

# Over Herd

Volume 8 Issue 10

**SAVE THESE DATES:**

Farrier & Volunteer  
Days:

Saturday,  
September 30<sup>th</sup>

Saturday,  
October 28<sup>th</sup>

We need all the hands we can get on these days. Please email HPS if you are able to attend for any length of time on either or both days. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Farrier Day is potluck. Bring your favorite dish to share!

[hps@horseprotection.org](mailto:hps@horseprotection.org)

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:**

...and he whispered to the horse, "trust no man in whose eyes you do not see yourself reflected as an equal."

~Unknown

## This month's featured horse: Salida

Salida (sah-lee-dah) is a pretty, medium-size, Quarterhorse mare that would love a home with lots of personal attention. Her lovely ground manners make her a favorite with the children that come to the sanctuary. At 16-years-old, she's an experienced trail horse, but we consider her too willful for the novice rider as she tends to get spoiled for her friends in the pasture.

Salida originally came to us when she and her friend Mancha were abandoned after a home foreclosure. Mancha and Salida found homes with different families. Several years later Salida's family no longer had the time needed to maintain horses and she came back to the sanctuary.



Laurianne helps Salida pose for the camera. Salida is in excellent health and eager for a home of her own.

Salida maintains excellent health and soundness. She is western trained and has been mainly trail ridden. She needs a person that likes a spirited horse and has plenty of time and love to devote to her.

## U.S. House Passes H.R.503 to Stop Horse Slaughter

HPS is not allowed, under federal law, to do anything to promote the passing or defeat of any bills. We can report the news that has taken place.

The U.S. House of Representatives has overwhelmingly passed H.R. 503. The Horse Slaughter Prevention Act will stop the slaughter of both domestic and wild horses for human consumption. The vote was 263 to 146. The public got behind this bill and caused the passing. There were two amendments introduced that would have gutted the bill. These were overwhelmingly defeated.

However, there are two more obstacles to come: the Senate has to pass the bill and then it will have to go to the president for signing.

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## Did You Know...

- Most foals are born at night under cover of darkness and away from prying eyes and possible danger.
- The best time of year for a foal to be born is in the spring, when the weather is at its kindest and the lush grass is at its best for the mares.
- A newborn foal can stand up within an hour of being born and can keep up with the rest of the herd within 24 hours!
- When first born, foals cannot eat grass because their legs are too long to reach it!

# Toxic Plants and Horses by Deborah Baker

A fellow horse owner recently tried to purchase some red maples for her barn area. Luckily for her, the nursery owner advised her to talk to her vet before buying the trees because Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*, is extremely toxic to horses.

With the increase of smaller farms and horse communities, grazing areas bordering home landscaping is becoming more commonplace. Many seemingly innocuous plants such as Red Maple, azalea, rhododendron, boxwood, English ivy, and yew are actually poisonous to horses. However, hundreds of plants are poisonous to horses and more detailed information can be obtained from your vet or local agricultural extension office. Here is a short list of plants to watch out for:

AZALEA	BLACK LOCUST	BLACK WALNUT	BOXWOOD
BUCKEYE	BRACKEN FERN	COCKLEBURR	CREEPING BUTTERCUP
CAROLINA JESSAMINE	CHERRY TREE	JIMSONWEED	MILKWEED
MOUNTAIN LAUREL	PIGWEEED	PLUM TREE	POKEWEED
OLEANDER	RED MAPLE	RHODODENDRON	SORGHUM
SUDAN OR JOHNSON GRASS		YEW	

Red Maple is thought to only be toxic to horses. Horses often die 18-24 hours after ingesting Red Maple leaves. Horses that survive the first 18-24 hours produce red or brown urine, seem depressed, exhibit blue gums and jaundicing of mucous membranes. Red Maple kills the red blood cells and horses succumb due to lack of oxygen. Unlike most toxic plants Red Maple leaves are palatable to horses. Early fall is the most dangerous time of year. Toxin levels increase through out the summer, and leaves are at their most lethal when they fall or begin to wilt.

Red Maple is most easily identified by its red petioles rather than by leaf color. Not all Red Maples turn red during the fall in the southeastern U.S. due to high summer temperatures. Conversely, not all maples with red leaves are of the *Acer rubrum* species, for example, the Norway Maple, *Acer plantanoides*, may also have red leaves.

Tree leaves from the *prunus* genera such as cherry, peach, and plum are also extremely dangerous to horses. After wind or rain damage to trees, branches break and leaves wilt. As the leaves wilt, they build up toxins that turn to cyanide in a horse's digestive tract. Death is rapid with few visible symptoms. Disposing of tree fallen or cut branches in your pasture can be dangerous. Horses may view the leaves as a treat or food and a small amount can be fatal.

