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NEWSLETTER OF HORSE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA INC
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OVER HERD



2011



Here are two horses that came to the sanctuary within 24 hours of one another. The gelding on the left is not only severely starved, but also has a dangerous case of diarrhea. Read below left to see his story. The mare on the right had a perfectly fine body condition but her feet and hooves were so damaged that she had great difficulty standing, let alone moving. The majority of a horse's weight is carried on the front legs and feet; this poor girl's front feet hurt so badly that she tucked her hind legs under her in an attempt to carry her weight there. Read below right to learn what HPS had to do for her.

New Horse - Unknown Illness

By Joanie Benson

When a horse comes to HPS with diarrhea, there can be many causes of this symptom, and the horse must be isolated for the safety of the other residents. Some causes are *colitis – X*, *endotoxaemia*, *intestinal clostridiosis*, *poisoning*, *rotovirus*, *salmonellosis*, *neoplasia*, *malabsorption syndrome*, or something as simple as *parasitic infestation*. All of the conditions can cause death and it is very important to treat a horse with diarrhea. This gelding was started on his first meal with MMS mixed with citric acid because that is our best chance of killing a viral infection in his intestines; he will be given it twice a day for seven to ten days.

The next morning he received his first small amount of dewormer (Ivermectin, as it is the only effective dewormer), and then in four or five days, he had a second, small amount of the same dewormer. A week later, he will receive a full dose of the dewormer, followed a month later by another full dose of Ivermectin. If his diarrhea is caused by parasite overload and we had immediately dewormed him with a full dose, he could have developed an impaction colic that, because of his weakened condition, he might have been unable to recover from.

The previous owner indicated that his veterinarian thought the diarrhea was caused by malabsorption syndrome. I don't think so. I think it is stress, ulcers and parasites coupled with

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Another Crippled Horse From Iredell County

By Joanie Benson

The family that had this horse has been reported to both HPS and to Iredell County Animal Control many times in the past. Their horses are usually right on the borderline - not good, but not bad enough that Animal Control can do anything about it, *based on NC law*. People like this will sometimes do better for a while but then things go bad again.

This time they did surrender a horse to Animal Control! It hurts us to see a horse suffering as this pretty mare did, and this Appaloosa could have been a real beauty. However, she was terribly foundered! The lack of hoof trimming then caused additional suffering in this poor mare. Her front hooves were so bad that one of the Animal Control (AC) officers took off a great deal of the overgrown hooves so she could walk and stand a little bit more comfortably, but there was truly no comfort for her. AC had to drug her to get her on their trailer; she was reluctant only because she had to walk to get on the trailer, and walking was painful. One of her front hooves looked as if the coffin bone (a bone in the hoof) had a great deal of disintegration and had actually dropped. The other foundered front hoof had ringbone (a condition where there is bone growth in the pastern or coffin joint). She was about 12 to 15 years old and had been born on the people's property, but had never even been halter-trained.

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New Horse (cont'd from front page)

poor feeding practices. The last time he was dewormed was March (six months ago) and who knows with what! The owner expected him to do well only on pasture, but when he brought him up and fed him a feed, the gelding gained weight and did well. Then when he was turned back out with the other three horses on pasture, he would lose weight; he was the lowest horse in the group which can cause a great deal of stress. Stress, in turn, causes ulcers, so he is now on Aloe Vera juice to heal them.

Kathy Haw, a longtime member and friend of HPS, called me from the owner's property after seeing the horse and the trouble he was in. She had gone with a friend who was looking for a new horse to ride. The owner had told Kathy that the horse was thin when he got him and that he had a very bad colic. Hmm! Do you think he may have already had ulcers? That was two years ago. Horse ownership is very expensive, and many owners cannot afford to provide all that their horses need. The owner had bloodwork done and was told to put the horses on some type of supplement, but he could not remember what was recommended. The skinny gelding had projectile diarrhea.

After seeing this horse, Kathy called me, and then after talking with her, it was evident that this horse needed us or his life might not be saved. Kathy has helped at the sanctuary for over ten years and knew what she was looking at. And I trusted her judgment. Kathy went back the next morning with her trailer to pick the poor horse up and bring him to the sanctuary.

