



Volume 18 Issue 4



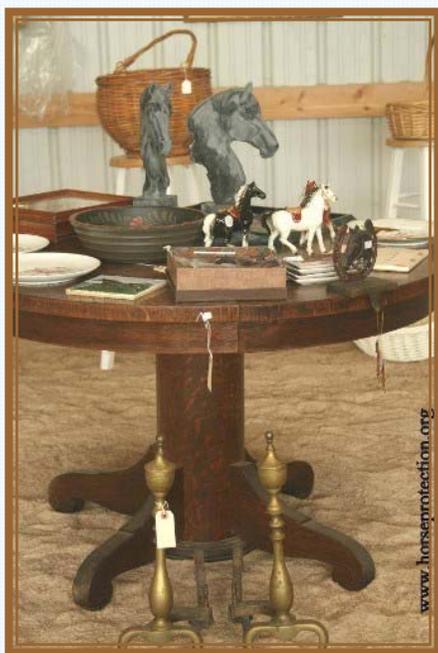
April 2015

# OVER HERD

## Tack and Treasure Sale

Mark your calendar now so you will not miss the 'Tack and Treasure Sale' on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. We have donations of so many wonderful items of collectibles including jewelry – some sterling silver pieces, sets of dishes, Rogers flatware, Oriental items, Hummels, Wedgewood, Delft, R. J. Reynolds collectibles, some furniture, English riding clothes, saddles – both English and Western, bridles, bits, winter horse blankets, halters, lead lines and on and on.

We still need more items to fill our indoor training arena. If you have items to donate, please get them to us as early as possible so we can get them marked ahead of time. (At least by April 10<sup>th</sup>.) If you would like to help with the marking and cleaning or help with the set-up, just email: [hps@horseprotection.org](mailto:hps@horseprotection.org) Thank you for caring!



## Update on Black Velvet and Rising Sun

Lincoln County has decided to prosecute the past owner of Lazarus, Black Velvet and Rising Sun. I have been subpoenaed to testify, as has Dr. Mary Gochnauer. The date is April 9 at 9:00 AM in Courtroom #1 at Lincoln County court house for anyone who wants to attend and support us. Of course, there is always the chance that it will be postponed again.



***"Rain rot is a very painful condition."***

Getting prepared for court takes a good bit of time. I have to account for every bit of feed, hay, supplements and medications that have been given to the horses along with a breakdown of cost. The medical information will be testified to by Dr. Mary.

The first lavage system failed, which is not unusual, since the line is so very thin and it takes very little for it to spring a leak. Black Velvet's eye was being treated every few hours; it is very difficult to tell how a melting cornea is progressing. About the middle of March, the eyeball ruptured and had to be removed by Dr. Mary despite our best efforts. He is healing wonderfully post-surgery.

Rising Sun still has terrible rain rot on her back and hips. All of the infected areas need to have the hair removed, but we have put this off since it has been so cold. We were doing our best to treat the infected areas with the hair still present. Both of the horses have the hair removed from the infected spots and Rising Sun looks terrible with so much hair missing. The hair comes off with just the slightest touch. Make no mistake, this is a horribly painful condition for horses!

Rising Sun was having difficulty gaining her weight and we had a full blood panel done to check and make sure there was not anything serious going on. Liver and kidney failure can be a big problem that may not show up right away. The only things found were what we would expect to find with most starved horses. Rising Sun was very anemic and her creatine kinase (also called CK), a muscle enzyme, was slightly high for a horse at rest. This can lead to a condition called tying up. Vitamin E and Selenium will often help and we already put Rising Sun on this supplement. It just takes so long to get all of the body systems working correctly after extended time of starvation. ***(Cont. on Page 3)***

## News from the Herd

**Dental work** on all the horses except for **Black Velvet** and **Rising Sun** has been completed. Bryan Taylor will return to do them when they have recovered more. Some of the horses that have not had dental work done before, but are recovered enough now, had to have teeth removed. For example, **Traveler** had to have three teeth removed that were very loose.

One of the gals sent me an article posted on the Internet about how horses did not need to have dental work done. Once again, the wild horses were used as an example. Wild horses have natural selection and when a horse cannot eat due to bad dental issues, they just die and cannot pass on their genes. I hate this kind of misinformation posted on the Internet because there will always be people who buy into not having their horses' teeth cared for. We see the results of horses not having their teeth cared for and it is not pretty. We recommend using an Equine Dentist who is also a veterinarian. Dr. Bryan Taylor – 336-998-2253 - cares for the horses at the sanctuary.

**Anasazi** had lice and it was the kind that eat dander rather than the blood-sucking kind. These are the hardest to treat this time of the year because of the horse's heavy winter coat and the dangers of giving baths in such cold weather. We are trying diatomaceous earth (DE) to kill off the lice. There are precautions that should be taken when using DE to make sure it does not get into the horse's eyes and that neither you nor the horse breathe the dust which would then go into the lungs.

