

Small Only in Size

Another first at the sanctuary! We now have a small Shetland pony; however, he is in terrible distress. The poor little guy is foundered in all four hooves and is overweight. His hooves and heels are so long radiographs are needed before he is trimmed the first time. His face is a little deformed from a halter that was too tight in the nose area.

He is only 3 years old, and he has not chosen a name yet. We are just letting him get used to the new environment. I got a peek at his teeth and they are very short. He is just the cutest little tri-color paint.

Rescues start with a phone call. A lady was visiting a friend in Avery County and this little guy was in a heavily grassed field on a development property. He was bought at an equine auction to look cute out in the field. He was already foundered and the person who purchased him had no idea he had a problem. He may have been there as long as a year. A vet was called for him and a farrier. The farrier did not know how to trim him and his hooves got longer and longer.

I contacted the main corporate office out of state and spoke to several sympathetic people. It was referred back to the NC office and it was agreed that he would be better off at the sanctuary.

Susie Lurz and Kris agreed to pick him up. Everyone has fallen in love with him. Radiographs, blood panels, and tests for Cushing's syndrome, insulin resistance, and thyroid will all be needed. This will be very costly, so please help think of this little one for your holiday donations.



This month's featured horse: Santa Fe

Santa Fe came to the ranch in December 2005. He was with a dealer/breeder that had more than 80 horses by our count. The dealer didn't believe Santa Fe would ever have a future as a riding horse due to a raised scar about a foot long that ran down his rear tendon. He let us have Santa Fe along with a severely emaciated mare that was nursing a foal.

Santa Fe has had an abusive life. He is blind in one eye, scarred along his legs and riddled with divots along his neck and chest. Despite these injuries, his true beauty shines blindingly through his soft, easy gaits and his gentle demeanor.

Both our farriers believe Santa Fe to be completely sound. He is often seen running across the fields and even leaping into the air playing. During his entire time at the ranch he has been in excellent health and never exhibited any signs of unsoundness.



Santa Fe is a sweet, trusting horse. He loves to have his muzzle softly tickled and his ears scratched. He gets along very well with other horses and never behaves aggressively.

He is only 14 years old and shows signs of having had excellent training in his life. Truly this golden gelding is going to be someone's dream horse.

\$10,000 Miracle Challenge

On Wednesday, September 27, major benefactors, Joyce and Ted Hixson, put forth a challenge: If HPS could get enough people to come to the sanctuary and work 120 hours helping to clean-up the sanctuary, they would donate \$10,000. The only way to communicate with our members and supporters on such short notices was by email. We had less than 60 hours. By Friday evening, we had 13 people committed and five maybes. Our hearts were sinking. We prayed for a miracle. The \$10,000 had been designated by the benefactor to be used for the stall mats needed to go forward with the new barn.

Saturday morning we were ready with a large list of projects, the front field open for parking, a sign-up sheet and needed supplies purchased by our benefactors. Then the cars and trucks started to arrive and they kept coming throughout the day as folks unloaded the equipment they brought with them. Everyone was thrilled with the huge turn out.

What an incredible day for everyone! To our surprise, 76 people signed in and worked to help clean up. Some people could only stay a couple of hours, but the time added up to make a fantastic difference at the sanctuary. What a difference people make!

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Keeping the Sanctuary Clean

The reality is that the people who come to the sanctuary on a regular base cannot keep up with all the work that needs to be done to keep the sanctuary looking sharp. Each Saturday we try to get some job done, but it does not always happen. It is difficult with new people visiting and folks stopping by to view the horses for placement. Due to the \$10,000 Challenge Saturday, the sanctuary is in better shape than it has been in a long time. Winter is coming and there are additional things that we need to do.

These are just some of the jobs that need to be completed:

Hay round feeders – wire brushed and painted, large metal gates – wire brushed and painted, fences and gates insulated to accommodate the new barn, lumber in the storage shed sorted with the good lumber saved and the other disposed of, glass removed from old windows and frames disposed of, repairs to windows and frames to the block feed room, fill in creaks in the block building, clean fields with tractor of old hay, more fill dirt needed in areas, level driveway with box blade to fill holes, wire brush and paint metal bi-fold gate in large barn, clean some areas around the old house.

We will be adding to this list as time goes on as we can do more in the way of construction of the new barn. Please come on any Saturday or Sunday to help with the tasks that need to be done.

How Many Ways Can We Say Thank You?

