



OVER HERD

Volume 11 Issue 11 November 2009

Want to help the horses?
Here's how:

~Saturday, November 21st is an important **PROJECT DAY** at the Sanctuary. All hands are needed for putting up new fencing along the pond field, giving the horses' buckets, hay feeder and barn a good cleaning, and the general fall cleanup around the property. Bring your rakes, leaf blowers, other essential tools, gloves, etc., for a day of good deeds! We'll break for lunch around 12:30, so please bring your favorite dish to share. And stick around after lunch for the **New Member Orientation**.

~Join us for **New Member Orientation** on Saturday, November 21st at 2 p.m. Orientation offers an overview of HPS including its history, mission, policies, and facilities along with tips on handling the horses at the sanctuary.

~**Thank you!** to those who have allowed us to email their newsletter. If there is anyone else who would enjoy receiving *Over Herd* via an email link, please let us know. This saves HPS precious pennies to spend on the horses!

~ **HPS on Facebook**
Visit us on Facebook to interact with other HPS members and keep in touch with happenings at the sanctuary!

One Last Leaf of Hay *By Joanie Benson*

October has been a rough month for horses in Rowan County. I have seen some terrible horses, including a herd of ten living in a back yard with no hay or feed. Another group I saw had been eating dirt in a bare field. One of the horses was so bad, it had to be destroyed after we insisted that the owners call a vet! This facility is supposed to be a show barn! Animal Control had been to both places, but nothing has improved so far except for the addition of a round bale of hay at each location. There were other investigations also. Now is the hard part – waiting and rechecking to see if the care improves. We usually see situations like this in January – not at *this* time of the year. I fear this bodes badly for the coming winter!

Another visit we made found no one at home. We left a note and were pleasantly surprised to receive a phone call back. When Deborah Baker and I went back out, we were greeted with, "Please take my horses. I don't want them to die and I have

only a little hay left from a bale I have been giving out a little at a time. I will not have any left by morning." All of the owner's utilities had been cut off. The owner had no money! Animal Control had been to her place and told her to get a vet out. How was she to pay for this?

Upon returning to the sanctuary, I went down the list of folks who have a trailer that might be able to help pick up the horses that afternoon. No luck! So, I started down the list again. This time I reached Kathy Chenette, who is a real estate agent in Concord. She had to pick up her niece at school and would come as quickly as possible. I was waiting out front and off we went to get the two mares. Kathy was a real trooper – you would have thought she had been doing this for a long time because it's not easy to see horses in this condition or the owners that have caused the starvation. The skinny mares were quickly loaded and off we went. Kathy and I unloaded the horses and settled them in a small field with stalls. Can you believe that all they were interested in was the hay? Both are very nice horses, maybe in their teens.



Happy Thanksgiving *by Joanie Benson*

This is the time of the year for reflection – it allows each of us to think about what is important to us. What are you thankful for in your life? I am thankful for each and every one of you! It's a fact that without you, **no horse's life would be saved**. HPS is able to take in these starved and pathetic creatures only because we have the faith in YOU to support them.

Wow! What a month we have had! October was almost overwhelming for us. I hope that the five horses who have arrived at the sanctuary this month are not indicative of the coming months....

At the present moment, we have 45 horses at the sanctuary. Their sweet natures are a reflection of their gratefulness and appreciation of your devotion and caring.

The Season to be Thankful

First it is Thanksgiving time for looking at our lives.

What is it you are thankful for in your life and this year's times?

Your beautiful creatures are blessed by your caring so they survive.

Their suffering has ended, their needs are met and they will not be deprived.

I hope that each of you says a prayer of thanks and blessing,

For all of the folks that see the horses' needs are met, while you eat your turkey dressing.

There is hay to order, and meds and feeds, scheduling of care and some stressing,

The funds are a worry, but we have the faith in our family of people to not be depressed.

Then in December, a busy month with presents to buy and gifts to wrap,

The cards are sent and we hope the gifts to the horses will help fill the gap.

Rest assured the faithful members will care for your horses even in a cold snap,

We just need to have you remember then during the seasons' trappings.



Horse Angel of the Month:

We saw in the October newsletter about your need being greater than usual at this time of year. 'Warrior' would want us to help out, so we are sending a donation in his memory.

By Rita & George Tucker

With special THANKS to Michelle Hausman who gave up birthday gifts and asked her friends to contribute to HPS to help the horses.

~In honor of Michelle's birthday: by Ana & Robert Dworschak, Rita & James Hausman, Katherine & Kevin Kelly, Lisa & Christian Kiral, and Lisa & George Murphy

(Leaf, cont'd)

One mare is a small, black, pony-size horse who, we were told, is a TWH. (Yeah, right! Every black horse is supposed to be a TWH.) I am very concerned for her because her belly is huge, but she is thin everywhere else. We did a first small deworming earlier than I like. If that belly is all parasites, she could be in big trouble.

The other horse is in terribly thin condition and is a one on the Henneke Body Condition score. She is going to be a beauty when she returns to full weight. The white stockings cause her to be very showy.

