

Over Herd

**Happy Thanksgiving:
Christmas Is Around the Corner**

I have made out my Christmas list. If you have not, you will do it soon. If you would like to do a Memorial or Honor for the December newsletter, please get the information to us as early in November as possible so we can make sure to get it in the Christmas issue. It is such a nice way to remember a loved one and to help the horses at the same time.

We pray that all of you are doing okay in this up and down time. Please help us keep the horses continuing on the road to recovery and warmth with good food in their bellies. The horses are eating more hay since the evenings and nights have turned cold. The cost for hay alone is over \$1,000 a month. Supplements are running about \$1,700 a month. Feed is about \$1,500 a month and then there are vet visits and farrier costs. We work so hard to make each donated dollar go as far as possible.

Thank you and have a Happy Thanksgiving! I will be here watching over your horses along with the devoted volunteers that will be feeding in the morning and evening.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

Kissed by sunlight,
embraced by open
fields. The horse is the
center of all beautiful
things. -Unknown

Another Paso Fino ~Joanie Benson

And one more makes three at the sanctuary. The new little mare, a registered Columbian Paso Fino, had a wonderful life and was very well trained. Then her owner, who is in his 80's, started losing his mental faculties. He just was not capable of caring for his two horses any longer.

The person who, 18 years ago, originally bred Quera called HPS. Quera's breeder has been involved with HPS and knew we would know how to care for her. I love responsible breeders who check on their horses! Over the years she had a chance to spend time with Quera and watch her develop into a fine, well trained horse. She had not seen her in a while and was saddened at her condition when she visited. The owner's wife had her hands full with caring for her husband and really did not know about horses. That had always been her husband's concern and responsibility.

The other horse was much younger and easier to place in a new home. He could also help to raise some needed funds for the family. Because of the Paso Fino's normal heavy build, some people would not realize how very underweight she is. Quera is about 200 pounds underweight and for a 14 hand horse that is a great deal. She has puffiness over both eyes and a heavy fat layer on the top line of her neck. Her coat is also too heavy and somewhat curly which are indications that she has both IR and Cushing's syndrome. All four hooves show signs of founder. We will arrange for the necessary tests and digital radiographs. Horses that have foundered because of these illnesses are very difficult to turn around. I can only hope we have caught her in time.

Quera will have to be on a very special diet with no treats at all. She was covered with bot eggs and probably not wormed for a year. We have started the worming and removed the bot eggs. She is a very sensitive horse that has never had any harsh treatment.

We now have three Paso Finos: Vaquero is a Peruvian Paso from early Spanish decent; Padre's history is unknown, but we believe his maybe more along the line of a Puerto Rican Paso; and now a Columbian Paso. Paso Finos have become very popular in the US because of their easy gait, soundness and ability to carry a heavy load over long distances. I wonder how much of this has been bred out of this breed since coming to the US. The original horses survived on inadequate feed, shortages of water and an ability to survive in near impossible circumstances. The Peruvian Paso evolved from horses imported into Peru in 1531-32.

Quera is going to be one of the more expensive horses to return to health. Please consider being her Angel Sponsor.



Another Trip to Iredell County ~Joanie Benson

Iredell County called HPS once again to help with a horse. A woman took the horse in when she was offered and immediately called Animal Control to get the horse the care it needed. I called Cindy and we headed to the shelter to make a pick up. It was a beautiful day for a road trip and this helped to lessen the reservations that always are present when traveling to pick up a horse we have not seen before.



As we pull behind the shelter, we can see the horse waiting for us. Sometimes even when a horse is thin, we can see that once upon a time this was a fabulous horse. Her build was perfect for a fine Quarter Horse with huge leg bones. Her head came up with a greeting for us.

I spent a little time with the horse ...**Continued on page 2**

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HORSE PROTECTION SOCIETY

Abuse Beyond Belief

~Joanie Benson

I do not usually write about abuse calls, but this one has impacted me very much. I received a call from a friend who lives in Chatham County. The description of the condition of this pony was so despicable that I felt I had to go on this call. After 16 straight years of abuse calls, I had stopped going for the past year. I just could not do it. I could not go and talk to those uneducated people and be polite and try so hard to get them to care for their horses. I needed a break from it.

