



Over Herd

Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc.

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(704) 855-2978

On the Web at:

www.horseprotection.org
and www.angelfire.com/nc/horseprotosocnc/

The Sun Has Set

By: Joan Benson

Mark your Calendars:

October 4th
HPS Fall Yard Sale
We need HELP!
Please donate your
time to this event!

October 11th
Members Day
Come early/stay late!
Lots of projects.
Lunch/Meeting
at Noon
Please bring a
covered dish
to share.

The sun has set on the past horrible neglect of a beautiful 15-year-old Quarter horses that we named Sunset. Her story seems unbelievable at first, until you think back to all of the revolting and despicable testimony we have heard many times before.

Sunset's life took a major down turn about five months ago. Her owner left her in the care of a small animal vet at his country home in Cumberland County. Why - we do not know, but the owner never returned. It was reported to us the veterinarian's children rode her and the other horse on his property. At some point her back fetlock joints were injured so seriously that she has floating bone chips. Both joints above her back hooves are swollen like small balloons.

Sunset also foundered in the front hooves, and the coffin bone has rotated. Both conditions occurred quite sometime ago and are not new ailments. It would make sense to surmise that Sunset may have injured her fetlock joints first and stress foundered in the front due to the lack of treatment. (Thank heavens for the wonderful hoof care specialists that come to care for the horses at the sanctuary. Her chances of recovery will be greatly increased by their expertise.)

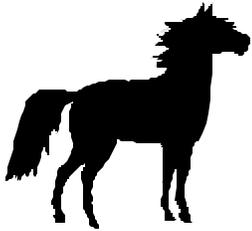
Finally an equine veterinarian was called to check the two horses for the small animal vet. The other horse had also foundered. The coffin bone was protruding through the soles of both back hooves. The horse was put down that day. The equine vet felt that with care Sunset could recover, but the owner was not willing to provide what was needed. His only interest was to send the horse to a horse auction so he could get some money for her. **See Sunset Page 3**



Sunset needs loving sponsors!

It's HPS Yard Sale Time and WE NEED YOU!!!

HPS's fall yard sale is planned for Saturday October 4th, and we need your help! If you receive a "Yard Sale" advertising sheet in your newsletter, please put it in your car window, make copies, and put them up where you can in our area. **Thursday evening October 2nd** we will set up all the larger pieces of furniture and the tables. This only takes a few strong fellows. **Friday October 3rd** we need all the help we can get. All of the items for the sale need to be put out, signs put up and things organized for the next day. We always work until dark so coming after work is fine..... we will be here working. **Saturday October 4th** we need more folks to help out. The sale is advertised to start at 7 o'clock, but I can tell you from past experience that people will start arriving much earlier.... 6:00 to 6:30. Help later in the afternoon is needed, also to pack up the leftovers from the sale. (The rest of us are dead tired by then.) On Saturday we would love to have a couple of guys here to help load the heavier furniture when sold. Even a few hours of your time would be a prayer answered. If you will have some time on any of these dates, please contact the HPS and give us the day and time you can be here. Thank you so much for caring about making this important fundraiser a success. **You are welcome to come and shop also...low prices and many brand new items. 704-855-2978**



News From The Herd

The Herd has had their rabies vaccinations, and the worming for tapeworms. None of the horses had a reaction to the new wormer, Equimax that we used. Twelve of the horses were in need of dental work. We still need to purchase the 4-1 vaccinations and to give them. The cool evenings have caught the horses without their winter coats. Extra hay is needed to help them stay warm.

Navajo lost a back tooth that was held by only a small piece of root when his teeth were floated. It is interesting to see their teeth and this gives a better understanding why they will lose them. Navajo is 38 years old and has a many of his teeth left unlike some of the other horses

Cherokee has gained about 150 pounds. (Hundreds of pounds to go.) He threw a couple of nighttime parties and joined the rowdies. Wind Walker and Aztec are in love with the skinny ol' boy. John Kiwacka is still laughing and telling the story of the first time Cherokee moved with energy. Wind Walker and Aztec promenaded in a spirited run over to visit Cherokee. He was napping in his stall as the girls seductively called to him. Out he sprints with neck arched, tail held high, calling back to the girls. We knew Cherokee remembered he was "somebody special" even though he was still all skin and bones. Cherokee was going to make it. Our vets feel it will be safe to geld him the end of November or in December if he keeps gaining at the rate he has been.

Desert Sand has had a thyroid test and has hypothyroidism. She will be on a daily medication. With her long hair it is a high possibility that she has Cushing's syndrome. High concentrated antioxidants have helped other horses at the sanctuary that have this condition. With careful management she could have a long life.