We're so busy caring for the horses that we don't often say thank you. So part of this newsletter is dedicated to saying "you're appreciated so much!"

Whether you are a volunteer at the sanctuary or one of the special people who regularly send a donation- it takes all of us to make the horse's lives better. Jingle, Wrangler and Nevada are very grateful. From all the precious horses at HPS, "Thank you for everything you do."

...Continued from page 1 \$10,000 Challenge

So much was accomplished. At one point six weed-eaters were running around buildings and fence lines. Perry brought his huge backhoe, which he insisted equaled one person, and easily removed many large scrub trees and the two old peach trees on the front lawn. The larger trees were cut up by chainsaw-wielding volunteers and the smaller ones were loaded into the back of Flatbed Annie. Even a chain saw was donated to HPS. Who was that masked man? Eight gals reworked the front lawn flowerbeds, planting flowers, trimming shrubs and trees, bordering the gardens with rocks and adding compost. The dirt floor in the new barn had holes from the fill dirt shrinking. The holes were filled and compacted. Around the barn, morning glories and rocks were removed from the area so a few horses can now be turned into it to enjoy the grass. The round pen was wire brushed and painted bright silver. It looks like we have a new round pen. The three-stall barn in the little front field was stained green. The drainage problem in front of the old barn was solved by adding fill dirt and rocks. An old building was torn down and Flatbed Annie made two trips to the dump. A huge trash pile was created and burned. Several stall doors were raised and reset for easier closing.

Our benefactors were so impressed that they plan to send another \$5,000 to help further with the new barn including some of the wood needed for the stall walls. They are also donating hinges for the stall doors. While they were at the sanctuary, they added beautiful interior doors to the old farmhouse. Can you believe the bathroom now has a real door?! The house no longer feels like a deserted construction site.

This is wonderful and can help HPS to move forward with work on the barn, but remember the horses need to be fed everyday, the vet bill is over \$6,000, and the horses need your help now. The higher gas prices have caused donations to drop significantly. This has been a difficult summer and now we are faced with the extra feed needed when the temperatures drop.

Please remember your horses this holiday season.

While all of this was taking place the following devoted members, Vera Bennett, Ray Cope, Kathy Haw, Roberta McCardle, and Patty Castiglia collected almost \$300 in donations at two different Tractor Supply stores.

Several people have come to help since they could not be here on Saturday. Gary Fose and I made another dump run. David Moynihan has been at the sanctuary several times to continue helping with the clean up. Leai Ho and daughter Eileen Smith have helped with some of the painting.

A huge thank you and God bless each and everyone that came to help and all of the people who wanted to and could not. Unforgettable help from: Lucinda Sharpe, Adele Marie Goodman, Deborah Baker, Mary Walters, Joanie Benson, Joyce Hixson, Teddy Hixson, Therese Bertolette, Cindy Trobaugh, Darlene DeRosa Pressley, Gail Bradley, Ed Joyner, Judi A. & Craig Kolkebeck, Megan Cindric, Sharon & Dane Barger, Denise Titsworth, Amy Harber, Gail & David Shinn, Bruce Kolkebeck, Jerry Ellenburg, Brown Hobbie, Colleen O'Malley, Brenda & Breanna Lyons, Brennah Black, Laurianne Nickles, Debbie Cort, Sydney Sawyer, Tommy Davis, Kimber & Emily Hooker, Ashley Hoy, Christine Niedermeier, Dottie Rebhan, Kathy & Lauren Lofgren, Richard J. Buttimer, Shirley A Wright, Sheila & J.R. Mason, Jimmie, Robin, Mandy, and Myar Johnson, Lewis Sizemore, Judy & Larry Witmer, Sarah & Melissa Frerich, Julie & Tyler Myers, Britney Odom, Lisa Murray, Perry Morgan & huge backhoe, Natasha Parniun, Fernanda Feather, Peggy & Stephan Fekete, Suzanne & Maria Weber, Jordon Mull, Ashlyn Knight, Cathy Morris, Amy Boger, Connie & Dennis Musal, Sandy Baninski, Patty Castiglia, Courtney Conde & Mark Jessop.

Too Cute To Resist

Popcorn had an accident before she was two years old causing her to lose her eye and was sold. Over the next 20 years the owners never had the lid closed and the open socket was just a hot bed for infection. Not to mention the lack of care to her hooves. An abuse call alerted us to her lack of care and she was released to HPS.



