



Volume 20 Issue 8

NEWSLETTER OF THE HORSE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA INC.

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August 2017

# OVER HERD

## Another Equine Returns

Another equine returns, only this time the little guy is just 13 hands tall and an adorable little pony. *Sugar Daddy* arrived at the sanctuary in August of 2007. It was a time when we could help folks who found themselves in terrible financial difficulty and couldn't even buy feed for their horses. That all changed in 2008 and there were so many starving horses that we couldn't help folks like Sugar Daddy's family with healthy horses.

Sugar Daddy was about 10 years old when he was placed as a little 8 year-old girl's first pony. Now, she is off to college and Sugar Daddy's companion horse was given away. Sugar Daddy has been gone from the sanctuary for 10 years. He seems in good condition and happy at 20 years old.

It would be wonderful for Sugar to have another special little girl in his life. What child wouldn't love a dark palomino with flaxen mane and tail?

We need to work with him to find out what he has learned while he has been away from the sanctuary. Sugar also needs a complete veterinarian check-up, dental and EPM testing, also.

*I know of two equine rescues in North Carolina that are in financial difficulty and there maybe others. They are small rescues of five or six horses, but it is a sign of the times. Please help make sure HPS's coffers stay full and that we always have the ability to take any of the hundreds and hundreds of horses we have placed that may need to come back to the sanctuary to remain safe. You are the folks who made the investment to allow the placed horses the ability to recover and prosper. Please make sure they will be able to return to HPS and receive the same high quality care once again if it is needed.*



At the present time there are more requests to take in horses that people no longer want to care for than starved or abused horses. Last week we had requests to take in 10 to 12 horses. (I lost count.) I don't remember one horse that was trained to ride or was not injured and could be ridden. The untrained horses were older, late teens to early twenties. There has been little to no reports of starved horses. As I am sure you have noticed the horses coming in are mainly ones we had placed out years ago and life has changed for the folks that were caring for the horses. *What happens to the horses that have been placed by other rescues that do not have this safety net for the placed horses?*

## A Look Back Over the Years

I had been looking for the beginning newsletters from when the Horse Protection Society first started in January 1999. I thought it would be fun to list the most important event that accrued each year. I quickly realized that most months had huge important things take place through the year and I had set an impossible task to go through the years.

For example the first month we took over the responsibility to bring felony charges against Carol Lewis and care for the 30 plus Saddlebred horses on Orphanage Road outside Concord. We never got below caring for 52 horses during 1999, but often we were caring for more. Each month there was so many significant events.

We are blessed... some of the nicest people I have ever met stepped up to help with the Saddlebreds. Some went on to help out at the sanctuary after January 2000 when the horses were moved to the sanctuary.

We are blessed..... Some contributors are still showing their deep caring for the rescued horses still today.

This is what equine rescue is all about. For HPS it is treated the same way as any well run professional business, it is just not for profit. And it shows in what we have been able to accomplish because of folks like you.

*I could list all the horses that came to the sanctuary over the years, I could list all the placed horses, the special events, and there just isn't enough room in this newsletter or the next half dozen newsletters. We are so thankful for the kindness to make the rescue of all the horses possible, for them to have such high quality care and all of the wonderful barns, covered hay feeders and the indoor training arena. The most I can share is to show before and after pictures of some of the horses from time to time.*

## Red Alert

It is time to **retest the 20 EPM horses** that have been treated for equine protozoal myeloencephalitis. EPM is a disease caused by the parasites that affects the central nervous system of horses. The cost of drawing the blood and testing is \$58.00 per horse and \$1,276.00 for the 20 horses. Some may need to be retreated. All we can do is wait and see how the horses test out. Please help provide whatever you feel comfortable with to aid the horses retesting and possible retreating. Thank you! Thank you!

*"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 birthday. By Dottie Rebhan

In honor of Roberta McCardle's birthday. By Dottie Rebhan

In honor of Courtney Wood on the occasion of her birthday. From Brenda and Gerry

Miss Angel LeHouf - "She walks in beauty, like the night. Of cloudless climes and starry skies...."  
Forever loved, Forever missed, Roberta

My birthday is July 6th. This is my present to help me celebrate!  
By Barbara Moore - Happy birthday from the HPS Gang

In loving memory of Dr. Bob. Dr. Bob was more than just our veterinarian; he was a wonderful friend. We miss him so much! By Lisa Jordan-Pearce, Gerald Pearce, Tookie, Stormy, Norman, and Buster.

This is a memorial in honor of Dr. Bob Gochnauer DVM. I understand he was very helpful with your program. He was "one in a million"!!! Ivey Sumrell



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

Sybil P. Athey	Katherine Lofgren	Ivey Sumrell
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\*\*For a \$25 or more donation, the named person can receive "Over Herd" for 1 year.

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### Important Reminder – Tansy Ragwort

The toxic weed Tansy ragwort is back in the fields worse than last year. All the rain this spring and summer has caused any seeds from last year to germinate. Once again we are working to cut the flowers off and burn the plant to the ground to keep it from reseeding. Please remember that the horses will not eat this plant until it is hit by frost. Then the horses will eat the ragwort. It destroys the horse's liver.



### Important Reminder – Moldy Corn Toxicity

The hot humid weather can easily cause moldy feed. Almost all feed has some corn mixed in the pellets. There are a number of names for this illness and the ones most people have heard are moldy corn toxicity, moldy corn poisoning, or blind staggers. It takes only a small amount of moldy feed to destroy the horse's liver. The toxicity the liver gives off causes the neurological issues, hence the name "blind staggers." All mold is detrimental to horses, but moldy corn is so life threatening.