Raven's possibility of recovery unfortunately came to an end. Raven had dropped pastern in both rear legs that was caused by severely weakened flexor tendons and suspensor ligaments when she arrived at the sanctuary. Over time the pastern area had become horizontal with the ground instead of more upright. This puts undo weight on the fetlock joint that was almost touching the ground when she walked. Since she had Cushing's syndrome, surgery was not an option that could be considered and if this was to be done, it should have taken place when she was much younger. No one wants to see a horse suffer - there is no hope of recovery, and the kindest thing was to let Raven go over the rainbow bridge.

Some horses are born with long pasterns that may drop due to different factors. This can happen to any horse, but some are more prone to this condition. A few of the factors may be: riding when too young, too heavy a rider, riders weight too far back on the horse, worked too hard, and/or a congenital abnormality. One of the things that makes her passing so sad is that we were managing her thyroid and Cushing's syndrome and she was doing so well.

Whisper: We have not gotten the written report on the necropsy yet.

Hoofbeats By: Roberta McCardle

*As you know, we have many, many pleasant, uplifting times at HPS. There is nothing better than seeing a horse improve in health and spirit. To make this happen, however, we first have to get them here. That's where the cruelty investigations come into the picture. Such investigations are pretty much ongoing. Unfortunately, there is never a shortage of horses in need of our help. This is a very challenging aspect of our work in that we are not only worried about the well-being of the horse but we also have to deal with the owners, the counties, etc. Many counties do not move on such cases with adequate speed. On occasion we are involved in a case where a few days could mean the difference between inevitable death or a chance at life for the horse. The HPS folks involved in such work try to familiarize themselves with the facts of the case and with what the law says. We take a low-key approach and try to conduct ourselves in a professional manner. I have great admiration for those who participate and support this aspect of our work. It's important and it needs to be done right if we are to be successful in succoring these horses. If these rescued horses could speak, every one of them would say, "Thank you for going to the trouble to help me. I thought no one in this world cared!" As I sit here this evening, I am thinking about current investigations in Union, Davidson, Rowan and Stanley Counties. Animals are like children in that **it is our responsibility to take proper care of them.** What a better world it would be if everyone understood this!*

Caterpillar watch: The old wives tale is you can tell what the winter will be like from the caterpillars. A few weeks ago all the caterpillars were light colored and thin coated. Now that has changed, and all we are finding is 100% dark colored caterpillars with heavier coats. (Maybe they can't make up their minds what kind of winter it is going to be.)

They're Bold and Brassy Through & Through! By YumYum (with clerical assistance from Roberta McCardle)

Well! I'm an elderly pony and I thought I had seen it all. That is, until one recent Monday evening. Poor old Cherokee has only been with us a few weeks. He is doing great but is still a couple of hundred pounds underweight. The open spots on his skin are healing, he's steadily gaining ground, and he is finally starting to relax & feel safe. He's an elderly horse himself and as such, requires his beauty sleep. (How well I understand this!)

Just as the sun was sinking in the western sky I observed Aztec and Windwalker going up to the fence line by Cherokee's area. Initially, I thought that they were just being solicitous and sociable. That impression rapidly changed as I continued to watch the girls. They paced up and down the fence, swishing their tails with vigor and then looking over their shoulders to see if Cherokee was watching them. I heard Aztec say, "Hubba, hubba, big boy, have you ever seen a mare as gorgeous as I am?"

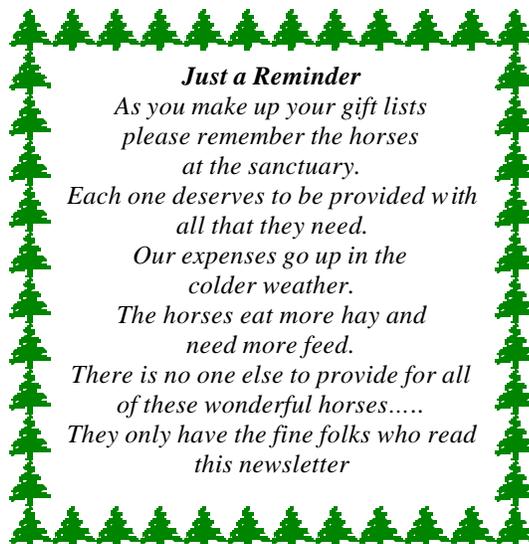
Windwalker, not to be outdone, said, "Bud, you and me could leave her in the dust. We could jump this fence in a New York minute. What 'cha say we get together and go star-gazing in the back pasture? Besides, she (with a toss of the head towards Aztec) wears hair extenders!"

