

# OVER HERD

Volume 25 Issue 8

August 2021



# HPS Craft Fair & Bluegrass Music

In Memory of Lynn Burris - Please let us know if your donation is in memory of Lynn.

Saturday, August 28th, 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm



Many fun activities are planned to make this a memorable family afternoon.



The Horse Clinics will be fun for all that are interested in participating. It will be good for the children to have a chance to spend time with a horse. There will be a time when the kids who would like to have their picture taken sitting on a horse will be available.

The NuHiWay Band will be entertaining us. You will enjoy their music.

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## Farmer's Day in China Grove

What a fun day for the volunteers, children, and parents! Set-up had been done on Friday evening, so Scooter, our feature rescue horse, had to take just a short ride Saturday morning and all was ready for her. The little ones were popped up on her so either the parent or Megan could take a few pictures of the two cuties. Scooter was a good choice to bring for the day. She was quiet and so patient with the kids being lifted on her. Many folks contributed a donation to the HPS donation jar. The pictures tell the story of the cute little people.

Additionally, we sold many of our HPS T-shirts and the lucky decorated horseshoes that Joyce Darling and other volunteers had made.







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Horse Protection Society of NC Inc., 2135 Miller Rd, China Grove, NC 28023 ~ 704-855-2978

#### Continued from Page #1 ~ Craft Fair & Bluegrass Music



Gambol the Clown will be on hand to entertain providing laughs and fun. He will be doing balloon animals, picture opportunities and Magic show.

Pulled pork BBQ sandwiches... yum...yum and other tasty treats to pick from.

There will be some wonderful items in both a silent auction and a live auction. A variety of interesting crafts to enjoy and tempt you to take them home will be on display. (Good time to pick up a gift or two.)

Please pass the information on to your friends and post the flyer on your social media. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on the 28<sup>th</sup>!

#### Continued from Page #1 ~ Farmers Day











We may have missed some of the best pictures because we were laughing with the courageous little tiny kids. They would be scrambling up on the horse and not waiting for help. Other children were timid and would only rub Scooter. It was great fun!

#### Highlights From the AAEP\* Infectious Disease Guidelines for EPM

Submitted By Dr. Karen Karaffa Gochnauer, (Was a well-respected small animal veterinarian for many years.)

Equine protozoal myeloencephalitis (EPM) is a neurologic disease of horses caused by protozoal infection of the central nervous system (CNS). Sarcocystis neurona causes most cases.

Clinical signs are variable and can mimic most other neurologic diseases as well as musculoskeletal problems. The variable clinical signs are dependent on the affected areas of the spinal cord and brain. These signs include incoordination, weakness, muscle atrophy, unusual or atypical lameness, reduced or absent sensation, alterations in level of consciousness, inability to swallow normally, facial paralysis, and vision abnormalities. EPM is often progressive but can have a rapid onset. EPM mimics many diseases but certain clinical signs increase or decrease suspicion for EPM. Multifocal neurologic signs with asymmetric deficits including incoordination or muscle atrophy increase clinical suspicion, while fever or pain accompanying the neurologic signs should decrease clinical suspicion.

All horses are considered susceptible to EPM, but most horses exposed to the causative organisms never show signs of disease. The likely reason for this fact is the horse's individual immune response and variation in the strain, dose, or frequency of exposure. Stressful events such as heavy exercise, transport, injury, surgery, severe malnutrition, and parturition may also increase risk.

The highest accuracy in diagnosis is obtained by fulfilling 3 criteria:

- (1) Confirmation of clinical signs consistent with spinal cord or brain dysfunction through careful clinical neurologic examination.
- (2) Exclusion of other potential causes of these signs using appropriate diagnostic testing.
- (3) Immunodiagnostic testing on paired serum and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) to confirm antibody
- (4) production against the protozoa. If the horse shows clinical signs of neurologic disease and other potential causes are excluded or considered less likely, EPM testing is recommended.

General principles for interpretation of EPM test results are as follows:

- --- A positive serum test indicates exposure to the organism but does not confirm CNS infection, regardless of the magnitude of the titer. Serologic screening of normal animals is not recommended.
- --- A negative serum test usually indicates that the horse has not been exposed to the organism.
- --- A positive CSF test is more likely to correlate with an EPM diagnosis than a positive serum test. However, false positives commonly occur.
- --- A negative CSF test usually means EPM is not the cause of disease.

Horses do not shed the organism during or after the clinical disease. EPM is not transmissible between horses. However, recurrence of the neurologic signs after resolution or substantial improvement happens in a proportion of cases. It is unclear whether this represents re-infection of a susceptible horse or failure of treatment to clear the organism.

Preventative approaches for EPM include reducing exposure by minimizing contact with opossum scat, and improving equine immune defenses by decreasing stress and optimizing health.

An effective vaccine has not been developed.

\*American Association of Equine Practitioners

Understanding terms from article Page #4

Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc.

2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023

July 2021 (3)

#### Understanding the Terms in EPM Article

CNS stands for Central Nervous System infection.

CSF stands for Cerebrospinal Fluid tap. (or spinal tap) Only 10 molecules of blood will contaminate the CSF sample and will cause a false positive.

EPM testing Recommendations & Estimated Costs From Veterinary Hospitals

NC State University Veterinary Hospital – Dr. Hallowell – "Neurological exam - serum test and CSF (spinal tap if needed). We only recommend the FDA medication. Work-up and spinal tap CSF - \$800 to \$1,200."

Davie Large Animal – Jose R. Castro DVM, DACVS-LA, DABVP=Equine, CVA-Equine "Neurological exam, Serum test should be enough."

Tryon Equine Hospital. "Neurological exam and serum test - \$500 to \$600. If a spinal tap (CSF) is needed - \$1,200. The horses should be referred by a veterinarian to the hospital."

#### News from the Herd



**Sunshine** had very high EPM test numbers and struggled to gain weight. She finished the EPM 10-day treatment and is now on 90 days of Decoquinate. She has gained weight and developed a nice coat. The spots that had been hairless since she arrived in August 2020, have grown new hair. Check out her gorgeous picture now.

**The Herd** - All the horses have completed their EPM medication and are continuing the follow-up 90 day treatment. They have stopped their quirky neurological issues and gait issues. *Thank you! Thank you for making this possible!* 

#### 1st Annual HPS Craft Fair Fundraiser

Some of additional activates for the kids will be Kiddie Corral painting on Canvas, Games, and \$5 Back to School Hair Cuts, and Tie Dye Workshop

You will be able to take a picture of the kids sitting on a horse.

The Horse Clinic's will be taking place at posted times through out the afternoon.

Adults and older kids will enjoy the beginning lessons.

The following are sponsors for the Craft Fair Fundraiser. Thank you for caring!



#### Stars & Bars Tavern ROWAN AUTO SALES

### CRAZY DAVID'S DISCOUNT VARIETY STORE

In Memory of Angel LeHouf, August 19, 2002. She walks in Beauty, like the night

of Cloudless climes and Starry Skies ... "Forever in our hearts, Roberta."

In honor of Benson Simmons. By Cynthia Sheaffer

In Memory of Lynn Burris. By Margaret Goldin

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You can help support our efforts to save horses by providing your email address to us at:

hps@horseprotection.org
This will save money in printing & postage.

THANK YOU!



"Hay... I mean Hey! I'm Honey and this is Ginger. We are looking forward to seeing you on August 28th. It's going to be a great party and the money will help take care of me and Ginger and the other four-leggers. If you can't make it, you could help by sending a donation in my name. It would be okay to slip me a peppermint. I won't tell if you sent me a candy!"