



Over Herd

September 2003

Volume 5, Issue 9

Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc.

2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023

(704) 855-2978

On the Web at:

www.horseprotection.org

and www.angelfire.com/nc/horseprotsocnc/

Mark your Calendars:

September 13th

Members Day

Come early, stay late!

Lots of projects to
help out with.

Lunch and

Meeting at Noon

Please bring a covered
dish to share.

Cherokee's Story

By Joan Benson

No matter how many horses we get that are a bag of skin and bones, it is still scary. Each has their different problems to overcome to be able to survive. Cherokee is at least 48 years old. His top teeth are about a quarter of an inch long and the bottom teeth are less than a half-inch. Interestingly, he is still a stallion. He was so thin and poor that this was not noticeable for the first few days. Dr. Parker informed us he had not been gelded on day two at the sanctuary.

A call alerted us to a horse located on the coast that had been dumped on a friend. Some people called her friend and said, "We have a 20 year old horse that is a little thin." The good-hearted gal agreed to take in the horse at her stable. Once he was off the trailer, and she could see the horrific condition the horse was in she said, "No, she was not prepared to take care of a horse in such terrible condition." The person hauling him refused to take him back.

The horse went down three times, and they had a terrible time getting him to his feet again. The stable owner's friend went on the search to find a place for him. She was concerned that he would die soon if he did not receive

help quickly. After about a week they found us and delivered him to the sanctuary the following day. Cherokee was literally on his last leg.

Ryan and Jarrett named him Cherokee the day he arrived. He had terrible diarrhea, even the flexor muscles, tail muscles and most of his other muscles had been reabsorbed by his body. He was not even strong enough to draw up his male part. His skin, like many older people, will break open or knick open with the slightest knock or rub on the ground. Rain rot had spread even to his belly area, over his hips and on across his whole back. Old injuries are apparent everywhere on his body... ring-bone, front bowed tendons, huge scapes on his back hocks and smaller scapes up and down his legs.

Cherokee went down and Ann Powlas was here to lend a hand until the vet came. He had become dehydrated and we had to use a large syringe to get water in his mouth and down his throat. (He is still mad at me.) But we were able to get him on his feet by the time Dr. Robin Smith arrived so she could tube him to get more fluids into him. **See Cherokee Page 3**



Cherokee has already begun to regain his lost health

New Name and a New Start...

By Ryan Johnson (18)

Hey ya'll, my name is Ryan Johnson, and I have been a member of HPS since February 2003. I really enjoy being around the horses and it's a blessing to be making a difference in their lives – it's a blessing to me too.

A couple of weeks ago we got a new horse. He was so skinny and weak he could barely lift his head up or walk. He reminded me of the pictures I had seen of the Cherokee Indian tribe on the "Trail of Tears." I asked Jarrett Biggers (12), Kathy's youngest son if Cherokee was a good name for the horse, and he agreed. Then we told Kathy, Dottie, and Joanie what we wanted to name the horse and they also thought it was a good idea.

So that is the story of how Cherokee got his name. Now that he is in our care he should get stronger and healthier, but his name will still fit as a symbol of the Cherokee people's will and strength to survive through all the hardships they endured.

Hoofbeats **By: Roberta McCardle**

Fall is coming! It's my favorite time of year so I always eagerly look for signs that it is truly on the way. The arrival of fall signals some beautiful weather but it also means a return to regular schedules, etc. The children are back in school; vacations and special events are over. Many folks are unable to come to the ranch as regularly as in the summer due to altered schedules, childcare responsibilities, etc. If you are one of these folks, please know that you have been missed and that the horses need you! Besides the regular ranch work to be done, each horse needs individual attention. Even if your time is limited, please come on out and spend it with a horse. It will make their life better and yours as well.

**Happy Birthday Diane Pelleteir
From Christine, Sage, Pam, Nancy,
& all your 4 legged friends.**

**In honor of all active members who work
tirelessly and diligently to help the horses.
By Dale Thompson**

A Heart Wrenching Day By Joan Benson

August 22nd another thunderstorm moved in right at feeding time. I suggested to Roberta to take cover and let the storm pass before feeding the horses. The worst of the storm passed and I headed for the woods to bring in the rest of our older ladies and guys. It worries me when they are in the woods during a storm. Wrangler broke out of a sheltered area just as I came across the pond dam startling both of us. All of them were safe, and we headed for the barn so they could be fed.

Later Roberta remarked that Dizzy, happily munching hay, was a horse of a different color since she was now soaking wet. I couldn't help but think how pretty she looked out in the field. What a gentle giant! I know that moment in time is etched in both Roberta's and my memory forever. Later that evening when another storm swept through, Dizzy was killed by a lightning strike that hit near her.

Dizzy stole the heart of everyone who met her. The death of a horse here is like losing a family member. Each horse is special and important to each of us. I have never known a horse like Dizzy and it has been a real pleasure that has ended all too soon.



