



# OVER HERD

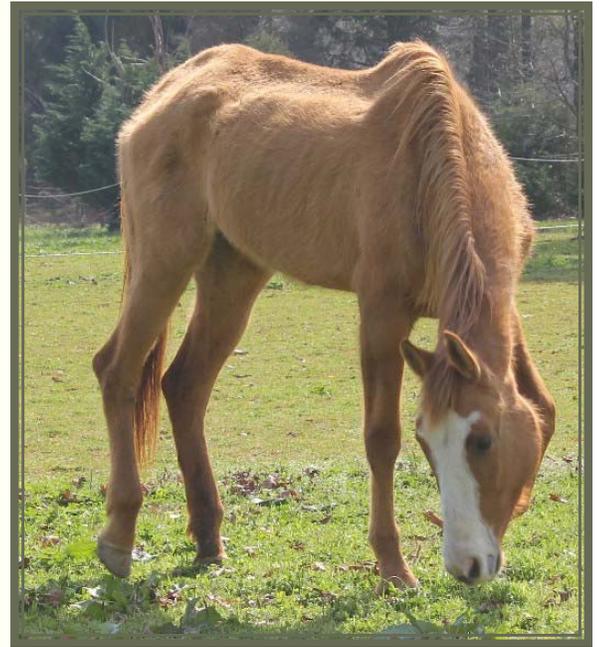
## Update on the New Horses—Topaz and Omaha

**Topaz** is an amazingly tall horse and is 16.2 hands tall. A horse should be standing on flat area and measured from the ground to the highest part of the withers. (Highest point at the base of the neck.) Each hand is equal to 4 inches.

This measurement may have started as far back as 5,000 years. The rules of trade demanded the same measurement everywhere, and the hand was eventually standardized by the Egyptians around 3,000 BC based upon a complex system including the "cubit." Because of the enormous influence of the Egyptian culture, use of this system migrated to other countries and cultures. A cubit could be from 17.5 to a long cubit of 20.6 inches.

The physical therapy, done with Topaz's back hoof has enhanced her movement. When she is standing at rest she will still cock her pastern area abnormally most of the time. Her walking is almost normal, but is going to take much longer to see total improvement, if possible.

Hopi was in the side field with Topaz and Omaha. Hopi just want to be friends with Topaz and didn't want to share the hay with Omaha, so she had to be moved out to be with the rest of the herd. Topaz and Omaha get along great.



Topaz was tested for EPM (*Equine protozoal myeloencephalitis*) and was positive for this illness. For our newer folks, EPM is a protozoa pasted on in opossum stool. The protozoal gets into the horse's brain and spinal cord. It takes a temperature of 152 degrees to kill these protozoal. Most pelleted feed is flash heated to 200 degrees. Sweet feed is not and the opossums can get into the grain anywhere from the farmers to the grain mills and defecate in the grain.

Estimates are 80% of the horses in North Carolina will test positive for EPM. The percentage of horses that we have tested is higher than 80%. HPS has found the testing and treatment from Pathogenes the best for curing this devastating illness that can kill horses. HPS has not lost a horse due to EPM since

we have been using Pathogenes testing and protocol for curing EPM. Both the testing and cure are reasonably priced compared to other testing and products that don't work.

**(Cont. on Page 4)**

## News from the Herd

**The Herd** is doing great! They would like the temperature to go down to something more reasonable so they wouldn't have to hang out in the barns in the afternoons to take their naps. Some of the horses take a dip in the pond to cool off and then a good roll in the grass.

The concrete has set and the rails will be fabricated shortly for new covered hay feeder. Everyone is looking forward to the first load of hay to go in the new feeder.

HPS has twelve old fashion steel bath tubs for the horses' water. The over flow hole and faucet area have been sealed off and often the tubs have to be fill to the top three times a day.

**Baby** is still having issues and has to be watched very carefully. She lets us know when she is not feeling well. Often it just takes a small dose of Banamine. Immune mediated polymyositis is still a consideration for Baby that is a threat to her life.

**And More.....** Many afternoons we have been having nice showers that have help the grass in the fields and to cool things off. The additional dampness has encouraged the flies and mosquitos, but we have five new weapons that are working hard to clear both. A devoted pair of barn swallows built a nest in barn two. This family is the first that have nested at the sanctuary. Sometimes a few barn swallows would come over late in the day from the next farm over. The young have now joined the parents and it is hard to find a fly in their barn. Their territory of looking for insects is expanding. In the past when the barn swallows would come to visit, I would invite them to move into the barns.

A swallow can eat 60 bugs an hour and five can eat 300 bugs an hour. We are hoping that they all return after spending their winter in central and South America and bring mates to nest in the barns. It would be wonderful if we could stop buying the expensive fly predators every summer.

**The ducks** have had some ducklings and there have been goslings enjoying the pond. A little gosling was found by a couple walking up their driveway. They brought it to HPS and we were able to integrate the gosling with a pair of geese with the same size babies.

*"I remember the plough horses. Big, beautiful, plodding fellows, I loved them so. Picture the scene: A pale blue morning, glistening at the edges, and a farmer ploughing with his horse team. A fragile autumn sun glinting on the plough and harness.*

*Grey and white seagulls flying over.*

*And the horses. Filled-out strong muscled, sleek with sweat, the long fetlock hairs about their hooves creamed in a flurry of endeavor as the plough slices deep in the earth, cutting straight and true behind them, And the clean, crumbling earth lying in a darker ribbon by the fresh furrow beside the farmer's striding feet."* By Roy Bolitho



The picture of the two plough horses was taken in front of the old barn that was on the sanctuary property and used for the rescued horses for many years. The share cropper's family had five children that visited me in the early 1990's. They lived on the property at the beginning of the depression in the early 1930's. The elder folks shared with me that it was the happiest time of their lives when they lived on this property. They kindly brought me picture on another visit.

## **Honors and Memorials**

In honor of Sybil Athey's 80th birthday. By Dottie Rebhan

Happy Birthday to Kim Clark - June 30. By Floyd and Betty Lentz

"She walked in beauty..." Miss Angel LeHouf, August 19, 2002. Forever Loved, Roberta

In honor of Courtney Wood on the occasion of her birthday. By Brenda & Gerry Wood

In memory of my husband, Jerry on what would have been our 57th anniversary  
on August 8th. By Imogene Caldwell



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

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### Update on New Horses (Cont. from Page 1)

**Omaha** is a very sick horse and there is not much we can do for him. His heart is severely damaged and the heart beats are extremely irregular and on top of this disorder he has a bad heart mummer. Both disorders can be caused by long term starvation and make it difficult for him to gain the much needed weight. The starvation can damage the liver and hurt the horse's immune system making the horse more prone to cancer and other issues affecting all the organs.

HPS did have him tested for EPM and of course he was positive with high numbers. (He had been fed sweet feed for years.) Normally I would like to wait and let a horse gain some weight before treating them. In Omaha's case the heart issue may be partly do to the EPM so I decided to treat him right away. He started gaining weight while still on the treatment.



This poor old 31 year old boy deserves to have attention and good food for whatever time he has. Contribution towards his care would be greatly appreciated. You are welcome to come to visit Omaha and Topaz any Saturday afternoon.