Cindy drove and it took several hours. There was an old barn in worse shape than our old barn. It was like a cave with very little light. I stepped into the barn and called, "Hello." As my eyes adjusted to the darkness I saw the pony standing in the stall next to me. I stepped over and stood on a log by the stall. I could not believe what I saw. This small pony looked like he had huge curled ram horns attached to the bottom of his legs. Then I got the overpowering whiff of infection! I know this was the very worst case of neglect and founder I had ever seen. It takes years for a hoof to grow that long. It would have been impossible for the little fellow to lie down. The leverage of the hooves could have snapped his legs if he went down.

I left the barn and yelled for Cindy. We had to do something for the pony that day! She had seen the sign for the turn off to Animal Control and we headed their way. **Continued on page 3**

Another Trip *continued from page 1...* rubbing her all over, talking to her and looking for any problems. The neglect also showed because she was covered with bot fly eggs. It was time to put a halter on her and load her for the ride to the sanctuary. She stepped into the trailer like a trooper.

The first inspection of her body told me a great deal about her past life. Like so many great horses, she had been terribly overused to the point that her back tendons were huge, her fetlock joints swollen, and she desperately needed trimming. I have seen other horses with these old injuries that were used as reining horses. Reining takes a great deal of training and a special horse to do well in competition. As with every discipline, overuse and stress on the body can cause damage. Reining horses' back legs take a great deal of stress from the fast stops. A well-trained reining horse is a beautiful thing to see, but great horses can end up in poor hands as with so many champion horses that have come to the sanctuary in dire shape.

There was no problem for our new girl to pick a new name. She liked Sedona! Figuring out her age has proven to be a more difficult. The upper corner incisor has a Galvayne's groove that starts to appear in about 50% of the horses around 10 years old and stretches to half way at age 15 and by 20 it is all the way down the crown. Sedona has the groove that goes all the way down, but it looks like it just got to the bottom. But the slant is that of a bit older horse. I still think Sedona may only be 20 years old since she was not fed correctly and may have been eating wood to fill her belly and then the teeth can wear very differently.

Finally the folks here at the sanctuary can see what I have been saying about good heavy legs on a well bred horse, instead of the skinny bones we so often see. There is an old injury that is so deep next to her shoulder that you can insert half of your hand into the area which would indicate extreme muscle damage. It does not seem to cause her any problem now. Sedona has about 175 pounds to gain and is picking it up very quickly.

I am sure that at some point in her life Sedona was a loved and cared for horse. She is very friendly and loves attention. I am so glad Sedona is here at the sanctuary and finally safe. Come meet this pretty girl!

The Sanctuary ~Joanie Benson

It has been a relatively quiet month at the sanctuary, but terribly sad as well. Montana had a bad turn and we had to call the vet. The cold weather may have set off his EPM. We worked hard to get him through it, but there was nothing left to be done. Montana was a big, handsome horse who was as big and rugged as the state he was named for. He is greatly missed. The new pony picked Sweet Pea as her name and she had her teeth floated. Sedona also had hers done but some teeth were so long they will have to be done again in November when we have scheduled the last third of the herd to have their dental work done.

Silver Cloud will be leaving this month for his new home. Deborah Baker and some others have been helping to get the easy horses back under saddle. We are in such need of a professional trainer. Add it to your prayers and it might happen. We do not have any other application on hand. The cooler weather does not help with placement.

Katie Muir sent an email to the feeders list and I thought I would share it with you:

"I wanted to let everyone know what a great day we had at the farm today! Joanie, Deborah, and I decided that we were going to go riding this morning, but we were a little short of riding horses. Oswego was very stiff yesterday after he fell in the hay feeder on Thursday and Sierra still has a bad hoof and cannot use a saddle until she has seen a chiropractor. Gold Rush still has large edemas on her stomach and cannot be fitted for a saddle. So Joanie decided to work with Shaman, who had not been under saddle yet, and Deborah was on Stardust. They found a saddle that would fit Shaman and took him into the side pasture. Shaman did well in the side pasture so they decided to take him and Stardust off the property, neither have done that before. They went for a nice walk on the dirt road and returned ... everyone in one piece! That was a great morning all in itself. Shaman now has his own saddle, pad and bridle in the tack room!