If the lice were the blood-sucking kind, Ivermectin could be used to kill them off. Often horses with low immune systems will pick up lice. We have separated Anasazi from the other horses while she is being treated since transfer of the lice can easily happen. All the other horses have been checked and, thankfully, are not infected.

**Black Velvet and Rising Sun** were our two big veterinarian needs this past month. It was worth trying to save Black Velvet's eye. I am sure that if we had this condition again we would once again try to save the eye.

*A huge thank you to the folks who have sent a donation to aid with the vet bills. We could use additional support for these two sweet horses.*

## Honors and Memorials

In honor of Tiffany Ferebee for her birthday. By Chris & Charlotte Ferebee

Three young ladies raised \$150 for HPS by doing a bake sale. Thank you for caring.

In honor of our daughter, Shelley Bradley. By Laurel & Richard Bradley

*In memory of my dear friend, Marty Frech, One of HPS's former volunteers. By Cathy and John Burton*

In memory of my wonderful dad, Ben Greenfield, on the 100th anniversary of his birth. By Janet Elmo

In loving memory of our daughter, Kristen. By Mark and Barbara Hinds

In honor of Jan Rees, for her love of horses. By Dorothy Holmes

The thank you is for all your wonderful helpers for all the hard work you do to take such good care of the horses! They are all so beautiful and happy! Love, Floyd & Betty Lentz

*In honor of our friend, Pam Chandler. By Jolene and George White*

In Memory of Cortez, a wonderful, loving horse that will remain in my heart always. By Ann L. Whitworth

In loving memory of Ann Pangels on behalf of her daughters Kathi and Susan. By Ann Harrison

Happy belated birthday to Debra Rockett. Love, Susan Williams

*In loving memory of my golden boy, Bali who will never leave my heart. By Stef Mills*

## Update on Black Velvet and Rising Sun *(Cont. from Page 1)*

Finally we have been able to turn the two horses out in the small front field. It has been important to keep them up in the hospital stalls with all of the health issues they have had. Now that the weather has warmed and the days are sunny, it is nice to see them out nibbling the small amounts of new grass. We are still putting them up at night in the hospital stalls on cold nights to help keep them warmer. They still do not have the needed body fat and muscle to maintain their body heat regardless of how much hay they have to eat.

Both horses were dewormed. This had to be done slowly due to the heavy overload or the horse could have an impaction colic. Their hooves have been trimmed twice and the thrush has been treated.

There are still issues that will need to be addressed in the future. Both horses need dental work and we like to wait until they are more on the road to recovery to have this done, unless it is an emergency when a horse cannot eat. An EPM test will be needed on both horses and treatment started, if needed. They also need their rabies vaccination.

It is going to be a long haul for these two horses to fully recover and we could use your help. Any size donation is greatly appreciated! *Thank you!*

### *A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful Contributors*

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\*\*For a \$25 or more donation, the named person can receive "Over Herd" for 1 year.

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## Spring is in the Air

The warmer weather has been a great relief to all of us...but not the horses. They still have their nice thick winter coats. It is so tempting to grab the shedding comb and go to work on the fluff balls that are shedding all over your clothes. Please resist the temptation to shed out your horse! Just because it is in the 60's during the day, when you are all snug in your house at night it is getting down in the 30's and 40's. So put the shedding comb away!

Watch your horses closely since the extreme changes in the weather during the day and into the night can cause more coli episodes. We add Redmond Minerals to the horses' feed morning and evening and it has decreased the number of impaction colics. We used to use electrolytes, but find the natural salt is so much better. When the weather is so erratic, the horses may not drink enough water and this can cause an impaction colic.

The first signs of new grass are coming up in the fields and the horses are often ignoring their hay bales to find the first sprigs. Some horses will have diarrhea since they have not had the sugary grass all winter. When this occurs, they may need some probiotics to weather them through the transition to green grass. This is common in the older horses.

It is also a time to watch for laminitis from all the sugar in the fresh grass. By giving your horse more exercise, you may be able to keep laminitis at bay. If your horse has been standing around most of the winter during the mud season and freezing weather, it is important to start the exercise slowly. Work them no more than every other day - some horses need two days rest when going back to work. Keep the riding to 20 to 25 minutes to start with. Keep it short at first and walk only. Remember if you had been lying around all winter, you would not be ready to run a 5K.

The horse's conformation changes over the winter from lack of exercise and some may have lost weight. Carefully check your saddle fit before you go off for that nice Spring ride. If you are not sure how to do this, please get some help. Sometimes a chiropractic visit will put horse back in the right alignment and save other issues from arising.

Every year since I have been in North Carolina, there have been three days in April that are miserable with cold windy rain. This is often the only time a horse will show that it is cold and we have to blanket them. Once this has past, have fun with the shedding comb!

