



OVER HERD

In July, two horses arrived at the sanctuary. Both are Thoroughbreds, both are chestnut colored, both have beautiful heads and sweet dispositions, and both were very, very badly starved. If you look at their photos, they look uncannily similar.



FANCY, Part 1

By Janet G. Elmo

I have been affiliated with HPS for about five years, from the time when I first brought my horse to my house to live. Joanie was a valuable resource for this new horse-keeper. Over the years, my involvement grew but, because I live an hour away from the sanctuary, it began with a focus on office work. I then became secretary, next took on the newsletter and also became director of Stallion to Gelding Support. This allowed me to be a contributor, but at a distance. That is, until July 24th when Joanie asked if I had a horse trailer. When I said “yes,” she asked if I would pick up a horse in a county three hours away. When I thought about all the sacrifices that Joanie and the hands-on volunteers make on a daily basis to keep the sanctuary going, I had no choice but to say yes to that question as well.

Joanie had been told that the horse to be picked up, a Thoroughbred mare, was a 2.5 on the Henneke Body Conditioning Score. This means she was between “thin” and “very thin” and her ribs would be somewhere between “prominent” and “discernable.” As you can see in the photo, she was way beyond this condition. Every bone and joint was easily noticeable – in fact, she looked to me like a walking skeleton with a skin-tight covering. She was a 1 on the scale if she was anything.

But I get ahead of myself. This sweet mare had been surrendered to the Harnett County Animal Control department in lieu of prosecution for animal abuse. The folks at Animal Control had been trying to get her out of her situation for over six months, and finally succeeded. When my husband and I arrived at the animal shelter and I looked over at the pen where this mare was being kept, as she faced me all I saw was a beautiful face and hip bones extending from either side. When you look at a horse from its front, you’ll

(continued next page)



What Do You Do?

By Joanie Benson

What do you do when you see animals being abused, starved and given no care? One would hope that calling Animal Control and making a report would take care of the problem. Often it does not! Many counties are doing a great job and have a connection with a rescue to take in a confiscated equine. Some do not want to work with equine rescues, and I don’t know why that is.

In Flame’s case, finally one person could not stand to see the horse continue to starve, and called us. She was able to make arrangements with the owner to get the horse out. Kathy Haw picked up the Cabarrus County horse. The owner had the horse for about two and a half to three years, and when he first got the horse, the gelding was in great condition. Another part of this story is that the owner has two more horses that are not being cared for either.

Often private citizens will do more to save an abused horse than Animal Control will do. They approach the owner in a friendly way that allows them to preserve the owner’s fragile ego. Other people will continue to call Animal Control until the animals are removed or surrendered. It is generally easier for HPS to work with an abuser before Animal Control is called.

About all we know so far is that this guy is a Thoroughbred gelding. We believe Flame may be only about 15 or 16 years old. For safety’s sake, we don’t like to check teeth when we know the horse has not had a rabies vaccination, and a starved horse will not build the antibodies when given the vaccines too early in the recovery time.

It never ceases to amaze me how trusting these starved horses are after being so mistreated and neglected at the hands of the abuser. Both Flame and Fancy are friendly and willing to stand without a halter and lead rope to be doctored.

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FANCY, Part 1, continued

normally see the face, the barrel and the rump. There was no barrel extending from her sides, and no rump to speak of. Skin and bones, and with a nasty discharge from her left nostril. This mare was in awful shape.

It was no surprise that she didn't want to load on the trailer. Frankly, I think she took one look at it and believed she didn't have the strength to lift her leg high enough to step into it. I visualized the vast bales of hay at the sanctuary, told her she would never be hungry again, promised she would be safe and cared for – but my powers of persuasion had no impact. With some encouragement from Joanie by telephone, and the able help of Tom (the animal control officer who helped get her out of her previous situation) at the back, my wonderful husband at her head, and me lifting first a front leg and then a rear one onto the trailer so she could pull up the corresponding legs, we finally got her loaded. It took over 1-1/2 hours. She did well on the 2-1/2 hour trip - in 95-plus degree heat- and we got back to the sanctuary seven hours after we had left home.

When we opened the trailer door at the sanctuary, Joanie took one look and gasped – this was not what she envisioned when she answered the call from Animal Control. This was a very sick and terribly emaciated animal – who now didn't want to get off the trailer. Fortunately, Joanie's ability to communicate with starved horses is far better than mine, and within 15 minutes, the mare descended on her own.

FANCY, Part 2

By Joanie Benson

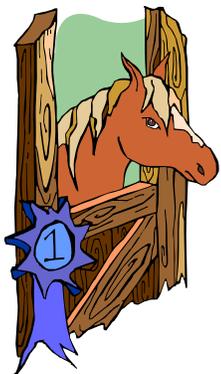
Each time a starved rescued horse arrives at the sanctuary, a full evaluation has to be done. First we check the horse and then we call in a South Ridge veterinarian to perform any tests needed. Our new mare was very sick. Fancy had terrible nasal discharge and an infection in her uterus and urinary tract. When a horse is so starved, the anus pulls back in and the vulva pulls up on the shelf created. In some cases, this allows the manure to enter the uterus. It was necessary to have Caslick's surgery done after flushing the uterus. The surgery partially closes the vulva to prevent continuing contamination. The stitches have since been removed and there is no sign of continuing infection.