Gentle Reader, these forward mares made me embarrassed to be of the equine race. What a lack of civility! How brazen! How unladylike! I breathlessly waited to see how Cherokee would handle this delicate situation.

Cherokee proved himself to be a horse of wisdom and great tact. The breeze carried his words over to my pasture, "Ladies, you are **both** gorgeous and full of wonderful mare qualities. I could never choose between such perfection. You are **both** sheer poetry in motion. You **both** have a pulchritude that is something to behold. You are **both** statuesque mares that anyone would be proud to call his friend. Please allow me to share my remaining alfalfa and we will toast our friendship."

With that, I saw Cherokee shove his alfalfa dish under the fence. Once presented with such tasty morsels, the mares immediately forgot about impressing Cherokee and fell to eating with robust appetites.

Later, after they polished off Cherokee's alfalfa, they returned to peacefully graze in their pasture. "What a gent!" Windwalker exclaimed, and Aztec nodded in agreement.



Just a Reminder
*As you make up your gift lists
 please remember the horses
 at the sanctuary.
 Each one deserves to be provided with
 all that they need.
 Our expenses go up in the
 colder weather.
 The horses eat more hay and
 need more feed.
 There is no one else to provide for all
 of these wonderful horses.....
 They only have the fine folks who read
 this newsletter*

Sunset From Page 1

We know where horses in Sunsets condition will end up if put on the auction block. The equine vet convinced the owner to turn the horse over to him. He contacted several gals that he knew were involved in the rescue of equine. The owner would not even give them one day to remove Sunset. One of them contacted HPS and arrangements were made to bring her to the sanctuary. She was being housed at one of the gal's property, but they could not keep her since a transfer to Germany was in the future.

September 17th Dr. Jonathan Featherstone did a pregnancy check. Her mammary glands were so swollen as to lead us to believe that she may be bred on top of everything else. I have to say that some of the members were hoping to have another foal here at the sanctuary. (I am going to keep a list of these folks, so that the next time there is all night foal watch, they can be the ones getting up every 45 minutes to check the mare.)

Sunset may have to have surgery to remove the bone chips if we cannot get them to dissolve or come to the surface. More x-rays will be needed in the future to determine her progress. Her care could be very expensive and this is going to take a long time.



Sunsets back legs could be very expensive and this is going to take a long time.

Please become a *Sponsor* for \$20 or more a month to help off set her care. *Gee! I left you hanging as to whether there is a*



**In Memory of
 Trish A Peterson
 By Catherine Briggs**



**In memory of
 Mystic Dream
 by Gayle Cannon**

Meet the Members...

Hi, my name is Ambe Lewis. In May 2001 my family made our first visit to HPS. My daughter Danielle, 11 at the time, had been driving us crazy with her dreams of owning her own horse. I had discovered HPS on the web and talked the family into riding out to check them out.

One of the HPS members gave us a tour and introduced us to several of the horses. Their stories broke my heart – how could someone tie up their horse with barbed wire, leave a horse with a broken knee to heal without medical attention, lock a horse in a 8X8 shed without food or water for days on end. As we listened my heart broke and upon getting back into the car to ride home Danielle burst into tears and stated emphatically that she was never going back. Sometime during the ride home, with my husband and I trying to reassure her of how lucky those horses were to have been rescued by HPS her attitude changed. She did ask to go back, and her and I returned the very next day.

Now each Sunday I rise early and make the forty minute drive to the ranch to be the Sunday breakfast waitress. Breakfast at the ranch is a two to three hour process for our thirty plus horses; each receiving a variety of vitamins, medicine and food specifically tailored to their needs. In addition to feeding I serve as the newsletter editor for HPS.

I originally began volunteering at HPS to learn more about horses, but the past three years have been an education for our entire family. Last November we were lucky to be able to bring two HPS residents home. Snowstorm and Salida are now members of the Lewis family. The foster care program has allowed me to fulfill a childhood dream of owning my own horse, and allowed Danielle the same dream come true. Even my husband Tim, and son Cody have grown to love our two new family members; and they are always eager to hear how our other "30 horses" are doing each Sunday when we return from the ranch.

I work a full time job and also volunteer as a Girl Scout Leader, Trainer, and Service Unit Director. My children are involved in sports and school activities, and its hard to always find the free time to spend at the ranch. But, every time I pull into that driveway and alight my vehicle to the nays and nickers of the HPS residents my heart lifts and life just seems smoother.

Join us at the ranch....you'll be amazed at how great it will make you feel!



Salida enjoys riding

Don't Forget to Update Food Lion Shop & Share for 2004!

