

August 2005

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Over Herd



Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc.

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On the Web at:

www.horseprotection.org

Welcome Hawkeye! By Joan Benson



Hawkeye is just 11 years old!

What do you do when you can no longer keep your beloved horses? This is a problem often faced by caring people. This story reflects how important it is to thoroughly check out any organization you are thinking of donating your horses to. Therapeutic stables sound wonderful and make us all think of the sweet little children that will benefit from the horses. One needs to remember that the main focus is on the children . . . not the horses. They are a product that is needed for the children. Most people do not realize that the stable can sell the horse anytime they want. Many places will take in horses to sell to make extra money and have no intentions of keeping the horse or keeping track of the horse in the future. Just because someone holds themselves out as a rescue or therapeutic stable does not make it so. Check references with their vet office. Come at unexpected times. Are there agencies that approve the type of facility you are looking at and have they been approved? Please do your homework.

In January 2005 I received an email concerning two horses that the owner had donated to a "so-called" therapeutic riding stable. The owner was going through some life changes and thought the horses would be well cared for. She was moving out west and could not take her horses with her. Several months later, the person who raised and trained Hawkeye went to the stable to check on the horses and was horrified with what she found. The two horses were very thin and uncared for. The previous owner was not in a position to take Hawkeye back when her friend had to move.

Arrangements were made and the original owner took them to her home. Over the next five months the other horse improved enough to find a good home. Hawkeye did not. The previous owner did not have the resources to provide all that Hawkeye needed to recover. We continued to email and talk on the phone until arrangements were made for him to come to the sanctuary.

Hawkeye is a registered tri-color paint and is 11 years old. He is showing a weakness in his hindquarter, which may be from the starvation he has suffered. Hawkeye was housed in the half way house by himself for worming, quiet, and beginning recuperation. Hawkeye's picture does not show how thin he really is until you look at his neck. At the present time, his head looks too big for his body. His appetite is huge, and he ate a round bale in no time. Hawkeye's energy levels improved in record time, and he decided to join the other horses in Yum Yum's field. Spirit was unhappy about another gelding joining the herd and would chase him away from the girls. Hawkeye was so sad not to be welcomed into the herd. Several days went by and nothing had resolved itself. Hawkeye was still kept away from the others by Spirit. We went to Anza and asked her to befriend Hawkeye. The two have been hanging out together ever since. A big THANK YOU to all the people who helped get Hawkeye out of a bad situation and to the sanctuary. (Animal Control did not feel that the other horses were in bad enough condition to do anything about.)



New Barn Update

The numbers of kind folks willing to help build the new barn for the horses keeps growing. The list is up to 107 families to date. The savings account has \$18,918.50, and there is another \$3,932.50 in pledges for a **total of \$22,851**. This amount will pay for the grading and huge amount of sub-soil that is needed to level the site. It will pay for half of the labor to build the structure and most of the posts for the pole barn. Let's get a roof over their heads before winter. Huge horse hug to these caring families! Please take a look at this month's contributors on page 4!

WOW! We are Looking Good

The last few weeks a major clean up effort has been taking place at the sanctuary. Twice *Flat Bed Annie* was loaded and junk was delivered to the dump. Oh, how useless things seem to accumulate at the ranch. Weed eaters were run along the fence lines, and the fields were bush hogged. A burning permit was secured that covered several weeks. Leaves were raked from areas that had not seen a rake in years. I know I will not remember everyone who contributed to the grounds clean up, so a special thanks to everyone that worked so hard to make this happen by July twenty-second.

There are so many good things that have come out of this effort. A new area has been built to hide the aluminum cans we collect for recycling and the trashcans. We had several sections of privacy fencing that worked great as an enclosure. Vera Bennett put her nice visiting friend Tony to work helping to build the area. Thank you Tony for spending your vacation time helping the horses. Gary and Mary Moran helped with the bush hogging of the fields. Even the big pond field got bush hogged. With all the previous rain, the weeds and grass had really grown up.

This all started with a phone call from a member, Connie Jewett who lives in Arizona. Connie visited the ranch for the first time in April. She wanted to do something to make a difference in helping to get the new barn built. We talked on the phone about contacting *Extreme Makeover*. I told Connie that I had filled out the paper work last November but we could never get a video put together to submit. Connie made arrangements to do the video, and also contacted a good friend in Connecticut to meet here to take still photographs. New volunteers were also here with their wonderful camera for even more still shots. Connie felt that we could also use the video and photographs to help raise funds for the new barn. *Extreme Makeover* is a very long shot, but if you don't try some long shots in your life, ... you never have a chance to win.

The videoing went great. At one point we brought about 20 of the horses together in a group with each held by a member. I was concerned with this plan. Sounded like a suicide mission. So I prepared a weak solution of lavender oil and water in an atomizer. Each horse got a light spray on their nose as they came into the area in front of the big barn. (Dakota went to sleep.) Every horse behaved perfectly. Ten year old Lauren Lofgren was the hit of the day with Snickerdoodle and her speech about why the horses need a new barn. We were all sorry to see Connie, Dean and Ryan leave, since all of us so enjoyed our time with them. Big Horses thank you to each and everyone who made this project come together.