During the same period, Doris and Mike Lane picked up an old Appaloosa mare from eastern North Carolina for HPS. She was to stay at their farm near Pinehurst for a couple of days and we would pick the horse up from there. Doris called the sanctuary to tell us they wanted to keep Big Momma. Cataracts had caused Big Momma to lose almost all of her sight and she was in terrible body condition.

A short time later Mike and Doris visited the sanctuary to meet Popcorn because they needed a seeing-eye pony for Big Momma. HPS had not had time to arrange for Popcorn's eye to be taken care of and the Lanes offered to have the surgery done at their expense. The surgery was completed and from a distance, Popcorn looked like she was winking at you. The Lanes knew that there was a high risk that Big Momma would get cancer. When this occurred she was helped over the Rainbow Bridge.

Mike has had several back surgeries and can no longer care for their country property. With great sadness, Popcorn had to be returned to HPS and Mike and Doris are looking for a loving home for their two donkeys. Please feel free to contact the sanctuary if you are interested in more information concerning their donkeys.

This sweet little pony is now 25 years old. Popcorn has adjusted to her return and is enjoying her friends Padre and Nevada. Please be a sponsor for Popcorn and come visit her.

Angel Wings

There sure have been a lot of angel wings fluttering around the HPS horses lately.

Angels that spend hours: fixing fences, cutting up donated vegetables and giving them out to the horses, cleaning stalls, pushing heavy wheelbarrows, pounding loose nails, hosing down horses on terribly hot days, scrubbing out tubs so thirsty horses have clean water, mixing 30 buckets of feed while adding different supplements for the special needs of each individual horse.

Angels who also slip and slide in ankle deep mud and rarely complain. Angels who beg people to purchase a Food Lion gift card so we can pay for a load of hay.

Angels whose arms ache from holding up a heavy bucket of cold water trying to persuade a sick horse to drink.

Angels who patiently coax a weak horse to eat their feed one handful at a time.

Angels who gently stroke a horse's head and speak softly to ease the last precious moments of their lives.

How do they do it? As these angels flutter around the horses at HPS we wonder...where can we find a few more just like them?

Nathan

It was a blustering early spring Saturday when a small group of Catawba college students and faculty members arrived at the farm to volunteer...all females except Nathan- poor guy! They stayed busy helping whittle down the long list of things that need to be built, repaired, cleaned, or moved at the sanctuary.

These weren't farm kids, but they were willing to try anything. I had my own duties, but I stopped to inspect one of their projects. As a smiling young lady put it, "we're making brick patios for the salt blocks." Thank heavens! No more digging them out of the mud.

Nathan didn't say much. How could he with all those females around to do the talking? I never see those "salt block patios" that I don't think about those bright-eyed college students.

Luckily for us, through a college job-volunteer program, Nathan decided to spend his summer afternoons working at the farm. In the summer heat he cleaned stalls, fixed fences, and did everything he could to make life easier for Joanie and the horses. When a volunteer feeder needed help, Nathan was right there...a true blessing to the ladies struggling in the heat to feed over 30 horses.

What a great young man! Thanks for everything, Nathan. We'll all miss you.



HORSE
PROTECTION
SOCIETY

Show Your Love: A Special Way to Help the Horses

By Dottie Rebhan

What a wonderful surprise: a club I belong to made a donation to HPS in my honor. I was thrilled that they thought of me by doing something for the precious horses at the sanctuary.

Then it occurred to me that we could all help to pay off the vet bill by saying to someone special "Happy Birthday" or "You're the greatest" or how about "Thanks for everything." I promise to send the person you honor a note from HPS. Even if they aren't horse lovers, I'll make sure they understand what a special gift they have been given. They will also receive Over Herd for one year.

For several years one special lady has said "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Birthday" to her friends with a donation to HPS. I think I'll follow her example this holiday season!

Wouldn't paying off the vet bill be a wonderful Christmas present for the horses? We can do it...so **show your love** to your family, your friends, and to the horses.

Important Updates...

Snickerdoodle

Snickerdoodle had the most severe founder that HPS had ever seen. Her coffin bones in the front hooves were just a peg shape rather than a triangle shape. She was kept comfortable by leaving a large hoof with the hairline parallel with the ground. The terrible fat deposits over her back had atrophied the muscles all along the top line of her back and top of her hip. She also had Cushing's syndrome and was being treated for this condition. Then she developed an infection in her hip area which was treated for several weeks with no improvement. The blood supply to her hip area was diminished by the atrophied muscles and the Cushing's had damaged her immune system. There was no hope of improvement for our beloved little burro. With friends by her side, she passed over the Rainbow Bridge. She will be greatly missed. Shortly after her passing, we had a chance to meet the ex-wife of the person who had Nevada and Snickerdoodle. We were told that Snickerdoodle was 10 years older or more than we had been told. She would have been 38 to 40 plus years old.