Both horse and pony were on a dirt lot and engaged in stool eating. To check for sand in the intestines, we took buckets and put in a pile of manure from each horse. Then we filled the buckets halfway with water and broke up the manure. If sand has been ingested, it would settle to the bottom of the bucket. We were not surprised that there was sand. The horses were put on Sand Free for a week, after which the manure has to be re-checked.



Truffle, safe at HPS

To my surprise, we received a number of phone calls from the folks who live in the area where the mares came from, expressing how thankful they were that we now have the horses under our care. We are letting them settle in before we ask them what new names they would like.

These lovely, starved mares are in great need of Angel Sponsors. We have been hit hard by the slowing economy, but our herd still requires food, hay, doctoring, etc. on a daily basis. Can you help? They would be so very grateful.

Desperado

All she had to do was pick up a phone, dial HPS and say, "I can no longer properly care for the horses. Can they come back to the Sanctuary?" When she signed the contract, it was clearly spelled out that it was her responsibility to do this if the time ever came. Why did she not? Why did she let her horses get into such big trouble when help was a phone call away?

Background: In 1999, two of the very nice rescued Saddlebreds from the Carol Lewis herd were placed with a woman in Union County. All seemed to be okay until after 2005 when the horses and the woman disappeared from our radar. Mail was returned to HPS with no forwarding address, emails were also returned, and the phone number we had was disconnected. HPS Officers Sandy Daily and Katie Muir were making every effort to get in touch with her. (We later learned that she had, in fact, received Sandy's email and just never responded.)

Update: Finally, Joanie was able to track her down! The woman reported that one of the horses had died. (We were never notified!) She told us that the remaining horse (Desperado) was located outside of Monroe (although we had been told that he was living outside of New Salem). She also said that he had not received any vet care over the years, not even rabies vaccines or dental care. She said she *might* be able to afford to get a vet in during the next month.

(cont'd pg. 4)

(Desperado, cont'd)

Officers Sandy Daily and Joanie went to the Monroe address, and the second person to whom Desperado had been handed off told them where they could locate the horse – outside of New Salem – and that he had not been at the Monroe location for some time.

Sandy and Joanie found him in a field with other horses. It was a sorry sight. There was neither salt nor mineral blocks; the only available water was from a run-off pond; there was no shelter; no signs of any feed being given to the horses; he was wearing an old halter with rusty metal parts; he was thinner than he should be; his hooves were a mess and had rings on them that could indicate past illness or laminitis; and he was covered with bot fly eggs.

When they asked the man that the contracted caregiver had passed Desperado off to “When was the last time you saw her?” he thought for a moment and said, “Well, she called a couple of weeks ago.” He was unable to come up with when he had last seen her.

Sandy and Joanie stood outside that field, thoroughly depressed. To think that one of their beloved horses – that had received so much time, effort, expense and love to save his life in 1999 – was now so neglected and underweight. The HPS contract clearly calls for approval of a new location before a horse is moved. This person had given up the responsibility of guardianship of Desperado! The contract also calls for veterinarian care and so much more that was not being done.

Member Kathy Haw brought her trailer to take him back to the Sanctuary. Kathy, too, was upset to see the shape he was in, especially since she had originally worked on his placement to this woman. The young man who was onsite said that the horse was really thin before they moved him over to this field and that now he was gaining weight.



Now that he is home, Desperado has been dewormed and had his first hoof trimming. It removed old abscesses and evened up the misshaped and different length hooves. There is not much that can be done immediately about the crack in a back hoof that reaches almost to the coronary band. We expect that good nutrition will help it grow out without further damage. Despite all he's been through, Desperado is having a great time playing with Pecos, Drifter and Snowstorm. He's now in his early 20s and we are hopeful that he will have a full recovery from the neglect.

At the original pick up of this horse, Sandy was listening to the car radio and heard the Eagles' song "Desperado." It seemed as if the song had been written for our horse. Once at HPS, when Sandy introduced him to the name, he came right to her and has answered to it ever since.

**Desperado,
Oh you ain't getting no younger.
Your pain and your hunger,
They're driving you home.
And freedom, oh freedom.
Well that's just some people talking.
Your prison is walking through this world all alone.**

**Desperado,
Why don't you come to your senses?
Come down from your fences, open the gate.
It may be rainin', but there's a rainbow above you.
You better let somebody love you.
You better let somebody love you
Before it's too late.**

Will you love Desperado and support him as his Angel Sponsor?

Monthly Donations & Contributors

As we enter the time of thanks-giving, we would like to say THANKS on behalf of the horses. As we count our blessings, the horses do also. Due to your faithful contributions that never waiver, the horses will always have the hay and feed they so desperately need.

THANKS and May the Lord Bless You.