Black Walnut tree, *Juglans nigra*, carries the toxin Juglone in its roots. This toxin affects the growth of plants and some plants may fail to flower near a Black Walnut tree. Black Walnut can become mixed in shavings used for bedding. Standing in shavings with only a 5-15% mixture of Black Walnut can cause swelling of the legs, laminitis, depression and respiratory problems.

We have witnessed the effects of this plant on horses first hand at...

*Continued on page 3.*

## Sweet Blackberry by Joanie Benson

Blackberry was off her feed and the next day she still was lethargic, so the vet was called. She was acting like a low-grade colic or the beginning of ulcers. She was treated and watched closely. The next morning she was staggering and uncoordinated. Once again, the vet was called. At that point the symptoms were more along the lines of a toxic poisoning. A blood panel was done and the liver was off the chart. The only kind thing to do was to let Blackberry go.

To be sure she had not gotten into something harmful on the property a necropsy was done. Her liver was way too small and brown showing long-term exposure to something toxic. We are waiting for test results that may show what she was exposed to.

Blackberry's former home had a car repair shop and the field had not been mowed in years. She could have been exposed to many different toxic plants or from something from the cars. Over the years she could have built a bad habit of eating something she should not have. We are working hard to find the cause so that we can continue to educate others. Sweet Blackberry will be missed.



Blackberry & Majestic

In the beginning, she was abused and she was neglected....  
Throughout it all, she was beautiful and brave...  
In the end, she was loved and she was cherished...  
In Eternity, she will always be Majestic.

~By Cindy Torba

Judi Kolkebeck has been  
honored by Nonnie & Ken  
Kolkebeck

In memory of Majestic and friends, from all of us.

### Going Home

By Susan E. O'Dell

Go rest now precious one,  
Your life in eternity has just begun,  
Now you can walk, your legs are brand new,  
All of heaven is now in your view.  
Look all around, it's all in your sight,  
There will never be another dark night.  
Flowers and jewels, the street of pure gold,  
And all of the things that have been told.  
I can just imagine the smile on your face  
as you walk all around in that beautiful place.  
Greeting our loved ones as you walk along,  
While singing heaven's most beautiful song.  
This is so very hard, but it will all be okay,  
It isn't goodbye, we'll see you one day.  
We love you and we'll miss you and at times it will be tough,  
But as with everything, God's grace will be enough.

**Continued from page 2 ...** the ranch. A few years ago a natural remedy was shipped to us as a gift with purchase. The remedy was marketed as a medication for proud flesh. A well intentioned member applied the product to Wild Flower's proud flesh area a few times. Within a week, her leg was swollen to the point that she could not stand or place her heel on the ground. Examination of the ingredients listed black walnut as a major component of the salve. Wild Flower's recovery from the medication took months.

Horses that have eaten azalea or rhododendron can show symptoms in 6 hours. Symptoms include tremors, a colicky appearance, and cardiac arrhythmia. Toxins cause both gastric and cardiac distress.

Tansy Ragwort a common weed-like plant with clusters of yellow daisy like flowers is commonly found in pastures and fields and along roadsides. Ingestion for several weeks or months can cause severe liver damage. Horses suffer diminished appetite, appear jaundiced, may walk in circles, stagger, and press their heads against fence posts or buildings.

Most poisonous plants are bitter therefore most horses will not eat them. However, horses, especially young ones, are curious creatures, and the toxicity rate in some plants is so high that even a few leaves may prove fatal. Age, size, and condition of a horse are all factors in the likelihood of fatality occurring. Horses in poor pasture with little or no grass are more likely to eat poisonous plants in their search for food. **Continued on page 4.**

## Have You Re-Linked Your MVP Card? by Roberta McCardle

Have you re-linked your Food Lion MVP card for 2007 yet? Time is rapidly passing and the year will be over before we know it! (**NOTE: If you previously gave HPS your MVP card number, then we still have it and we will do the re-linking.** This reminder is only for those folks who did NOT give HPS their number and did this on their own).

It only takes a few seconds to do this at [www.foodlion.com](http://www.foodlion.com) -- click on more information for the Shop & Share program and when that comes up click on re-link MVP card. You will then be prompted to enter your **twelve (12) digit** MVP card number and the first few letters of your last name. The computer pulls up your information & after confirming that the Horse Protection Society of NC is listed as your charity of choice, you hit "finished" and you're done & out of there!

**If you don't re-link by December 31st, your purchases in Quarter # 1 (Jan-Feb-Mar) will not count toward helping HPS! You can obtain MVP numbers (need address & phone # too) from friends, co-workers, etc. -- remember, you do not have to be a member to help in this way.** Don't forget to tell people that doing this does NOT affect their MVP savings in any way, shape, or form. The total of their purchases just counts toward the total for HPS. If someone is new to the program, it only takes a few more seconds to enter their information.

So.....the next time you see a member of the Fundraising Committee, proudly look them in the eye and say....."I've re-linked my MVP card!" Fire Breeze says **THANK YOU** and is delighted to learn of a fundraiser that involves food (Navajo thought this was a pretty great thing too).