HPS has re-enrolled in Food Lion's Shop & Share fundraiser program for 2004. This is an easy way for HPS to raise funds and does not impact on your MVP card savings -- you save exactly the same amount of money as always but the sales count toward a total for HPS (Food Lion donates a portion of our total sales to HPS). If you gave us your MVP card information previously, we will re-enroll you for 2004. **If you enrolled yourself online, then you will need to re-enroll your MVP card, designating HPS as the charity to benefit. The window of time for you to do this is October 1st - December 31st.** If you do not re-enroll, then your purchases will no longer count toward Food Lion's donation to HPS. The website is www.foodlion.com. Click on Shop & Share and follow the user-friendly directions. Remember, you will need to input your entire twelve digit MVP card number. This includes the little bitty numbers at each end. We are listed under North Carolina, China Grove, Horse Protection Society of NC (not HPS). Every bit helps and this is an easy fundraiser. A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who helps in this way! (YumYum says if he had an MVP card, he'd register it for us as well).

Absurdities at the Sanctuary

John Kiwacka was walking the horses out to Dr Jonathan Featherstone for their dental work. Dr. Jonathan Featherstone would give the horses a shot of "Happy Juice" to help them be less stressed during the procedures of grinding down their teeth. John was walking one of them back to their stall, and the horse was still quite out of it, staggering and swaying like a drunk. Dr. Featherstone said, "John, we declare you the designated driver."

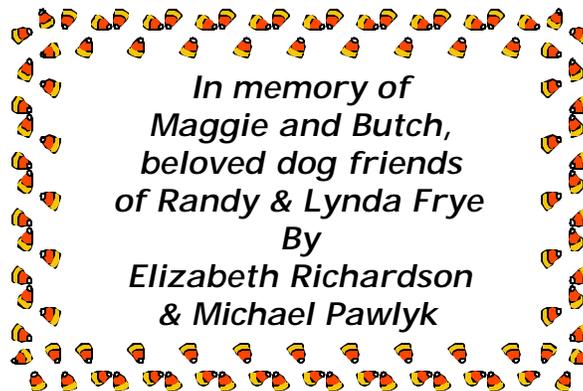
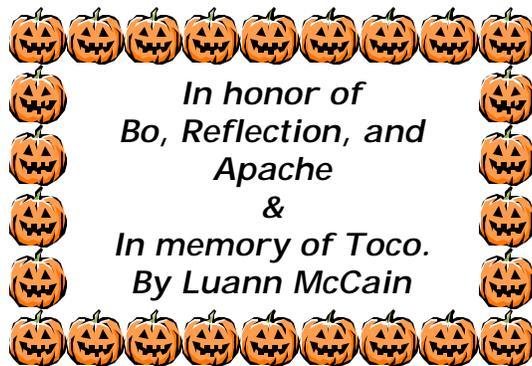
The necessity to pull one of Navajo's back teeth was a bit painful even thou he had been given a shot. When John returned Navajo to his stall to rest, he stepped on the front of John's foot and then made a face at John by raising his head and pulling his top lip up to show his teeth. Then when Navajo had recovered and John let him out of his stall, once again he made this face at John. Hummm! Do you think he stepped on John's foot on purpose and then was giving a horselaugh to him? We think so



The horses would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the following folks for helping them this month. Without you there would be no Horse Protection Society.

B. Robert's Food, Inc
 Joan Benson
 Cari Berns
 Helen & John Bishop
 Teresa & John Bonk
 Catherine & K.A. Briggs
 Ronald & Mary Britt
 Lucy Buchanan
 Angela Buchhop
 Jo Ann Burluson
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 Teresa & Curtis Shaffer
 Gail Shinn
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 Elizabeth & Timothy Summitt
 Elaine Duncan Towner
 Michael & Suzanne Webb
 Paul, Cindy & Jake Wilcoxon
 Sue Wortman
 Kim Wrenn



*Special thanks to Irwin Industrial Tools
 for photocopying the monthly newsletter.*

Donation Form:

Your name: _____ **Is this for a memorial donation?** Yes No

Your phone number: _____ **Whom do you wish to Honor:** _____

Your e-mail: _____ **Their e-mail:** _____

Their Address: _____

Your Message (for newsletter): _____

Any donation amount is appreciated: \$_____ Please make checks payable to **Horse Protection Society**.
 For a \$25 or more donation the honored person can receive a year of "Over Herd."
 Would you like the newsletter sent? Yes NO

Please clip and mail to: Horse Protection Society

**HORSE PROTECTION SOCIETY
OF NORTH CAROLINA INC.**

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Phone: 704-855-2978

Email: hps@horseprotection.org

Web site:

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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.

**Horse Protection Society
2135 Miller Road
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