



Dumped in a Field

by Joanie Benson



Wear them out! Then dump the horse somewhere to make it someone else's problem. This poor palomino mare had been ridden **into the ground** until her legs just gave out. Once she was a beautiful horse with good conformation. Even in terrible pain, she was a sweet horse and loved attention. Her favorite thing here at the sanctuary was to be fed and then stand at the hay bale filling her belly. Little Cracker Jack was her protector watching over her, realizing how helpless she was. Everyone hates it when there is nothing we can do to help a horse except to give it a small window of time to get fed and be loved. One of her front leg tendons was giving out. It would have been a terrible travesty to let this continue until the tendon ripped!

The dumping off of horses happens all across North Carolina. It is particularly sad when the horse has been so terribly mistreated and there is nothing we can do to help her recover. Each pound she gains becomes more weight for her crippled legs to endure. *She is not standing crooked in the picture. This is how uneven her body was at all times due to her damaged legs.*

The successes we experience at HPS make all our efforts worthwhile. One of our other horses, Sweet Corn Flower was found in the winter months dumped out and so weak she could not get up without help. Her story has a happy ending as soon she will be leaving for a great new loving home to be spoiled by children. YOU made this possible for Corn Flower! (see photo below)

The poor starved palomino in the above photo was dumped in a 70-year-old lady's field in Alamance County. She tried for several months to care for the abandoned horse and could not afford the vet bills or feed costs. Her property was in foreclosure. A caring friend of the older lady called HPS concerning the situation. Of course we agreed to pick up the horse.

Our dear friend Kathy Chenette once again made a road trip to pick up a horse for HPS. She was concerned whether the poor girl could make the trip in the trailer to the sanctuary. Fortunately she did.

The mare's time here was short, but I am so thankful that we could do the right thing for this horse at the end of her life. No more suffering! No more pain to endure! The last kind act for this horse has been done. Her window of time was short, but taking her in and helping her in the only way we could is as important as bringing a starved horse back to health. Ending suffering is the hardest part of the job here at the sanctuary, but it is the only humane thing to do.

The holiday season is upon us—but for some, celebration does not come easy. With the economic downturn having dire effects, struggling families across our nation are forced to face one of the most devastating decisions of their life—the abandonment of their beloved horse, a trip to the auction house or euthanasia. Please help HPS to save as many as possible!

Corn Flower begin worked under saddle in preparation for a new loving home!



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By
Joanie
Benson

Now Diego! Now Desperado! Now Pecos and Santa Fe!
On, Chico! On, Concho! On, Drifter and Breeze!
To the top of the hill! Onto the barn and into your stalls!
Now move away! Move onto the barn! For they hear our calls!

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they met with an obstacle, they jumped to the sky.
So up to the big barns the coursers they flew,
With the thought of full tummies and all that hay, too.

Each was dressed all in fuzzy fur, from their head to their foot,
Their coats were all shiny with snowflakes that looked like soot.
The horses' soft nickers could be heard from each stall,
As they waited for their feed on this Christmas night eve.

The horses are well fed and happy, with no more fright,
We all remember the first time, they were such a scary sight.
For people did care, today they are healthy and God saw your deeds,
He blesses the horses and each of us. The horses' bonds are now freed.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.



FUND-RAISING EFFORTS: ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Although it's a messy job, we are so fortunate to have dedicated volunteers (and loving spouse!) to haul bags and bags of aluminum beverage cans to the local salvage company. Thus far this year, these efforts have netted HPS \$785.50, surpassing the total collected in 2009 by more than \$100 so far.

Kathy, Roberta & Tom would like to make a final run in December, so please help by collecting ALUMINUM BEVERAGE CANS (no water bottles or other kinds of cans, please!) and bringing them to Can City at the ranch. Every penny collected goes to help our precious horses who like to eat, need their feet trimmed regularly, require all kinds of medical care (including dental work), etc. If your office has a drink machine, please consider setting up a collection site. Neighbors, especially with children, love to help. We may not make our \$1200 goal, but let's give it the best shot we can!

And THANK YOU for joining this fund-raising program.



