



A Mare Who Needed a Second Chance

By: Christina S

A local veterinarian recently contacted HPS for help. A client had contacted her about his lame horse which she subsequently evaluated and determined that an abscess was likely causing the lameness. She also noticed that **the horse's hooves were overgrown**. She told the owner the hooves needed to be trimmed and offered to do radiographs to assess any related issues.

Additionally, the vet assessed the mare's age closer to twenty years old. This upset the owner, since when he acquired the horse two years ago; he was told she was **twelve**. He told the vet he didn't want to spend any more money on the horse and requested that she be euthanized.

Naturally, the vet would not euthanize a horse when it was not medically necessary, and other than the abscess, this mare was in good health. She was concerned, so she asked him if she could find a place for the mare to go, would he agree to surrender her. That is when the vet reached out to HPS. After speaking with her, I called the owner and talked to him to see if he would turn the horse over to us. Thankfully he agreed and was also willing to bring her to us.

The day she was to arrive, the owner called HPS and stated that he was unable to load the horse into the trailer by himself. Joyce and Grace offered to help and **drove to the mare's location the following morning**. They spent some time with her prior to loading and found that she warmed up to them quickly and had a kind and gentle disposition. However, she was frightened with the loading process and initially resisted going into the trailer. It took some patience and time but they got her loaded and she settled down and made it safely to the rescue.

She is adjusting well at HPS and the farrier has trimmed her toes to make her more comfortable. This sweet mare would make the perfect horse for an angel sponsor!



Farmers Day 2023

Farmer's Day in China Grove is a street festival originally organized to honor local farmers. The event has become one of the best street festivals in North Carolina and is a fun day of food, crafts and music. It usually draws a crowd of close to 10,000 people. HPS has participated in this yearly event since 2019, and found that it provides good community exposure and opportunities to connect with people and share our rescue mission. We take a horse and materials to highlight our mission. The kids love sitting on the horse and getting their pictures taken. We accept donations and have a few items for sale to help generate funding. Additionally, this year we highlighted the sale of our beef raffle tickets.

We start preparing for the event in May, submitting our registration, soliciting volunteers, making to do lists, and deciding which horse (s) to take. The horse must be calm and gentle around people. The first year we took Peaches. She was such a little pony and a big hit with the kids. Scooter has now participated for three years and has become a fan favorite. She is cute and so amazing with the children and adults. Last year we decided to switch horses midway through the day to make a shorter day for each horse. This year in addition to Scooter, we took Chuckles and Gypsy. Chuckles is in training, so he stayed just a short time, and then Gypsy was on duty for **rest of the afternoon. This was the first Farmer's Day for Gypsy but she is a seasoned mare and did a fantastic job.**

In the days before the event, we gathered everything we needed and bathed the horses. Since we decided to take Gypsy, we needed a taller tent as she is a bigger horse. We had previously used two 10x10 pop-up tents. The Tint Shop Plus let us use their new 20 x 20 pop-up tent, which worked out perfectly. Friday night we set up our assigned spot for the festival so that Saturday morning we had only a few things to do before we brought over the horse.

Finally, Saturday morning came, and we were ready to go. The day was beautiful and the festival a big success! Eager children lined up to sit on the horse and many people stopped by our table to purchase items, drop off a donation, or just ask about the horses. A big thank you to Jill Sellers for a great job coordinating Farmers Day and being so helpful in getting us settled. A special thanks to our volunteers and people who came out and supported us and made this day possible!



42nd Annual Farmers Day Festival
China Grove, NC



Thank you to all those who came out to support us. If you didn't make this year come, visit us next year at the 43rd annual Farmers Day! Festival!



New Railings for the Hay Feeder – Thank you, Travis!!

For several months replacing the railings in the second hay feeder had been high priority for HPS. The old railings were breaking and falling apart, leaving sharp edges. We were concerned that these sharp edges could cause serious injuries to the horses. During one evening shift, Bronco went over the broken railing into the center of the hay feeder; thankfully, we were there to immediately help him. We feared another horse would go through the broken railings and get stuck or injured trying to get out.

Several years ago, Travis Johnson had constructed and welded new railings for our first hay feeder using donated materials. We contacted Travis and asked if he could help HPS again. This time he was able to get Technique Chassis of Concord to donate the metal while Travis again donated his time and talent to build rails for the second hay feeder.

Once the railings were delivered to HPS, they were painted to help prevent rust. The hay feeder was then cleared, the old damaged railings removed, and the new railings set in place. We added eye hooks, chains, and clasps to keep the railings secure. Now the hay feeder is safe for the horses and looks fantastic. We are very thankful for Travis, Technique Chassis, and all the volunteers involved with this successful project.



TECHNIQUE
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Waiting on Parts Again While the Grass Keeps Growing

There is always a significant amount of mowing to do around the farm. What do you do when the two riding mowers, the push mower and the brush hog, decide to break or quit working? Although we maintain the equipment regularly, age and normal wear and tear cause breakdowns. We do our best to repair what we have, but more is needed to keep up with the mowing. We drove an hour away to pick up parts for the brush hog, but are still waiting for more parts. Chris, the farmer next door, let us borrow his brush hog, and one volunteer brought their own push mower to mow the lawn around the house.

The pastures must be regularly mowed to encourage root growth, control weeds, and break the grazing patterns. Maintaining the pastures is essential for the health of the horses. The pastures provide the horses with nutritious grass, which is much cheaper than buying hay, and gives them a place to socialize and exercise. We have four pastures through which we rotate the horses. The lack of proper working equipment makes maintaining the health of these pastures challenging.

We are working on repairing both pieces of equipment and hope to have them up and running soon. If you or someone you know would like to donate a gently used brush hog or riding mower with a bagger, don't hesitate to contact HPS.



Thank you for all your kind donations!



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Horse Protection Society
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 THANK YOU!

Gabriel's Story By: Gabriel S.

My name is Gabriel. I'm ten years old and I've been volunteering at HPS with my mom for the past seven years. I'd like to share my experience at the horse rescue with you. When I was a lot younger my mom would put my brother and I in a stall with a couple of lead ropes to play with while she cared for the horses. As I have gotten older now I have learned a lot and started helping more around the barn. I currently love volunteering in the morning with my mom. I like to help my mom mix the horses grain and spend time with the horses while I'm walking them to their stalls for breakfast. My favorite horse is Dusty because he's so nice and gentle. Grace has taught me the basics of riding and he's my favorite horse to ride because he listens so well, loves the attention, and because I like riding western. I have enjoyed meeting new people and making friends along the way. That's my experience at HPS.