Laura & Snickerdoodle

Where has my Support Staff Gone?

Special to Overherd by Dakota (with clerical assistance from Roberta McCardle)

The events of last week were exhilarating to say the least! A film crew came to our ranch to film our (almost) falling-down barn and us. I think the cinematographer fellow was a little overwhelmed by my many photogenic qualities.....the way the sun glints off of my reddish-brown coat, the grace of my movements, the way that I prick my ears just so when the camera is rolling, my ability to hold a pose, etc. etc. but truly, ALL of us were stars.

One of the best moments was when we filmed the opening segment. Almost twenty of us lined up side by side, rib cage to rib cage, in the paddock area. I heard Mancha gush, "Oh, I feel like a Rockette again!" (Note: Mancha has frequently regaled us with tales from her days at Radio City Music Hall. She can still cut a rug when she wants to).

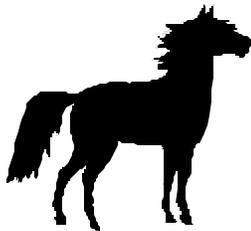
Firebreeze behaved very well & only occasionally sniffed Morning Glory next to him to be sure that she had not moved away & that another horse took her place. Everybody loved getting a little spritz of natural lavender -- how thoughtful of the two-leggers! One could accidentally roll in something icky and voila, a couple of seconds later, you're back to your normal fragrant self.

Although I did not get to be in the front row due to my size, I know that nice camera fellow made sure he included me. (I think he got some good stills too). Let me tell you, this is the way a horse should live: breakfast was served early on Saturday, two-leggers brushed me and cleaned my feet when I finished eating, my very own personal halter & lead were freshly laundered, and I stayed in the shade so I wouldn't get sweaty.

It was at this moment that I had my epiphany, a flash of sudden insight that struck with the force of a rolling round bale. While we have different groups/teams at HPS doing different things (like feeding, VERY important!) WE DO NOT HAVE A SUPPORT STAFF GROUP!! What are the two-leggers thinking of? This is far, far more than horse beautification -- it's a holistic approach to ensuring that all the needs of a horse are met at a very high level. These needs include those of both body and soul. We all know how a bad hair day can bring you down and how a great hair day makes you feel like a movie star -- same principle! Yowza, we need to call a Herd meeting to discuss this.

"YumYum, get out your paper and pen!! You're going to take minutes."

And off galloped Dakota.....



News From The Herd

Spirit needed to see the veterinarian for an eye problem. (No pun intended.) He is on two eye medications and is not improving, as we would hope. He may need another visit.

Beauty and Hawkeye were checked for their lameness problems. Nothing definitive was learned. Beauty is not in as much distress as you would think when you see her walk. The equine chiropractor was able to give her quite a bit of relief after she was cast in her stall. Hawkeye is now running to meet people when they come into his field.

Today the importance of planning for your horses was once again brought to our attention. A phone call came concerning three horses of a person who may not live out the week. The call was just from a concerned person. We cannot just go get the horses. They are part of an estate and the heirs have to be an important part of the decisions concerning the horses. Is there a will? If there is no will then the court will look at the horses as an asset of the estate. Remember how Nevada and Snickerdoodle had to be released by the court before they could come to the sanctuary. This can take some time. The court could have ordered them sold at auction, but since they were older and not in good health, the court did not see any value to the estate. How about poor Buttercup? We recommend that everyone plan for the day that your horses will need a different home. This could be upon your death. Do the important estate planning before the time comes. Pick where you want your horses to go and make financial arrangements with the new home and an estate planner. Please, please protect all your precious animals.

HOT WEATHER is so very hard on all the horses. Some of them need to be sprayed down during the day to cool off. The tubs need to have cold water added through the day so the horses will drink enough and not colic or dehydrate. Extra supplements are added to their feed to help them stay hydrated. The extra water that is needed is hard on the well. We hope to be able to drill a new well when we build the horses' new barn. The extra supplements add another hole in the budget. The continuing heat and humidity can cause breathing problems similar to asthma with some horses. Several of the horses are on supplements to help prevent a life threatening breathing problem. If your horse is having problems, get your vet there as soon as possible.

If you need to work with your horse during this hot weather, do it when the sun is just coming up at the coolest time of the day. I was just down at the barn and the humidity was almost 60 and the temperature was 110 in the sun and 98 in the shade. Adding the two numbers together and you get 170. Way to high to even think about asking your horse to work. The two numbers should not be over 140. If they are the horse's body will not be able to cool itself since the sweat will not evaporate. The temperature inside the horse will just continue to go up and could cause brain damage or death. Please take extra care with all of your animals.

