



OVER HERD

Out of the Mountains

This is a horrendous story and though very sad, it is one that we at HPS felt deserved to be front and center. If only to honor this horse and others who shared, or are still sharing, his situation. Unfortunately, it is not a unique occurrence for us here at HPS or those at other rescue organizations. Here is the story of the noble 'King James'.

On so many days it seems as if the phone and emails will not stop. "I need to have you take a horse(s)....." "There are horses starving to death....." I ask if they can send pictures and the horse(s) may be a little thin, but not starving. They are usually in the body score of a 4 and HPS can't intervene in those situations.

Each request is taken very seriously and sometimes it is a real starvation case. I received a call from a nice gal from Florida who had been visiting in Mitchell County, NC and was introduced to a starved older Tennessee Walker that the owner would not release to an equine rescue; only to a private person. Someone else had tried for years to get help for this poor horse that had been living on whatever it could find in an overgrown weed field owned by a pastor and his wife with the only shelter being a dilapidated barn full of hazards. Animal Control was called many times but would do nothing for this poor animal.

For almost five years this horse was in dire condition and finally there was a chance to get him out of this horrible starvation situation.

I am sure that seeing this starved horse would pull on most peoples' hearts. Our young friend from Florida said, "I will take him and transport him to Florida." This was enough for the owner to sign the horse over to our concerned citizen. We can only imagine how good it must have felt to finally be able to move this emaciated horse off that weed field and provide clean water, a stall, a grassy field, hay and feed.

On September 18th, a veterinarian was called to relieve a choke and checked the Tennessee Walker over. He did a Coggin's test and health certificate to get ready for the trip to Florida.

It did not take long for our Florida friend to realize that a horse whose condition was so poor did not have much chance of surviving the long trip to Florida. She was told about the Horse Protection Society and gave us a call and sent a picture. "Yes, we would take him in at the sanctuary. It's time his suffering stopped." Arrangements were made with our 'concerned citizen' to arrange for his delivery to the sanctuary in five days. He was a long ride away in Mitchell County so I instructed the folks to put lots of hay on the floor of the trailer and not to tie him. I asked many other questions but the folks knew nothing about horses and could not answer them with any accuracy.

A stall was prepared and everything was ready for his arrival at HPS. As he stepped off the trailer, our hearts sank. He was one of the worst Degenerative Suspensory Ligament Desmitis (DSLSD) horses that we had ever seen. His pasterns had dropped on all four legs and two fetlock joints almost touched the ground. We named him 'King James' knowing he would have to be let go. He had a few days to be fed and loved which was something he had not experienced in a long time.

I was so mad at the veterinarian that had treated the poor suffering horse and had *NEVER MENTIONED THE DSLSD!* He told the people to monitor for weakness, poor appetite and fever and that he needed to have his teeth floated and sheath cleaning. How could he miss the way this horse was suffering? Maybe it had to do with the fee he charged that would have been half that amount if he put the old horse down. Or maybe he was just ignorant.

Finally I called the veterinarian and asked why he never mentioned the DSLSD to the owners when he knew that they did not have any knowledge about horses. His answer was that he was called to take care of a choke. I don't think he knows what DSLSD is! I told him that the horse came to HPS and we ended the horse's suffering by putting him down. I strongly inferred that in the future he tell owners that their horse was in a great deal of pain and suggest they let the horse go. He said, "I will take it under advisement." And how did the farrier miss this??

Dr. Bob Gochnauer was appalled by the condition of the horse. Your suffering is over 'King James' and may you rest in peace.



Could Be A Beauty

Compassion is not always enough! You come across a horse in terrible condition and your heart will not let you leave or think through the situation. All you can think is, 'I have to get this animal out of this place.' This is not the first person that it has happened to nor will it be the last.

This sweet older gray Saddlebred gelding was with a single mom in Stanley County. There were not enough funds to care for the horse and though she knew this, as with many people, she could not let go of the horse.

They rationalize that the horse is old, or that they have no idea who to call for help and they fear that they will be charged by law enforcement because of the condition of the horse. Single moms are often so overwhelmed that they are not dealing well with anything in their life. They can just go through the motions of each day, but never resolve problems as they worsen. Sometimes the horse is a reminder of life when it was better. Letting go becomes almost impossible.

When a good Samaritan made an offer to take the horse it seemed like a very good idea to this single mom. Very few people have any idea what it will cost or how to bring a starved horse back to health, and often the spouse is not consulted until the horse arrives. Then the bills start to flow in and reality hits. Now they are in the same position that the previous owner had been. What to do with the starved horse that you cannot afford to do everything that needs to be done? Once a horse has fully recovered, we will not take them at the sanctuary.