Joanie mentioned that we have a family that is approved for Silver Cloud and possibly Jasmine. The family would like us to work with them before they make their final decision. Joanie asked if I would work with Silver Cloud today ... of course I would! When I went out to the pasture and to get Silver Cloud, he was a little apprehensive. I brought him into the medical stall to brush him and clean his hooves while Deborah found a saddle that she thought would fit him well. We placed the saddle on his back and with Joanie's expertise we all agreed it fit him okay. Deborah walked him around the side pasture and even brought him to a trot. Deborah brought him over to the mounting step and Joanie walked up and laid on his back. He really did not care. We all looked at each other and said, "Who is going to get on him?" **continued on page 3**



**HORSE
PROTECTION
SOCIETY**

**Abuse -
continued from page 2**

They sent one of their officers over and it took until late afternoon to once again catch up with the owner. Two of the officers went with us back to the property. The owner would not turn the pony over to HPS, so we convinced the owner to let us call a vet to do digital radiographs of the pony's hooves. The owner was convinced that a trimming was all that was needed. He said he had been a farrier since 1970.

The vet arrived and assured the owner the pony could never recover. HPS paid the bill for the emergency visit, the digital radiographs & to end his suffering. Cindy & I stayed until the right thing was done for this little pony.

That day an abuse call cost HPS \$400. I think it was money well spent. The little pony would no longer suffer after years of neglect. Thank you for making it possible to stop the suffering. We also thank Chatham County Animal Control.

Another Trip *continued from page 1...* rubbing her all over, talking to her and looking for any problems. The neglect also showed because she was covered with bot fly eggs. It was time to put a halter on her and load her for the ride to the sanctuary. She stepped into the trailer like a trooper.

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The Sanctuary *~continued from page 2*

We decided that I would and with Deborah leading him, we walked around the pasture. After a few minutes, we decided that I would pick up the reins and try some neck reining with him. Silver Cloud did well for his second time under saddle at HPS. He still needs work but is well on his way to a new home.

Joanie, Deborah and I were talking about other horses at the farm that can be worked with. Cherub is doing so much better and can do even better if it was possible to get her back under saddle. It would be great if we could get Cheyenne under saddle as well. She is a beautiful horse, who needs to be ridden. Someone will need to do a lot of groundwork with her before she can be ridden but it would be well worth it. If we can get some pictures of her being ridden that may help her find a new home. Freedom and Sahara are also two great horses that will need some time but are rideable horses. I know Heidi will do a great job with Sahara!

If you have some extra time, please check with Joanie and see what you can do to help these horses get back under saddle. It is a great feeling working with a horse, getting them back under saddle, and see our wonderful horses go to a new home. "

Inca, Amigo, Granger, Legacy, Miracle, Night Hawk, Santa Fe, Shoshoni, and Vaquero all need to be worked with to help get them placed and to keep them exercised. Deborah and I do not have the time to teach people to ride. We work with the horses Sunday morning, after morning feed, and we try to take a ride off the property. Some of the kids that work here have done a great job with the horses they are working with. Thanks Gals!



