



OVER HERD

Volume 25 Issue 4

April 2021



April Showers
bring May
flowers.

LOVE TO ALL, HAPPY EASTER

Lotus and Pretty Girl

By Melanie Ruscoe

Last year, towards the end of October, Joanie received a call from a concerned individual that reported a starved, white horse with a thin pasture pal. She was able to provide an address where the horses were living with good descriptions of the surrounding area, which is extremely helpful when we go on these calls. Joanie and I took a drive out there, knocked on several doors, and searched and searched but never found the horses or the owners. Joanie said she would have to go back on a weekend when people are usually at home. So she and Lauren drove out the following weekend and were able to see the horses and talk to their owners. The oldest horse was in the worst shape and I remember our weekend main feeder, Lauren, telling me she did not think it would have made it through the winter. The owners said they were working with a vet and were doing what they were told to do with no success. Thankfully, they were willing to listen to Joanie and make some changes to help their horses. Joanie left her contact information for them to use if they had any further questions or issues that she could help with. *Continued on Page #2*



Lotus with Melanie

Iredell County Paint Mare

The same family that made it possible for Sunshine to come to the sanctuary, are responsible for the rescue of another horse. The story is that this young nine-year-old paint mare was up near the Virginia border. The next part of the story puts her in an auction and purchased by an older man.

Here is where her life gets worse! We were told that hay and horse feed were not part of her diet. The owner was feeding her things like onions and spaghetti. Too many onions fed to equines can cause health issues. It was also reported that this little horse was abused. (I am not sure what this is referred to.)

The daughter in the family heard about the horse and made arrangements to buy her. She picked her up at night and didn't realize the poor condition of the mare. A veterinarian was called in and the vet felt she should be kept up in a stall. The daughter realized she was in over her head and called us. It sounded like a horse we could aid.

When she arrived at the sanctuary, she could hardly control her back legs. We were concerned that she might have DSLD, *Degenerative Suspensory Ligament Disease*. The poor little mare seemed extremely weak. *Continued on Page #2*



**Nine year old
mare. Suppose to
be a Tennessee
Walking Horse....
We'll See!**

Continued from Page #1 Lotus and Pretty Girl

Fast forward to March and we receive another phone call that the horses were not doing any better. We were very concerned because, after that much time, they should have looked fat and sassy. Joanie and I once again made the trip out there. The owner took us back to look at the two mares and what I saw made my breath catch in my throat. My first look at that poor white mare was enough to break my heart. As her owner was explaining all the different things they had tried and some of his issues that were swiftly becoming overwhelming, I studied the mare and noticed that she was holding her tail at a weird angle and it looked to have quite a lot of discharge in it. I asked if I could examine her more closely and was granted permission. She was very sweet to let a perfect stranger look and touch her all over, even when I lifted her tail and felt under the tail head. This poor mare had lumps covering her tail head and some other very nasty things going on that I will not describe here. She was in a very desperate state! Joanie and I shared some of our experience with her owner and he agreed that things were just so overwhelming for him that he would discuss with his family about letting us take the mares to our sanctuary. Joanie received a call later that evening agreeing to the plan and arrangements were made for us to pick them up the next day.

My volunteer helped me get the trailer hitched and Joanie and I set off after lunch. I am always full of anticipation, wondering how everything will go and also picturing the place in my head and planning the best way to back the trailer up...always nerve-wracking for me! Lotus and Pretty Girl were their names and they loaded beautifully! We were finally able to head to our sanctuary. There have been a few horses that I've wondered if they were going to be strong enough to make the trip and Lotus was one of those horses! Lotus is the



older mare at 34 years of age and Pretty Girl is 23 years old and both are registered quarter horses.

We arrived at HPS and immediately, the herd knew we had newcomers! A number of the horses came to the fence to watch and call out to the new white mares. Pretty Girl is quite anxious to meet them all and I'm sure she will be quite the flirt when we finally can turn them out from the small front field. Pretty Girl should recover nicely and should not take too much time in doing so but poor Lotus doesn't have a chance of recovery. She is just as sweet as can be but has numerous cancer tumors on her body and under her tail head. Lotus is blind in one eye and her sight is diminished in her other eye. She is also full of rain rot that we are currently treating. Both are responding to love and attention.

Both Lotus and Pretty Girl are registered Quarter Horses

Continued from Page #1 Iredell Pain Mare ~

Her hooves were overgrown. Sometimes it is important to give the horse a little time before rushing in to try and figure out what the issues are. In just a few days she is moving better and even doing a little running. Maybe it is the good groceries she is eating.

Her body is small for 9 years old and she looks as if she should have been a larger horse.

The little girl is not ready to pick a name. She is coming along but she has been traumatized and a little fearful of even going into the stall that is attached to the round pen. Each day she becomes a little more courageous and trusting.

News for the Herd

Aslan, Meeka, and Gallant tested with high numbers at the end of December and were treated for EPM. They will be retested later this month.

Most of the horses need to be retested in six to eight weeks and may have to be retreated.

The Opossums are not cooperating with getting caught in one of the three traps. We caught two opossums, a raccoon, a stray cat, and our cat, Oliver.

Symptoms of EPM in equine the easiest way to explain all the different terms that can be used for ataxia is abnormal gait says it all. EPM can cause lesions in the brain and central nervous system.