In this case the second family did the right thing and called HPS. They sent pictures and we agreed to take in this sweet horse. They even brought him to the sanctuary. It was obvious that his pasterns had a slight drop in the back as soon as he got off the trailer. We will just have to wait and see how he does as he gains his weight back.

(Cont. on Page 4)

News from the Herd

Spirit had two cankers that were found while cleaning his hooves. They were caught early so Dr. Meeker had an easy time removing them. Spirit spent the night at the vet hospital and then was kept for a time in the small front field. Spirit also had a urinary infection that can take a while to clean up.

River also visited Dr. Meeker to have digital radiographs done of his hooves. He has a recurring abscessing in both front hooves. The infection has been going on long before he came to the sanctuary and has caused some remodeling of the coffin bones. Most horses that come to the sanctuary have some abscessing to rid their body of built up toxins as they gain their health back. River has very thin soles and we are hitting the infection in his hooves hard. He has to stay in the hospital stall for at least a month. He can go to the indoor area for exercise to keep him from stocking up.

Sunrise had a bad choke, but it was quickly resolved, by Dr. Mary. Of course, it took place on a Saturday evening which not during normal business hours and cost much more.

Sonoma has tested positive for EPM and is on the 10 day treatment. We also had a full blood panel done to try and figure out why he is just not gaining the last of his weight. The only tip off we had that he may have EPM was a slight weakness in his hind quarter.

Stetson missed one of the days for his EPM treatment and then went on a 30 day treatment with a different medication, but still was not right. He is now on a 14 day treatment with the original 10 day medication. It is so important to make sure that medications are never missed.

You can learn more about EPM, the testing for all three types of protozoal and the treatment: <http://pathogenes.com/>
Aurora somehow cut the inside of the top of a front leg. It was very deep and just missed the bone. It took a number of stitches to close the wound, which Aurora proceeded to pull out over the next few days. 40 year old Aurora has a compromised immune system due to the Cushing's and the hot humid weather added to the instant infection in the now open wound. To top things off, she did not want to eat her feed with the meds in it. When you try to put medication down her throat she will rear up. It has been a real challenge to wash out her wound many times a day and to get her medications down her. The good news is that all of the effort is paying off. The wound is healing from the inside out, but we are still fighting an infection, but it is not as bad as it was after she first ripped out the stitches. She will have to stall up in the hospital stall until she heals.

Tacoma had an eye examination and he had a small ulcer that cleared quickly with good treatment.

This has been a very expensive mouth for veterinarian fees. Any help is always greatly appreciated!

Honors and Memorials

In memory of the Chestnut Gelding, 'King James'. Surrounded by HPS Angels he went to the Rainbow Bridge to
RUN FREE. By Dianne Doub

In memory of my sister, Loretta Campbell. By Barbara Campbell

In memory of Evelyn Hansen. By Elkay Manufacturing Company

In memory of the great Dakota AKA "Big Red One," October 2, 2007.
Always remembered, always missed. By Roberta

In memory of Lazarus. By Janet Elmo

In memory of Evelyn A. Hansen. By Jo Kobler

In memory of Evelyn A. Hansen. By Ralph B. Alexander



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Could Be A Beauty (Cont. from Page 2)

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So far he has not wanted to pick a new name.... more interested in eating his hay and nibbling on the grass in the round pen. The horses have to start off in the round pen with an attached stall until he is fully dewormed. He has a fat belly that normally indicates a heavy parasite infestation. Deworming has to be done slowly over a few weeks to keep the horse from having an impaction colic. He should be out of the round pen before the end of the month. Then he will have the small field in front of HPS. As he improves we will find a another horse to put in with him in the hope they will become buddies.



2015 HPS Calendar



It's that time of year when HPS announces the new calendar! The cost will once again be \$19.95 and the postage for one calendar will be \$3.25 and for 2 calendars the postage will be \$3.75. In the 2015 version, we've made two changes. First, the paper will be easy to write on with a normal pen for making notes on the calendar and second, the numbers on the calendar are larger and easier to read from a distance. We will have a limited number of calendars for sale, so order early. Shipping will start by the second week in October. This can take care of your Christmas shopping in one easy way and aid the rescued horses. Just mail your check to *Horse Protection Society, 2134 Miller Road, China Grove NC 28023*