Dizzy, our gentle giant

The rest of Saturday is a haze until evening feed. Whisper had not been eating his evening meal as well as we would like. Most of the horses had chosen to stay in their stalls or the barn during the heat of the day. Whisper was no exception, and I went back out to make sure he had gone out to the field. He and Night Mist were slowly grazing together and enjoying the cooler evening in the field. A little after 8:00 pm, I wanted nothing more than some dinner and mindless TV. But for some reason... I headed back out to check on Whisper one more time. I found him down in the field in terrible distress. Frantic calls were made to the emergency vet answering service demanding a vet NOW!

(This is not like me, but with his breathing problems I did not feel confident to give Whisper anything to relieve his stress.) Finally a call back, and the veterinarian on call was already dealing with another emergency. The Doctor was not comfortable with prescribing any medication to help Whisper until he was examined. A call was put out for one of the other vets. This was not colic, but something dreadful had accrued with Whisper. A half-hour later as I sat alone in the field trying to comfort Whisper, he quietly passed on.

We send our love and prayers with you. Run free pretty Dizzy and stately Whisper in the hills of heaven till we all meet again.

Our Veterinarians recommended that a necropsy be done on Whisper to determine the cause of death and to insure the safety of the herd. The state of NC provides this service in Monroe, NC for a charge of \$55.00. We will give you an update of their findings next month.

My Hero **By Mary Walters**

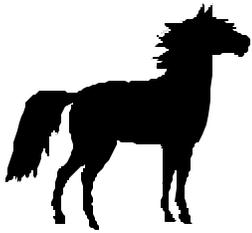
One Sunday morning as I was having my morning coffee, I opened the newspaper to see the article about HPS. Being a horse lover and a real tender heart, the picture of Maya played on my mind.

Monday I started my journey and met Joanie, Sue and the most incredible horses I have ever known. I went out everyday to see Maya until she left us. It was then that I realized how Whisper had a hold on my heart for his heroic actions guarding and protecting Maya through her illness. Our hearts meshed the day that Maya left us. He laid his head on my chest and stayed there. From then on he was mine.

Over the past year, I have cared for him and promised to help him be the proud horse he once had been. Whisper was dignified and his stature showed it. But it was his heart and compassion that drew me to him. Our love was because of his nurturing spirit. Even with all of his health issues, he always looked out for the other horses in his field. What a kind gentle soul! Even with his passing our connection will never be broken. Whisper.... you will always be my "love."



Goodbye Whisper



News From The Herd

The Herd is looking very good and have made a great turn around from the hard winter and poor hay. We are thankful that Harold Speck has been able to put up some great hay and has been supplying your horses' hay. What a difference that has made for all the horses! We have had more grass in our field than ever before since it rains almost everyday.

Perry Morgan

mowed the big field for us and the grass just keeps growing. The horses love the grass and clover!

We only had one horse that showed slight signs of thrush Aug. 16 when the horses were trimmed. Our **Hoof Care Specialists** are a God send to the horses. Last year six horses had to be put in sling to be trimmed. Now none of the horses need to use the sling. The correct balancing of the hooves has been wonderful for the horses.

Night Mist continues to recover from her liver problems. There is a strong likelihood that the cause was from a fungus on the white clover in her field. This is only a problem when there is continual rain and dampness.

Once a month a very nice group of gals come to the sanctuary to practice Healing Touch with some of the horses with on going problems. The horses worked with are always very relaxed and happy after the sessions are done.

Teton, Sugar Foot, Willow and Cherokee's rain rot has been greatly helped by a product recommended by Sharon Kotrabo and purchased by Elizabeth Richardson for the horses.

Moonglow did something to one eye, she had a small rip in the lid and also inflammation in the eye. We have treated her with antibiotic ointments and she is healing nicely.

John Kiwacka rented a Bobcat and **Charlie Brown** cleared most of the problem areas. (The chances have now been lowered that we will lose one of our members in the mud.) This is much better for the horses, too. Big thank you guys for your hard work to clear the mud!

Cherokee... from page 1

Today his intake of water has improved, his appetite is unflagging, and he is gaining weight faster than we thought he would. He has had his first worming, and the skin lesions are healing. He now can swish his tail a bit, some of the flexor muscles have returned, the fat line is a quarter of the way up his rib cage, and we are praying for a full recovery. Cherokee has won the heart of everyone who has met him. This fine old gentle quarter horse has a strong will to survive..... Hummm... I wonder if it has anything to do with him eyeing the girls on the other side of the fence.

In honor of HPS a \$45.00 donation was made by Courtney and Jori Alascio. (From a little help from our friends.) HPS is blessed to have wonderful young people who love the horses.

William Scarlett III has honored his sons, James of Charlotte and William IV of Vermont, and would like to express how proud he is of them.

