



August 2014

Volume 17 Issue 8

# OVER HERD

## A Big Thank You!!

The generosity of the following contributors made it possible for HPS to purchase much needed rescue equipment! We were able to purchase the sling, the crane, hoist, trolley and one more very important addition that we were able to add to the list. An equine glide! This is required to help move a horse to a more appropriate area so they can be raised in the sling using the crane. A huge thank you from the horses who lives will be saved!



- Joanie Benson
- Gloria M. Berthelsen
- Susanne & Rev. Harvey L. Blume
- Nina & James V. Burton
- Imogene W. & Jerry Caldwell
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- Robin L. Croswhite
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- Ann C. Powlas
- Dr. Robert H. Schantz
- Cynthia Sheaffer
- Gail M. Shinn
- Rita A. Tucker

## Chicopee & Sparrow

Even the volunteers forget what terrible condition Chicopee and Sparrow were in when they arrived at the sanctuary. Both were close to dying and desperately needed rescuing. After the initial slow start to re-feeding a starved horse it is possible for them to gain as much as 10 pounds a day.

Chicopee was located here in Rowan County and the other two horses in his pasture were not allowing him near any food. When not enough hay or feed is put out daily, the stronger horses will chase off the weaker horse and that's what happened in Chicopee's case. The owner did not feel they



could care for Chicopee and provide what he needed and was more than willing to turn him over to HPS. Horses have to be fed the correct



amounts every day, but you would be amazed how often this is not the case and days will go by with no food given to the horses. We will wait until the weather is cooler to start working towards setting-up the surgery to have Chicopee's cleft pallet closed, if at all possible. Chicopee's story was in the May newsletter.

Sparrow was given no feed or hay for months and months. Some estimates are as long ago as the end of last summer! The small field did not have enough grass for even one day. Two gals kept after Caswell County Animal Control and that made it possible for Sparrow to be rescued.

**(Cont. Last Page)**

## News from the Herd

**Diego** was not acting like his normal happy self and was hanging out around the barn way too much. We had a full blood panel pulled for starters and that showed he was low on iron. Normally our older horses are given Red Cell – an iron supplement three times a week. This was not enough for Diego and now he is on Red Cell every day and back to his happy self. You can overdo the iron so we will drop him back shortly to four times a week and see how he does on that amount. The liquid Red Cell works better for the older horses and is easier for them to digest rather than the pelleted Red Cell.

**Stetson** completed his EPM treatment and will be rechecked to make sure the protozoa have cleared. We will have the final next month. He is definitely moving much better and has gained his weight back. He is due for a chiropractic visit once we get the test results back.

**Taiga** had a minor colic that was cleared with one treatment of tubing and oil.

**Breeze** has been having difficulty during the hot part of the summer. She is not interested in eating and often just nibbles her food. It did not seem to matter whether we hung her feed bucket or fed her on the stall floor. She had lost a good deal of weight while I was on vacation. We had Dr. Bob Gochnauer check Breeze and we had a blood panel done. The main issue was Breeze's neck. We knew she had an old injury and the arthritis had gotten much, much worse. Dr. Bob did not feel there was anything we could do to help her and that it was time to look at her quality of life. Letting a horse go over the Rainbow Bridge is the hardest thing that we have to do at the sanctuary.

**Honey Bun** took over as head mare with her two new horses at her new home. But then she thought she could boss her people around also. This is why the bonding and trust training is so important and then the care giver understands how to put the horse back into the follower status with the people and stop any pushy behavior. It is really important for folks to expect misbehavior of a new horse and to know how to handle it before it escalates. Any new horse may try their new people. If the horse makes you move your feet even just once it could get worse from there. The horse then thinks they are the boss. That is how a mare becomes the boss mare is by making the other horses move their feet.

The struggle was on when Honey Bun returned. The other horses were not willing to let her come in and pick up where she left off here or become the new boss mare. Groups of horses had reconfigured and they were happy with the way things were. Honey Bun will have to move down the pecking order to be able to get back with her old small herd of horses or take up with a new group. The one thing you can count on is the horses will work it all out!

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## Health Tips

Modern farming practices have left the soils mineral deficient. Minerals are even more important than vitamins, but not as important as enzymes. Magnesium is considered the master mineral involved in over 300 metabolic processes. Potassium is much less discussed but too little can lead to hypokalemia, which can result in death.

Potassium is essential for the heart, kidneys, muscles, nerves and digestive system to operate normally. It is required for fluid balance, body's acid base and blood pressure. Insufficient potassium is linked to high blood pressure, osteoporosis, kidney stones, heart health issues and strokes.

Dr. Michael Greger, physician, author and internationally recognized speaker on a number of health-related issues, has discussed how higher levels of potassium have been studied in regards to pain reduction for rheumatoid arthritis, suggesting that low potassium levels may promote autoimmune diseases, while higher levels can help prevent autoimmune diseases.

## Honors and Memorials

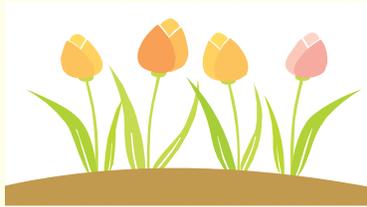
In memory of my friend, Tina's much loved "Biddy" and "Sammie." Two great old dogs! By Elaine D. Towner

In memory of my husband, Richard Berthelsen, By Gloria M. Berthelsen

Love Destyn! (9 years old) Made and sold rubber band bracelets and anklets.  
The proceeds from the sales were donated to HPS.

In memory of "Ruby." Anna Garrett (12yrs.) is beloved horse. By Kathleen Gawle

In memory of my husband, Jerry L. Caldwell, who died May 20, 2014.  
By his wife Imogene "Jean" Caldwell



## A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful Contributors

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\*\*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.

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Address Correction Requested

**(Cont. from Page 1)**

The owners had gotten repeated visits from Animal Control concerning abusing their horses. As long as the AC was visiting the people would feed the horses. As soon as AC stopped checking, the people stopped feeding the horses. Sparrow's story was in the April newsletter.

It is too soon to think about putting Chicopee and Sparrow back under saddle. Both are feeling much better but have very little stamina and no real muscle mass. They need a few more months of just enjoying the freedom of running in the fields and eating and eating. Little by little they will build muscle back.

It is exceeding expensive to bring the rescues back to full health and then it is the monthly upkeep until a quality home can be found for each horse. We are getting more inquires about horses to be placed, but all too often the people do not have horse knowledge and they want to keep the horse/s at home. HPS offers them a chance to come to the sanctuary to learn all they need to correctly take care of their horses. It takes time and a lot of effort and work on their part so most are not interested. Being responsible for a horse is a big commitment whether it is kept at home or boarded.