Fancy needs to have her teeth floated, but we have to wait until she is stronger. She also has a large edema between her front legs. This has to be watched carefully to make sure it is not from an infection of the potentially deadly *Clostridium Septicum* bacteria. There is some dropping of the fetlock joint about the hooves on all four legs. Sometimes this can be from starvation and not DSLD - - only time will tell what we are dealing with.

In addition, the poor mare has no muscle to help support her body. Of course she has fungus on her body that we are treating. One of the additional concerns is the atrophy of the lower muscles in her neck and the esophagus area. When she first arrived, we had to hang her feed bucket as she could not lower her head comfortably, but now she is able to eat from a ground feeder. Fancy will be on antibiotics, grapefruit seed extract and the supplement MMS for infection for *an extended length of time*. Clearing multiple infections in a starved horse is very difficult. BUT her eyes are brightening and she is staying more hydrated now. The electrolytes we are giving her encourage her to drink more water. (All of the horses get electrolytes during hot weather.)

At first Fancy felt so sickly, she did not want to eat - - it just took too much energy. Our wonderful feeders worked with her, encouraging her and hand-feeding her. Now, she happily waits for the next meal and is gaining some weight.

I am continually asked how people can look at a horse like this, not feel terrible and call a vet for help. "How can someone cause this?" I believe that many abusers have a narcissistic personality disorder. The two symptoms of this disorder that would cause them to not care for their animals are: 1. Disregard for the feelings of others, lack of empathy. (They can look at a horse they have starved nearly to death and not feel anything.) 2. Pursues mainly selfish goals. (It will be more important to buy something for themselves than feed for their horse.) There are many other symptoms, but in dealing with these people I have found that they also cannot face criticism. Folks with healthy thinking will never be able to understand how the abuser's mind works and how they could do the things they do to our beloved horses. Your healthy mind works so differently—this is why YOUR HELP is so critical to support the sanctuary, providing a safe place for those abused horses to get the care they so desperately need following the dreadful treatment at the hands of the abuser. Thank you for making the sanctuary possible!



GIFTS GALORE — PROCEEDS TO PONIES

Get a *leg-up* on your Christmas shopping with great deals on brand new beautiful jewelry - - and so much more! There are well over 2,000 pieces of jewelry, including lots of horse jewelry for your horsey friends (or yourself). You'll have the opportunity to buy Alexander Kalifano necklaces of semi-precious stones, especially meaningful as these are the last of these that he is making.

If you've been to the silent auction **Mane Event** in the past, you'll have a good idea of the wonderful quality of items that will be presented for sale. There will be top quality small appliances, items from Sharper Image, electronics, cameras, crystal, linens and so much more. **October 2nd and 3rd** are the dates to mark on your calendar. Talk to your friends and arrange your carpools now. It's an event y'all won't want to miss! Promise!!

Flame, continued

The abuser never even cared enough to give Flame a name. I don't think he rode him either although that is a really good thing. We are not seeing the damage that can accrue from riding an out of condition horse. Flame's tendons and joints look clean and he moves well for such a skinny horse. (Body condition score of "one".) His eyes are still bright and alert. What a good sign! Flame has rubbed off a good bit of tail, so on his first day with us, we started him on a low dose of Ivermectrin dewormer.

I feel he is going to recover quickly since there does not seem to be any complication other than starvation. Under the skin and bones that show now is a beautiful horse just waiting to come out. Hopefully the new *covered training arena* will be ready for use about the time Flame is ready to go back under saddle again.

Come visit Fancy and Flame. They will be happy to meet you. If you are not yet an Angel Sponsor, please consider aiding with the expenses for either Fancy or Flame, and receive quarterly information on their progress.



Save a Horse - Ride a Rescue

The horses are so happy to have their own person to love and care for them. We have seen this every time a horse goes to a quality home. There's a special joy for the human, too, who takes in a rescue.

HPS has some **wonderful horses to place** in new loving homes. While it is unusual for us to have a variety of child-safe beginning horses to place, that is the case this year. Please pass the word to anyone you may know who is interested in acquiring a horse for a child. In addition, there are larger horses that would be great trail horses or could be trained for different disciplines. The ones we're talking about are quiet gentle horses.

One of the great benefits of acquiring a **Pasture Pal** to keep your horse company is that there is no guilt for not exercising him or her. A Pasture Pal's job is to be the friend that all horses need to be happy and healthy. We have a wonderful selection of them, as well.

Please print and post at your stable HPS's website pages of our horses that are ready for placement. Bring friends to the sanctuary who are looking for a horse. (By appointment only, please.) We work with the horses under saddle every Saturday morning and this is a great time to come see them. HPS needs to place horses to make room for other rescues that need us. Everyone deserves a loving forever home; please help us make that a reality for our rehabilitated, healthy equines.