Kill Those Tapeworms

It is about time that the companies developed a dewormer for tapeworms. For years the only choice was a double dose of Rotectin 2 or Strongid paste wormer. This was expensive and a worry to put that much chemical in the horses at one time.

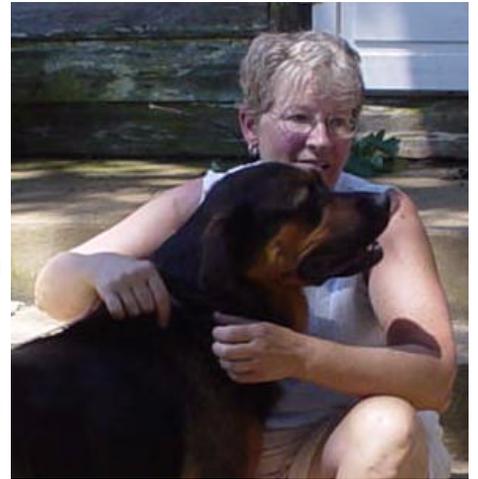
Four companies are now marketing a wormer with added chemical to kill tapeworms in horses. The companies are combining their present chemicals with praziquantel to now add tapeworms to the list of parasites killed in one dose. The FDA approved Zimecterin Gold April 2003 under Merial's development. Pfizer will market Equimax. Quest also has their version. The recommendations are for a twice a year worming with this product, spring and fall. Cost varies from where you order. We found the wormer for just under \$20.00 a tube and the lowest of \$11.45 through Jeffers or Country Supply over the Internet. Equimax will worm a horse of 1,320 pounds. We hope everyone will make this a part of their deworming program for their horses.

This is an important new development to benefit horses. Tapeworms are more of a problem than people realize since they seldom will be detected in a standard egg count from the horses manure. Scientists have studied and found that certain types of colic and telescoping intestines can often be contributed to tapeworms. There are other health issues that they can contribute to. HPS has always wormed once a year for tapeworms.

Many horse owners have never realized the threat these parasites can cause to their horses. Thanks to our caring members, we have been able to ordered 35 tubes of Equimax for the horses this year at a cost of over \$400.00.

Meet the Members...

Hi, I'm Sue Wortman and I have been a member of the Horse Protection Society for 3 years. When I started at HPS I thought I could just jump right in and start taking care of the horses. Then I realized that I was very intimidated by how big the horses were and slowly gravitated toward the ranch's dog Wooly since I know more about dogs than horses. Over the years I have become the "Dog Lady". I helped with Wooly when it was time to take him to the groomer or when he needed to go to the vet. I have assisted with Tundra and the puppies when they needed to be taken to the vet for shots. I helped Joanie take the last two puppies to Lori-Jo's Animal Sanctuary in Moorseville and was thrilled to bring Sirius back to be Joanie's house mate. Driving Wooly and doing errands for Joanie was the beginning of my other job, the DOT (the department of transportation). I help out with picking up small amounts of feed, medication, etc. I also help with the Tuesday evening feeding and I am one of Bo's sponsors. It has been a wonderful privilege to be a member of HPS and to know that I can make a difference in an animal's life. To witness the condition the horses are in when they come to the ranch and watch them come back to health is amazing and truly gratifying. Come and join us in making a difference. You will never regret one moment.



Sue is definitely one of Sirius favorites

Let's Go to School! By YumYum (with a little clerical assistance from Roberta McCardle)

Fall is not quite here yet but we all know it's coming. The whole herd is eager for a change in the weather -- you know what I mean... that one day comes when you just feel so ALIVE and energized, like one of the farriers put rocket-juice on your hooves. The cooler weather makes us all sharper mentally as well. I recently polled the herd about the kinds of things that they would like to study with some pretty interesting results. You may think that we are just an attractive bunch of hay-eaters but there is far, far more to us than that. Here's what our guys said:

Navajo - "Oh, I want to learn to be a locksmith. Then, no matter how the two-leggers secure the barn feed room, I can get in." (Note: Navajo is the reason for two clips on the barn feed room door).

Firebreeze - "I want to get in the longshoremen's union. Not so much for the great pay (though that would be nice) but to work on the docks when they are bringing in those huge ships loaded with bananas from South America. (Note: Firebreeze gets a banana every meal for his digestive situation. He has always had a deep interest in the banana supply).

Bohdan - "That's easy. I want to study cartoon art at Walt Disney studios. I could also pick up some extra cash as a model."

Skye - "Do you think ballet lessons would strengthen my legs? That's what I want to do!"

Queenie - "Ahhh, I see myself at the Belagio in Vegas. A tall horse like me would look great in a chorus line. I hear the eats are cheap too."

Summer - "I'll go to Las Vegas with Queenie. I'm a statuesque girl and those glitzy showgirl outfits would look great on me. What a way to earn a living!"