The long list of possible symptoms can make EPM very hard to diagnose. You should not suspect EPM from a single symptom like lameness, rather from a pattern of symptoms that are not explained by other diagnoses. Many times the owner will recall possible symptoms that occurred months before a diagnosis but did not recognize them as a pattern. One study indicates that subtle cranial symptoms occurred first in all cases. We know of at least 20 to 25 additional symptoms that we have seen in horses with EPM. It is the most important thing owners can do is know everything about their horse and any subtle changes.

UPDATE ON THE HPS FUNDRAISER

Dental Care: \$3,300. Funding provided -\$300.00. Balance: \$3,000. \$_____

General Needs: Cost per horse averages \$350 to \$450 per month.

Thank you for providing all of the needs for the horses in February
HPS provides the highest quality care for each horse.

Thank you for fully funding the following needs!

Propane generators: JCT Electric Inc of Denver, NC 980-785-1118.

The Company has offered to pay for the expenses except for the purchase of the Propane Generator. The 16k generator has been ordered and will be scheduled for insulation In April. We have ordered the 24k generator for the barn. We can expect to have it in stalled by late summer. We still have some funds to raise for the second Generator.

EPM Treatment: \$2,400. Funding provided \$2,400.00. Fully Funded.

The medication will be shipped by the end of the month.

Equimax Wormer: \$390.00. Your donation: \$390.00. Fully Funded ~ Completed

Rabies vaccine: \$585.00. Your donation: \$585.00. Fully Funded ~ Completed

EPM Testing: \$960.00. Funding provided \$960.00. Fully Funded ~ Completed

40 to 50 horsepower tractor: \$20,000. Your donation: \$20,000. Fully Funded

HPS is on the search for the perfect 40 plus horsepower tractor.

Horse Classified Ad Scams

Beware of scammers looking to separate you from your money. Some years ago, there was a gorgeous Gypsy Varner for sale at way below market value. The ad had some of the classic signs of a scam. The ad company provided the phone number, and the owner's name was not listed. "Had to have money quickly", and when you called, he said the horse was in a different state.

Often if a search is done, the same picture of the horse will be listed in several states. Watch for poor spelling and poor grammar. Sometimes even the breed of horse may be misspelled.

One of our Members lost \$5,000 in an Internet scam. Several people tried to talk the gal out of sending money.

There are safeguards you can use, like asking for additional pictures and a video of the horse. Mention that you have a friend who wants to set an appointment to come with a vet to check out the horse. Ask if the health report has been completed, and you want a copy emailed and the required Coggin's test.

One of the saddest stories was about a gal who had studied and saved for her dream horse. The horse was a high price, and she took him home. He was the perfect horse for 29 days, but on day 30, he came after her with teeth bared and hooves flying when she entered his field. She ran for her life. The poor gal was devastated and called me to see if I knew any reason for the behavior. I told her that a drug comes out of Canada that can cause a dangerous horse to be perfect for 30 days. She needed to consult her veterinarian. I knew of nothing to cure the horse.

Please do not get fooled by the scam of saving a horse from the slaughter house.

Success

February and March were wonderfully successful months! The super kind donations given to help aid the critical projects needed at the sanctuary have put us well on the way. The equine dental visit's cost is not covered and the appointment hopefully will be in April.

Big NEWS! Joyce Darling figured out how to get us



back on our Facebook Page. We now have all the horses posted on the page, just scroll down. Thank you! Thank you! Horse Protection Society of NC Facebook.

The problem printer is now working fine. HP keeps sending us sets of printer cartridges, and we now have five sets.

The furnace is working fine. Gary and Gayle Libberton filled the front porch with the wood they cut here for the woodstove. Thank you for making the evenings cozy and warm. (We ran out of propane about a week later. Once again the wood was a Godsend.) Thank you for cutting the wood!

Chris is working on the mud removal and rock fill. We are going to need more road base to complete the job. The cost will be about \$65.00 an hour. We need two more loads of road base to finish off some areas.

The truck has been inspected, and the oil changed. Little Red car runs like a new baby after Darrin, Joyce's hubby, replaced the alternator and whatever goes with that. Little Red is 31 years old and running great. Thank you, guys! (Kachina loves to ride in the car.)

There are so many good things happening here at the sanctuary. Thank you, God! Thank you, to all our wonderful Supporters.

In honor of Tyler, Bailey and Hunter. By Donna Dziura
 In memory of Scooter, our dear Westie. By Trisha Scudder.
 In memory of Helen Lineberger. By Sarah Foss
 In memory of Wilson, a beloved pet of Genda and Sam Thompson. By Ann & Benjy Seagle

~ In Memory of Sharie Lee Penney ~

Everyone was overwhelmed and deeply sadden to hear of the accident that took Sharie Lee Penney's life. Many kind and loving messages were sent for Sharie that repeated the same feelings over and over. She was LOVED, HONORED, and will be greatly MISSED. Sharie loved her horse Houdini and the rescued horses at the sanctuary, who she helped support since 2003. Sharie will not be forgotten. HPS sends our warm regards to everyone for showing your caring for Sharie Lee Penney.

*Lisa Griebel
 Harry & Sarah Wetzel
 Bunifatza LLC*

*Thomas Colosimo
 Jabra Kawas
 Susan Kersey*

*Jennifer Porter
 Kate Schaefer
 Rachel Stafford
 Harry & Sarah Wetzel*

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THANK YOU!



*HAVE A
 BLESSED
 EASTER!
 Thank you
 for all you
 do!*