A big THANK YOU to the folks who have helped to get things started in the effort to raise funds to build the **Covered Training Arena**. As of this writing, we have collected \$2,290.00 towards this important project. If every family reading our newsletter were to contribute just \$40.00, the hope would become reality.

Noble colicked and required multiple visits from our vets. His recurrent airway obstruction complicated both the colic and the vet's ability to tube the horse. Bags and bags of IV fluids were administered to help loosen the impaction. Thankfully though little by little, he improved over a number of days and is now happily out with his friends and doing great. He just needs to gain back a little more weight.

Maverick, Gold Rush and **Mystery** also needed visits from the veterinarian during the month.

We are in need of help with the morning feedings. Some of our feeders will be returning to their fall employment or going back to school, and this may leave us short-handed. Feeding our herd provides a great opportunity to learn so much more about equine care. And if you are interested, it may also be possible to join the Equine Training Program, if you qualify. Please email us at hps@horseprotection.org or call 704-855-2978 (evenings please) if you would like to offer your services for this very important (and rewarding) feeding work.

Finally, a special **THANKS!** to each person who sent us their email address to help save HPS needed funds. It is always helpful to share HPS news with others by printing the newsletter and leaving it where they will be able to read it: doctor's office, your veterinarian's office, the coffee room where you work— any place folks have to wait and need something to read. This is an easy way to spread the word. If you have a Facebook page, please add a link to the month's newsletter. The more people who learn about HPS, the more aid we will receive to care for the rehabilitation of the rescued horses. We have 48 horses whose needs we must provide. You can be an ambassador for them and make a huge impact by turning other folks onto HPS!

Sanctuary Updates

Monthly Donations & Contributors

Without the generous financial support of our wonderful donors, the two horses pictured on the front of this month's issue would simply not have survived. Just compare the photos of some of the herd on their arrival at the sanctuary with their photos on the website showing them returned to health and you'll see the direct impact your donations have made. May you be as blessed as you have blessed the horses at HPS.

Anne M. & James Allison
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 Michelle Simkuiet
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 Sue T. Smith
 The Smith Family
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 Jack Towell
 Elaine Towner
 Rita & George Tucker
 Sandra Van Dyck
 John Vinal
 Paul Walcheski
 Timothy W. Walsh
 Heather L. Watkinson
 Lynn Weinberg
 Shelagh A. Winter
 Alston Osgood Wolf
 Linda M. Yarrington
 Jennifer L. Zirt
 Nancy Zuilkowski

With Apologies

Due to a computer glitch during printing, the following *Honors and Memorials* were inadvertently omitted from the July issue. We regret that this occurred, and print them here.

THANK YOU to Jane Oglesby's class for collecting donations to HPS as Jane's end-of-year gift!

THANK YOU to Dakota Arneson who asked that funds be donated to HPS in lieu of birthday gifts!

In honor of our favorite Kindergarten teacher, Gwyn Kellam. This is a "Thank You" to her for a wonderful year!

By Megan Stuart

In honor of a very generous friend of mine, Nicky Turner, who is also a supporter of your organization.

By Amy Trester

In honor of and congratulations to Meredith Dauzat.

By Elizabeth Phagan

Donation From: _____ Phone# _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email address _____
 Please use my donation for: \$ _____ Indoor Arena Fund \$ _____ General Use
Angel Sponsor: \$20 for 1 month \$60 for 3 months \$120 for 6 months \$240 for 1 year
 Whom would you like to receive your Honor, Memorial, or Angel Sponsor (please circle)?
 Name: _____ Email address _____
 Phone _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Would you like the above recipient to receive "Over Herd" - **Yes No**
 Your message for the newsletter:

****Any donation is appreciated. Please make your check payable to Horse Protection Society.
 For a \$25 or more donation, the named person can receive "Over Herd" for 1 year.
 Mail completed form to:
 Horse Protection Society, 2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023

Honors

In honor of Alice Hinson Singh.

"I care not for a man's religion whose animals are not the better for it." Abe Lincoln.

Thank you, Alice.

Love, Dianne Doub

To honor my dear friend, Spunky Dagenhart,

"Thank You"

By Elizabeth Phagan

My favorite way to celebrate my birthday, July 6th, is to send a gift to the rescued horses.

By Barbara Moore

For your love of horses—help one by donating

By Marlie

In Memorium

In memory of Queenie.

A short time with me—remembered forever.
 By Dottie Rebhan

For Emma—

Gone from your pasture, forever in your heart.
 By Elizabeth Phagan

In loving memory of our beloved Kirby.

She was fearless
 and lived life "full throttle!"
 By Sheila & Todd

In Warrior's memory.

He was so well cared for by all of you!
 By Rita Tucker

In memory of Wally Getz.
 By Alston Osgood Wolf

In memory of Patricia Smith.
 By Michelle Simkulet

In memory of Ned C. Towell.
 By Elizabeth H. Taylor

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