Volunteer Adventure at HPS By Rebecca Garber

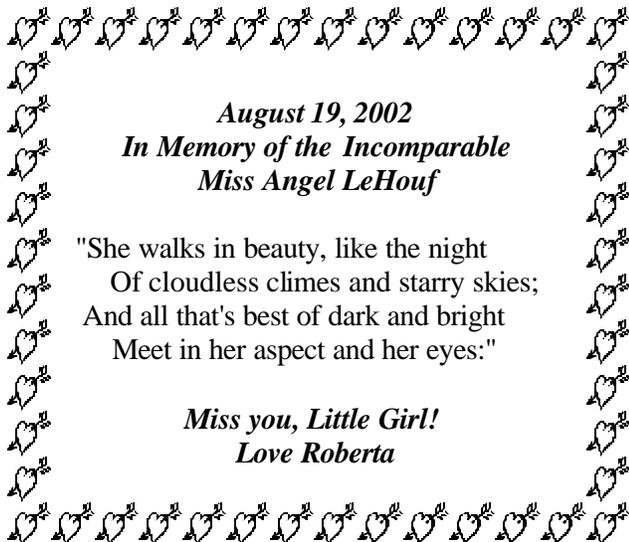
On June 27, while I was at HPS (Horse Protection Society) with my mother and sister, one of the horses got cast in her stall. The horse's name is Beauty. She was old (about 28) and she has hip problems. Joanie (the Executive Director of HPS) Mom, Anna and I tried to lift Beauty up. She is very large and it was hard work. Finally, we were able to get her out of the stall, but she still couldn't stand up. Joanie gave her some bantamine to soothe the pain and then called the vet. We had to go home, but Joanie promised to call and let us know how things turned out. Just after we left, she went inside to get a drink of water, and when she came back outside to sit with Beauty, the horse was up and standing on her own! I hope Beauty gets better and continues to live a happy life at HPS.

August 19, 2002

*In Memory of the Incomparable
Miss Angel LeHouf*

"She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes."

*Miss you, Little Girl!
Love Roberta*



New Barn Project Contributors

Earl Alexander
Missy & Douglas Anderson
Sandra Babinski
Deborah Baker
Carol & William Bellinghausen
Vera Bennett
Dave Benson
Joanie Benson
Amy & Douglas Bernstein
Gloria & R.M. Berthelsen
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Betts
Helen & John Bishop
John & Teresa Bonk
Allison Boyd-Poelke
Linda Braund
Catherine & K.A. Briggs
Mary (Kathy) Britt
Denise & Eugene Brown III
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Malvina Hoover
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Sandra Jennings
Connie Jewett
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Floyd T. Lentz
Sara Lewis
Kathy, Lex & Lauren Lofgren
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Elaine Towner
Nicky Turner
Dorothy Harriss Weathersbee
Michael & Suzanne Webb
Shelagh A. Winter
Judy Witmer
Kim Wrenn
Nancy Zuilkowski

A Prayer for Dapple By Sara Lewis

*God, please take in my tortoiseshell cat
And look after her.
Surround her with love and light,
Sublime joy and comfort,
Until I too cross the Rainbow Bridge
And see her again.
Take care of my baby –
She deserves Heaven more than I do*



Special "thanks" to the following contributors who supported the horses day to day needs this month.

Missy & Douglas Anderson
 Sheila & James Austin Jr.
 Sandra Babinski
 Deborah Baker
 Charles L. Beck
 Vera Bennett
 Dave Benson
 Amy & Douglas Bernstein
 Therese & Barry Bertollette
 Helen & John Bishop
 Teresa & John Bonk
 Catherine & K.A. Briggs
 Pam Carlton
 Kathryn V. Clancy
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 Lori & Keith Dossey
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 Sara Lewis
 Kathy, Lex & Lauren Lofgren
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 Elaine Towner
 Elaine Duncan Towner
 Cindy Trobaugh
 Mary Walters
 Michael & Suzanne Webb
 Donis Willis
 Shelagh Winter
 Sue Wortman
 Kim Wrenn
 Nancy Zuilkowski

Great Idea Val!

I am always amazed at the wonderful ideas that our members come up with while working with the horses. The latest idea came from Valerie Berns. We use a great deal of the cream we have listed on our web site for the horses minor scratches and scrapes. The container gets dirt in it, and often we throw it away before it is fully used up. Val came up with the idea to put the cream in a very large syringe. (No needle on it, of course.) It is quick and easy to load the syringe, push the plunger and just the right amount comes out. The cream stays clean and it is much easier to apply to the horse. Rub it in and on to the next horse. This idea could be used for antibiotic cream, also. There is much less chance of contaminating it with foreign material.

*In memory of my beloved tortoiseshell cat "DAPPLE," who crossed the Rainbow Bridge at the age of 16.
 Sara Lewis*

*In memory of Lauren Kahn and Mike Varnum's horse QP, who died unexpectedly.
 By Elaine Towner*

*In memory of Queenie & Denali.
 By Dottie Rebhan*

*In Memory of "Mocha" loved by Lyn and Buddy.
 Your friends Buntin and Kinsey*

Donation Form:

Your name: _____ **Is this for a memorial donation?** Yes No

Your phone number: _____ **Whom do you wish to Honor:** _____

Your e-mail: _____ **Their e-mail:** _____

Your Message (for newsletter): _____ **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



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Phone: 704-855-2978
Email: hps@horseprotection.org

Web site:

www.horseprotection.org

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.

Horse Protection Society
2135 Miller Road
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