**In loving memory of the "Great Mystic Dream."
by Roberta McCurdle**

**In memory Cathy Hudson's beloved horse,
Elizabeth. By Marilyn & Harry Swimmer**

**In memory of my much loved chocolate lab, "Cocoa".
By Millie Norris**

**In memory of a very special cat named Lucky who was
taken in and loved by a very special friend of my family, Ann
McCowan. Lucky will be missed a great deal.
By Elaine Towner**

**Remembering and missing my sweet Sedona, her boy
Mojave, and our troubled Black Foot. By Sybil Athey**

**In loving memory of Sumo Gill who gave so much love to
many for 12 years. From Lucy Buchanan**

**To celebrate 20 years of the best furry friend-
ship ever. Dear Kipling, thank you for carrying
me around all these years! By Laura Willis**

***In honor of Leslie Cline's birthday. By Marilyn &
Harry Swimmer***

***In honor of Marc & Julie's engagement. Love,
Janet & Lou***

In honor of Maya Turpyn. By Helene Turpyn

***In honor of Deborah
Baker, Joanie Benson,
Kathy Haw, Roberta
McCardle, Lisa Murray,
Dottie Rebhan, Mary
Walters, Sue Wortman,
for their long service to
HPS and most of all for
being a friend! By Perry***

***In honor of Leslie Cline's birthday.
By Harry Swimmer***

Sybil P. Athey; Barbara & Hal Barnes; Rachel M. Bastarache Brown; Josephine Beisswanger; Ashley Bethea; Jane Billingsley; Judy Blackmon; George Blackwelder; Teresa & John Bonk; Tara M. Boyce; Victoria S. Breece; Catherine Briggs; David L. Brown; Lucy W. Buchanan; Maria (Mieke) & Peter Chalmers; Tammy, Steve & Katie Crandall; Heidi Crowley; Rita Curran; Vera "Spunky" Dagenhart; Leatrice Davis; Sandra Dermer; Paula L. Dobbins; Melissa Dobbs; Lori Drake; Rhonda H. Duncan; Margaret E. Dunham; Robert & Ana Dworschak; Dean & Pat Featherstone; Karen & Mike Gill; Ann Charlot Harvey; James & Rita Hausman; Michelle Hausman; Charles & Brenda Hemperley; Christie Henson; Leslie C. Henson, DMD; Joyce Hixon; Brown Hobbie; Cristel P. Honeycutt; Cathy Hudson; R.S. Iscaro; Patricia M. Jaap; Mary & Peter Jurgel; Kevin & Katherine Kelly; Anne N. Kenny; Stephen & Mary Kicinski; Christian & Lisa Kiral; Nancy Kirkner; Erinn Koonce; Betsy & Eric Little; Beverly Lobdell & The Dell Corporation; A. Burton Mackey, Jr.; Carolyn McAnallen; Roberta McCardle; Jill & Charles Messer; Elizabeth A. Milam; Barbara Moore; Perry Morgan; George & Lisa Murphy; Jamie & Roger Nix; Millie Norris; Colleen O'Malley; Mary Ann Phelps; Melissa Pletcher; Rachel Pope; Margaret M. Reed; Samantha C. Rushing; Harriet Seabrook; Tammy Seifert; Gail M. Shinn; Sidewalk Deli customers; Lisa M. Slatt; Jean Smith; Tacy K. Smith; Harry S. Swimmer; Marilyn B. & Harry Swimmer; Elaine D. Towner; Nicky & Gilbert Turner; Helene Turpyn; John Vinal; Timothy W. Walsh; Mary S. Walters; Heather Watkinson; Laura Willis; Elaine Wilson; Shelagh Winter; Kimberley Wrenn; Linda Yarrington



Alamo (left) and Strudel, BFFs (Best Friends Forever!)

Alamo Returns with a Surprise for HPS!

They were a loving family to Alamo over the past year, and only because circumstances changed did they call to have us make a place for him back at the Sanctuary. We never know what the future will bring which is why, when one of our horses goes to a new home, the contract that is signed calls for the horse to be returned to HPS should

the caregivers need to give the horse up. With the economy as difficult as it is these days, without HPS Alamo might have ended up in a very different situation – in a bad home or on the auction block. Regrettably, so many families don't have the option of making one simple phone call and having a good home waiting for their horse.

Normally, it's only the horse that had been placed out that returns to our farm. This case was different because Alamo was accompanied by his favorite pony. She is cute as a button and youthful at age 14. She came with a couple of issues including sore feet and an inconsistent attitude about being ridden (although we haven't seen it as of this writing). She will be checked out by our vet to determine the cause of her tender feet, and we'll adjust her diet to help her lose some weight. She has already chosen her new name (Strudel) to begin her new life.

Alamo, a 16 year old Quarter Horse with many great years ahead of him, is in fine shape and looking for another child to welcome into his life. You won't find many horses as sweet and gentle that can be trusted with a child as Alamo. In the meantime, Welcome Back Alamo, and welcome to your little companion as well.

Laugh of the Month:

The only way to make money with horses is to buy them after feeding on Friday and sell them before Saturday morning feeding. Author Unknown

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 Please use my donation for: \$ _____ New Barn Fund \$ _____ 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: _____
 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 or more donation, the named person can receive "Over Herd" for 1 year. Mail completed form to:
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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.