Laredo - "I belong in cosmetology school. The two-leggers here are so unimaginative with hair! Where are the beads? What about some braiding?" (Note: Laredo is a tad vain about his beautiful dark mane and tail).

Teton - See below.

Aztec - "Guys, Teton has tremendous potential as a racehorse. Send me to Saratoga Springs for some jockey training."

Sundance - "It is my dearest wish to learn to read. I can't wait to read that book, "Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus," all by myself!" (Note: Sundance was very pleased when we got lighting in the barn).

Irish - "The importance of a beautiful smile cannot be overestimated. I want to be a Dental Assistant."

Wrangler - see Mesa's response below.

Mesa - "I am not the one in need of further training. She needs to have a class to teach two-leggers the difference between me and Wrangler. I am tired of all the silly things they say about us, like "Mesa is more massive" or "Mesa has more spots." It's ridiculous!"

Cherokee - "My ambition is to be in charge of quality control at the Purina plant in Statesville. I would love to take some horse nutrition classes or ANYTHING that would help me achieve this goal."

YumYum - "Some science classes on equine growth would be much appreciated. There has GOT to be a way for me to grow bigger!"

Cinnamon and Morning Glory - "We have talked this over and since we each only have one eye, we feel that we would be great perfumers. Our sense of smell would be a tremendous asset to the Elizabeth Arden people."

Well! See what I mean.....this has been MOST instructive; let us hope that She takes note! (Joanie, are you listening?)



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.

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

Courtney & Jori Alascio
 Tina Barnett
 Betty & Welborn Bentley
 Timothy Benton
 Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Betts
 Helen & John Bishop
 Melanie & Rocky Boone
 Peggy & Raymond Bouley
 Allison Boyd-Poelke
 Linda & Dennis Braund
 Catherine & K.A. Briggs
 Aletha Call
 Pattie & Rocky Canupp
 Debrah Bovard Carl
 Frances & Billy Caudle
 Brenda Chillcott
 Kathryn Clancy
 Father Thomas Clements
 Kim & John Clift
 Claire & Jay Collie
 Kevin Cross
 Delores & James Erickson
 Christine & David Fogarty
 Laura Galford
 Jenni Geiselman
 Susan Harnach
 Beverly & James Hartsell
 Julie Hornburg
 James Hover & Lind Dennehy
 Iredell County Humane Society
 Nancy & Curtis Kirkner
 Susan Kotraba
 Lillus Kurland
 Jim Ladislas
 Sara Lewis
 Katherine Lofgren
 Richard & Sulena Long
 Susan Lurz
 Ellen Lopez

Roberta McCardle
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 Marvin & Verna Saunders
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 Gennifer & Rhyne Scott
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 Jerry & Sharon Smith
 Janice Sposta
 Rodger Steed
 Tammi Straite
 Linda & Larry Sullivan
 Marian Swinker
 Dale & Mary Thompson
 James & Judy Udick
 Melba Von Specken
 Mary Walters
 Deborah Wells
 Paul, Cindy, & Jake Wilcoxon
 P.A. Willoughby
 Sue Wortman
 Kim Wrenn
 Michael & Suzanne Webb

Kohl's helpers you're the best!

*Once again, HPS members worked at Kohl's department store on Highway 29 in Charlotte as a fundraiser for the horses during the NC tax-free days of August 1-3. Kohl's staff were extremely appreciative of our efforts and said that we really made a difference in helping them deal with the increase in business. A Dakota (that's a big one) **THANK YOU** to the following HPS members who gave generously of their time and worked at Kohl's: Valerie Berns, Ann Dalton, Joy Dwelle, Janet Elmo, Kathy Haw, Tracey Hubert, Joanna Kesler, Roberta McCardle, Susan Myers, Ann Powlas, Dottie Rebhan, Diane Reed, and Charlotte Revels. **Thank you one and all!** (We don't have the Kohl's check yet so we cannot report on our earnings). Every bit helps and is much appreciated. Don't forget.....we usually are asked by Kohl's to help on a couple of weekends before Christmas. (And boy, doesn't this kind of experience make you appreciate retail people!)*

***In honor of Roberta McCardle's birthday
 July 25th
 By Aunt Dodie & Uncle Jim***

***In Memory of Mary Ramseur
 By Mary & Walter Walters, Matt & Drew***

***In honor of Night Mist & Her Friends
 By Aletha Call***

Donation Form:

Your name:

Your phone number:

Your e-mail:

Your Message (for newsletter):

Is this for a memorial donation? Yes No

Whom do you wish to Honor:

Their e-mail:

Their Address:

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
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Web site:
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and www.angelfire.com/nc/horseprotosocnc/

**Horse Protection Society
2135 Miller Road
China Grove, NC 28023**

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.

HPS Officers

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Placement Coordinator.....			