large wild birds, and now these two strange birds. I was stumped and couldn't identify these odd looking birds.

They are sometimes seen and heard on the top of our buildings. They can be very LOUD and I have not heard birds sound like these two before, nor have I seen webbed footed birds on the top of buildings.

Searching the Internet under ducks netted nothing. When I narrowed the search to just their description, I found them. They are Egyptian geese from Africa and the ancient Egyptians felt they were sacred. They can only be found in a small part of the US.



If you know a bird watcher, please pass on the information and they can come visit during normal visiting hours on Saturday. The birds sometimes visit other ponds, but they are here most of the time.