**HORSE  
PROTECTION  
SOCIETY**

## **I'M BACK** by Joanie Benson

My trips out of town are always kept quiet. It had been over a year since I had a day off and Oh, did I need a vacation! Three whole weeks in Colorado!

It is wonderful how everyone who feeds the horses at the sanctuary pulls together to make my leaving possible. Deborah Baker took the lead to keep everything running smoothly. She had her hands full. Just the medical needs that arose would send some over the deep end.

Majestic had a bad turn and needed to have the vet several times. To everyone's sadness, the kindest thing to do was to let her go peacefully. Many of her loving friends were with her. Majestic has been a favorite of mine since the first day she arrived. She has taught us lessons we will never forget.

Snickerdoodle came down with a terrible infection in her hip area. We had been doctoring a spot that was healing slowly before I left, but no sign of infection. The heavy rain and high humidity set the stage for just the right conditions to cause an infection to get hold. Snickerdoodle has Cushing's which causes a compromised immune system. The other huge problem is the atrophied muscles from the fat that was present when she came to us. This has inhibited the blood supply to the area. We will know in the next few days if we can expect a good outcome or not.

Jingle Bells was kicked so badly that the vet had to be called. Skin had to be trimmed away and stitches could not be put in, but she is healing fine.

Then Seneca had a swollen sheath. He was not happy about having his sheath cleaned, so once again the vet needed to come.

Of course, there is always the medical needs that do not require the veterinarian, but have to be dealt with. As an example, Willow got stung by a wasp on her face and the area swelled. Most days there is something new to deal with.

Upon my return, Deborah kept saying over and over, "I don't know how you do it. I don't know how you do it."

My heartfelt thanks go out to each person that made my vacation possible.

There are also the funny moments. I received the following email: *Oh God, everybody scramble. Hide the evidence that all we did was party and overfeed the animals! Put Seneca on a diet. Hide the 300 grapefruits we got on sale for Dakota. Maybe we should free the vet we have shackled inside Sirius' dog house. Somebody's bound to come looking for him. Oh, yeah...cancel Nevada's dressage lessons. And we need to return the clown the carnival left behind when they absconded in the dead of night.*

### **The Phantom Volunteer**

*P.S. Can Joan hear yet? The plane ride stuffed up her ears. Yell real loud when you talk to her. TPV*

**Reminder: If you have email access and would prefer/be willing to receive your Over Herd issues via email, PLEASE contact Shelly Walsh at [shellywalsh@bellsouth.net](mailto:shellywalsh@bellsouth.net).**

**Emailing saves precious pennies for HPS!**

**Continued from page 3...** Awareness of plants and how they affect equines is an essential part of horse ownership. In my research, I came across an article written by a horse owner that had tied her horse to a China Berry tree during a break while riding. The horse ate the berries and was poisoned. Had the rider understood how dangerous this tree was the situation could easily have been avoided.

Learn symptoms of possible poisoning: excessive drooling, irregular urine or gum color, bloody stool, incoordination, rapid heartbeat or pulse. Beware of broadleaf evergreen shrubs, fruit or berry bearing trees, and maples.



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.

## Welcome to Our New Editor!

In August, HPS welcomed Shelly Walsh as our new editor for "OverHerd." Our long-time newsletter staff, Ambe & Dani Lewis, have retired from this function. Thank you both again for your service; job well done! Editing & publishing our newsletter is quite a task and a very important one. We needed to once again find a kindly & competent soul willing to devote time and attention to the horses' newsletter. As soon as she knew of our need, Shelly stepped forward. We are delighted to have her and would ask everyone to please support her in this endeavor. From Snickerdoodle (small) to Dakota (big), all the horses join us in saying, "THANK YOU, Shelly!"

## Food Lion Grocery Card Program

Thank you to all who participated in the Food Lion Grocery Card Promotion so far. A special thanks to: Kathy Norris, Phylis Bodnar, Gail Cannon, Gail Shinn, Mary Jurgel, Judy Witmer, Amy & Marsha Boger, Betty Lentz, Shari Penney. ALL 1ST TIMERS!! We hope you continue to support the horses at HPS by buying grocery cards every month. **Food Lion gave us \$200 this month.**

Remember, send your name, address, phone #, number of grocery cards needed and at what amount to Lisa Murray, Food Lion Grocery Card Coordinator, 1529 Mill Wheel Drive, Salisbury, NC 28146. Checks need to be made out to Horse Protection Society. All orders need to be received by the 1st of each month.

**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  
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 (please circle)? Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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 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: Horse Protection Society, 2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023

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## Horse Protection Society of North Carolina



2135 Miller Road  
China Grove, NC 28023

Phone: 704-855-2978  
Email: [hps@horseprotection.org](mailto:hps@horseprotection.org)

Check out our \*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Web site:  
[www.horseprotection.org](http://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»  
«Address»«F4»

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