Morning Glory

Morning Glory had five good years with HPS. When she came to the sanctuary, her knee was so bad that she could not stand to be trimmed. A sling had to be used for the first few months. After much diligent care, Morning Glory could comfortably be trimmed without a sling. Last winter she had a bad turn with her knee. Over a couple of days, her tendons were giving way and her knee was bending at an odd angle. The kindest thing to do was to let her pass before the tendons gave way totally. Fire Breeze and all of her friends will miss Morning Glory.

Irish Night

Irish had bad impaction colic. IV fluids were given every couple of hours as well as pain medication when needed. The veterinarians were here three times to check her progress. To our overwhelming joy, Irish recovered. December 2004 Irish recovered from a similar bout. What a tough old girl at 43 years old!

New \$5,000 Challenge

Joyce & Ted Hixson, our \$10k Challenge benefactors, are coming through AGAIN!!!

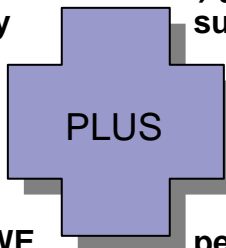
If HPS can get 25 people at the sanctuary on November 11th (rain date November 18th) they will contribute another \$5,000 to be used toward our vet bill!!! For each additional person over 25 people they will give another \$100 each.

We need 45 people to get to a \$0 balance. WE CAN DO THIS!

Please come and bring friends and family. Food will be served, but side dishes are needed. See YOU November 11th.

...and That's Not All

In addition to the \$5k Challenge, an anonymous HPS volunteer has offered to up the ante!!! The volunteer commented, "their (Joyce & Ted Hixson) generosity is beyond words and the results are going to make so much of a difference to the health and well-being of the horses."



Inspired by the generosity of others, this volunteer will donate \$1,000 if we get 25 people to the sanctuary on November 11th (rain date November 18th)!! If we double that and get 50 people there, the donation will be \$1500.

HPS is blown away by the generosity of these donors.



HPS would like to thank the monthly donors for your continued generosity and love for the horses in our care. You are helping us make the world a better place for horses through education, rescue and rehabilitation. (If your donation was later in the month your name will appear next month.)

- In loving memory of "Little Jack." Over the Rainbow Bridge, Oct. 25, 2005
- In Loving Memory of Morning Glory by Roberta McCardle.
Boss Mare for many years and the last best friend of Miss Angel LeHouf.
Your loyalty and steady presence will never be forgotten.
- In fond memory of "20th G17Century Fox," a Tennessee Walking Horse. 2/17/79 - 2/28/06 By Meg & Joe Leidinger
- In memory of Warrior. By Mary Tucker
- In loving memory of my beloved Honeybear and Gretchen. I miss you both. By Annie Schoonover
- In memory of Majestic. By Suzanne & Kristen Penninger
- Thanks for the memories ~ Majestic, Snickerdoodle, Blackberry and Morning Glory. By Dottie Rebhan
- On behalf of Michelle Jewett & her husband-to-be, Darrell. Best wishes for your upcoming marriage. By Carole Neves
- Happy Birthday Anita, the loyal caregiver of two great dogs and seven wonderful cats. By Barbara Moore

Re-Link Your Food Lion MVP Card

Have you re-linked your MVP card for 2007? Time is rapidly passing and the year will soon be over. If you don't re-link by December 31st, your purchases for January-March 2007 will NOT count toward helping HPS. Go to foodlion.com and click on Shop&Save. Don't forget to ask family and friends to link their cards also.

Come on everyone..... We have horses to feed, a barn to finish and a vet to pay.
EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS. It's such an easy way to help HPS.
THANKS AGAIN TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM.

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

Mail completed form to: Horse Protection Society, 2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023

Monthly Donations

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Horse Protection Society of North Carolina



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China Grove, NC 28023

Phone: 704-855-2978
Email: hps@horseprotection.org

Check out our *****NEW***** Web site:
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.

Horse Protection Society
2135 Miller Road
China Grove, NC 28023

«First Name» «Last Name»
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