This thin sorrel Quarter Horse gelding is supposed to be only about ten years old. The owner cut his tail short because the diarrhea continually left his tail caked with manure and he didn't want to have to clean it all the time. The poor horse's back legs were also caked with dried manure, and cleaning the legs has to be done with great care. Often the hair will be burned off the legs from the acid in the diarrhea. The gelding currently has a body score of two, but we are hoping for a full recovery. There is a long list of supplements that we will use to aid in his ability to come back to full health.

This poor rescued horse is going to cost a great deal of our financial resources to reach a full recovery. Please help with his care. If you can be his Angel Sponsor, we will let you know what name he chooses once he is strong enough to care about that.

Another Crippled Horse (cont'd from front page)

As if this poor pathetic creature did not have enough problems, she also had a squamous cell carcinoma right next to her eye in the soft pink flesh. This would have been annoying to her at best, but more likely caused her additional pain.

After she came to us, she had a couple of days to be well fed and brushed and loved on. Then we kindly let her pass on.... This last act of kindness should have been done years ago if her owners were not going to provide the care she needed. She should never have been allowed to suffer - she could have been a wonderful horse. Suffer no more my pretty girl!

Editor's note: Sometimes we take in a horse who appears to be beyond help, but we try anyway. Every horse who comes to HPS with problems like this mare gets seen by our vet, and if the first impression is validated through examination and appropriate tests, we will take on the additional expense to do the Right Thing. Such was the case with this beautiful Appaloosa mare.

If you can help us with her vet expenses, even though it's after the fact, we would be grateful

Memorials

In memory of Dakota, our Big Red One—October 2, 2007

"Sweet is the memory of distant friends!
Like the mellow rays of the departing sun,
It falls tenderly, yet sadly, on the heart."

Miss you, Big D!
Love always, Roberta

In memory of Maggie who brought great joy to her human partner, Tracy Byrnes, as well as to her "grandparents" Marilyn & Harry Swimmer.

By Janet & Lou Elmo

HPS OFFICERS

The HPS Officers meet once each month, generally on the second Sunday, to discuss the day-to-day running of the sanctuary, to make recommendations and vote on ways to manage the many responsibilities that comes with as large a herd as this. If you would like to get more involved, please contact any of the officers.

President	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Cathy Lambert	704-660-9121	catherinelambert@windstream.net
Recording Secretary	Norma Miller	704-542-6162	kz5nm@juno.com
Corresponding Secretary	Jennifer Zirt	704-433-8057	jzirt68@carolina.rr.com
Executive Director	Joanie Benson	704-855-2978	hps@horseprotection.org
Newsletter	Janet Elmo	704-843-2073	janet48@windstream.net
Web Administration	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com
Web Administration	Stephanie Mills	704-560-9712	slmills@windstream.net
Feeding Schedule	Joanie Benson	704-855-2978	hps@horseprotection.org
Stallion to Gelding Support	Janet Elmo	704-843-2380	stalliontogelding@gmail.com
Riding Program Coordinator	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com
Historian	Karole Northrup	704-932-1726	knorthrup@windstream.net

What a Month!

By Joanie Benson

The first part of the month was taken up with trying to balance the feeding schedule with the folks coming to help us get ready for the Tack Sale. Lynne with Equestrian Exchange came and picked up everything that was left over after the sale; those items will be sold at their sales events through the next year. HPS is still getting checks from items we turned over to them from our first Tack Sale last year. Of course the amounts have grown smaller, but what a blessing when the checks do come!

We always welcome tack donations of all types. Fall is a great time to clean out the tack room and send the unneeded items to HPS. We are always in need of supplies, and anything we can use will be kept for use with the horses.

During this time, Cinder started another low-grade gas colic that progressively got worse even with veterinarian visits and days of doctoring. She had four or five episodes that we were able to nurse her through this summer. We realized that something was very wrong inside Cinder to cause this ongoing issue. It was heartbreaking as the days went by, with periods of relief thinking she was getting better, to the next day when her discomfort returned, to the final day when there was no hope left. It affects each of the gals who work so hard to care for your horses.... The hours that they willingly walked Cinder without complaint while we waited for the vet to arrive, mixing special feed for her to make it easier on her digestive system, giving her meds to ease her pain - then to lose the battle. It's very hard on all of us. We had no choice but to let her go. Something was very wrong inside of her that just could not be fixed.