Monthly Donations & Contributors

HPS runs on monthly donations. We cannot do this without your support! Thank you. **A huge thank you to all of the wonderful folks who made the jewelry sale a huge success! Joyce & Teddy Hixson arrived with large plastic boxes packed full of the best things. Everyone had great fun and the HPS made a little over \$10,000 counting donations that were made that day. This helped us catch up on our veterinarian bill & several other bills. Thank you to all the supporters who make it possible to keep the horses fed and cared for. Happy Holidays everyone!**

Sybil Athey, Barbara & Hal Barnes, John & Helen Bishop, Jordan Bishop, Judy Blackmon, Teresa & John Bonk, Woodberry Bowen, Catherine & K.A. Briggs, Sue Ann Carroll, Margaret Causby, Mieke Chalmers, Craig T. Christner, Erin Christner, R. Edward Christner, Christine Coutre, Heidi Crowley, Rita Curran, Patricia Curran, Sandy & Frank Daily, Sandra Dermer, Amanda Dortschy, Rhonda Duncan, Margaret Dunham, Debra Eident, Annette Fazio, Debra Feezor, Kari & Bill Fingerlow, Carole Graham, Gary L. Greenfield, Janet Hall, Tina Hamlin, Ron & Melissa Hannah Cadenza Granite & Marble, Michelle Hartzell, Charles & Brenda Hemperley, Shirley & Keith Hengel, Dr. Leslie C. Henson, Amber S. Hozey, Patricia & John Japp, Elizabeth Jenkins, Peter & Mary Jurgel, Margaret Kennedy, Nancy Kirkner, Abby Kluttz, Sara Kobs, Stanley Lathrop, Roger Lee, Judy & Mike LeGrett, Betty & Floyd Lentz, Teadora Lewis, Katherine B. Lofgren, Roberta McCardle, Mario & Elaine Merida, Jill Messer, Elizabeth Milam, Louise T. Mullis, Suzanne Nutt, Bruce C. Pethel, Melissa Pletcher, Susan & Dale Pond, Dottie Rebhan, Betsy & Harold Rhoads, Fiona Ritchie Productions, Holly Robbins, Libby Saunders, Badin Lake Realty, Gail Shinn, Anna Simmons, W. L. Sisk, Geraldine S. Skehan, Lisa M. Slatt, Sharon & Jerry Smith, Tracy Smith, The Yoga Connection LLC, Elaine Towner, Sumner & Jutta Vest, John Vinal, Mary Walters, Dorothy H. Weathersbee, Barbara White, Kimberly Wrenn, Nancy Zuilkowski

Lauren Allen, age 14, Wrote the Following:

Every Saturday morning as I pull into HPS, I see two barns with shutters, well-built stalls and padded floors. When I walk into the barn there is a feed room on the right where there are organized books with schedules, medication information and feeding instructions. Everything is in place and the horses have plenty of room.

This was a different scenario about six years ago. I visited HPS when I was eight and I remember an old wooden barn where horses had limited space. Some aisles in the barn were roped off into stalls while little sheds across from the barn held a small number of horses as well. The barn and sheds looked pretty run down but it was all they had. I remember one of the ladies had told us, "It is all about the horses, and everything goes to the horses."

I met a few horses and heard their stories. I couldn't believe how someone could mistreat something so loyal and mighty. Still even though the horses had been through so much, they stood quiet and content as we talked and stroked them.

After we had toured through the sanctuary, Joanie invited us in the house. The outside of the house wasn't painted and looked unfinished. To be honest, I didn't know anyone lived on the sight. It must've been sloppy-Joe day for the folks helping out because I remember going into Joanie's house and eating sloppy Joes. She told us to not throw away the cups so that she could wash and reuse them. It was a sad situation, but she made it work!

It is hard to picture how it used to be looking at the sanctuary now. Although there are new barns and the house is being remodeled, there's one thing that has stayed the same: it's still all about the horses.

In honor of Erin Christner's birthday. ~By Craig Christner In honor of Erin Christner's 11th birthday. ~By Edward Christner
 In honor of Erin's 11th birthday. Erin requested donations to HPS instead of gifts. Please use this as Angel Sponsor for Morning Star. ~By Erin Christner
 Happy 10th Birthday, Abby. ~Love, Mom & Dad
 In honor of Annette Fazio's birthday. ~By Libby Saunders
 In memory of Charles St. John, Patsy Comeaux's brother. ~By Carole Graham

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 Whom would you like to receive your Honor, Memorial, or Angel Sponsor (please circle)? Name: _____
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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.** 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.