Cloud

It was the month of puncture wounds. Who knows what the horses do at night that causes these issues. Cloud and Salida (both are available for placement) healed up without problems from the good care they received. Then Durango got a puncture wound on his face below his eye. It was not healing as it should and there was a continuing discharge from the nostril below his wound. Since it is dove hunting season and there has been a good deal of gunfire,



Salida

Deborah felt he might have a pellet in his head. So once again the veterinarian was called, this time to do head digital radiographs. The good news is that he did not have a pellet in his head, but there was a small broken bone or piece of cartilage. (Hard to tell which it was.) More antibiotics had to be purchased. The good news is Durango is healing up fine now. Sunrise had her eye checked while the vet was here, and she had a tiny, tiny piece of something in her eye that had to be removed. Each month there are things that make it necessary to call in the veterinarians. More (necessary) bills.

The abuse calls are already building and it is not even fall yet. An 80 plus year-old woman has a horse with terrible dropped pasterns that needs to be put to sleep. Of course, she will not turn the horse over to us, or do the right thing by this poor thin painful horse. She tells me she cannot afford to feed the horse more, but then talks about how she loves sweets and buys cake and other sweets for herself. Animal Control has been there, but they are not going to take the horse away from what seems like a nice old lady.

Then there was the guy whose horses are not bad enough to take away from him, but are thin. He keeps them tied on ropes in an open area. They may or may not be able to get to their water and there is no hay and he is feeding sweet feed. He was planning on taking one horse to Love Valley to ride all day Saturday. All we can do is try to educate and get through to him about correct feeding and not riding his horse until it is in better health.

New horse owners drive me crazy especially when they have no idea about horses or their care, but get them anyway. They do not have the money to call in a veterinarian if there is an issue, which there was with both horses. One was a tiny thin young horse, not even 4 years old, with the look of not being fed right all his young life. Who knows what heavy idiot started him under saddle and destroyed his tendons! His pasterns were parallel with the ground. The new owners told me the man who had him weighed about 165 pounds and rode the little thing. Horse #2 was a broken down Thoroughbred ex-race horse. Her fetlock joints were full of arthritis and she was in terrible pain. The good news is the owners were reasonable people and the two horses will suffer no more but it is a terrible ending that didn't have to be. Education can make the difference!

Monthly Donations & Contributors

We are most grateful to the wonderful contributors who provided donations of tack for our Tack Sale Fund-Raiser last month. And to our donors who keep our sanctuary going with their generosity - you are our lifeblood, allowing us to be the same for the all-too-many horses in dire need.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Barbara Abraham
Lorrie H. & Robert Allen
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Helen & John Bishop
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Honors

In honor of Jayne Ortiz's birthday.
By Inger Leo

It's very easy to honor or memorialize a friend, loved one or special someone. Simply put a note in the envelope along with your donation, and HPS will do the rest. Not only will your gift be acknowledged in the pages of *Over Herd*, but your honoree or family of the memorialized will receive a personal note advising of your thoughtfulness. And, in the process, you will be helping to save a life or at least provide loving respite from an intolerable situation.

Just send your check and note to:
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China Grove, NC 28023

Donations received before the 20th of the month will appear in the next month's *Over Herd*.

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The People's Corner

Health Tips from Joanie Benson

Coming to you from Joanie's personal experiences or research

This month, I want to talk about how each of us can help the U.S. economy. It is a very simple solution and each one of us can make it possible to fix at least one of the problems in this country. BUY ONLY THINGS MADE IN THE U.S! Even in the grocery store we can make a difference. I picked up Nature's Place organic pumpkin seeds. On the front was printed USDA organic. I did not look at the back until I had opened the package - "Product of China" was on the back. I was upset with myself for not checking before buying!

Think about this: would companies come back to the U.S. if the citizens refused to buy things that are not made in this country? We do have power and we need to use it to solve at least two big issues in this country: unemployment and the amount of debt we owe to other countries for the products we purchase. I, for one, plan to be a better shopper. Will you join me in this effort?