Merry Christmas to the Rescued Horses! by Joanie Benson

For a couple of months, I have been writing about the critical need that HPS has for an Indoor Training Arena, and many members have been discouraged that this will not materialize. My faith is strong enough for everyone. True, many folks do not understand the full impact a covered area will have to aid HPS's horses in their recovery, so I think it is important to explain:



The first step is just working with the horse in a controlled area to help him/her learn to trust again. Autumn is one of the horses in desperate need of being worked within an area with no distractions. Her terrible life experiences have left her with extreme depression similar to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (*PTSD*). The appropriate encouragement can bring her back to the horse she should be, but we need the right area to help her on her journey to happiness. The work next advances to “under saddle” in a safe area for both the rider and horse regardless

of the heat, freezing cold, rain, snow or blowing cold winds.

At the end of 2004, I announced we were going to build a new barn for the horses. A few people got upset with me, “How can we build a new barn? We have trouble meeting our bills at times!” I tried to point out that building a new barn had nothing to do with paying bills. As most of you know, we built two barns providing 40 stalls, a wash bay, a tack room and wonderful feed room. The wash bay has been fabulous for the horses and members. An on-demand hot water unit in the barn provides hot water to soak the alfalfa cubes morning and evening for the horses that need them. Since I acted as the contractor, HPS was able to save enough money to build a huge covered hay feeder, saving a great deal of hay (and \$\$\$) from being wasted.

The cost for the Indoor Training Arena will be \$68,500; \$3,250 has already been donated to help with the construction. But things have changed greatly. A \$25,000 grant from The Foundation of the Carolinas has brought our funding to a point where I know you, our Contributors, can help us reach the needed funds. We are almost halfway there! We need only \$40,250, and your wonderful horses will have a safe, dry, warm place to be kept exercised this winter. Come spring, our horses will be ready to be placed in new homes, unlike this past year. It took us well into the fall to have the horses ready, and now we are placing horses at a wonderful rate. It has taken us a lot of work to have our first “Open House – Placement Day,” but it has been well worth all the effort so many put in to make this a success.

(Continued next page)

(Merry Christmas to the Rescued Horses, cont'd)

If only 800 people designate a \$50 contribution towards the Indoor Training Arena, it can be built and ready to use shortly after the first of the year! Please remember your horses with a Christmas present to help them have a good New Year. If funds are tight, as with some families, please feel free to make your donation over a comfortable period of time for your family. Our goal could also be reached if 1,600 of our contributors could donate \$25 each.

The covered arena would allow us to be ready for a second Open House in the spring of 2011 to place horses. Most of you realize that it is almost impossible to place horses in new homes during the winter. Many of our horses will be ready to go back under saddle this winter, but with no place to work with them, training would have to wait until the weather cleared in the spring. Then once again, it could take until fall to have the horses ready to go to new homes. More people look for horses in the spring than in the fall.



The first year of our Equine Training Program was a learning time for all of us. Now we have a wonderful group of lightweight riders with good skills working with the horses. Each week we work on different things with the horses. Some of the horses have advanced so far that they can be safely ridden in a halter with reins and just the use of leg aids. It would sadden all of us to see these beautiful horses lose muscle tone and backslide in their training.

Autumn, Breeze, Cinder, Cortez, Maverick and Teton are just a few of those who could be started under saddle this winter. Any of the horses who are currently ready but who do not get placed this fall could be kept conditioned and, in fact, advance in their training which would make them more desirable and help them find their forever homes. Just make a notation on your donation that it is for the Indoor Training Arena.



*Please help
to make
this Christmas prayer
come true.*

Maverick, ready to begin work under saddle to prepare him for a new loving forever home next spring, needs a safe place to work regardless of weather. He's willing to do his part; can you help?



Monthly Donations & Contributors

A special "Merry Christmas" to our devoted supporters without whom we could not continue our mission of Rescue, Rehabilitation, Re-training and Re-homing of these wonderful and loving animals. You have made their daily existence a part of your life, and your commitment to them is a blessing that we hope brings you as much personal joy and satisfaction as you bring to them. May the new year be one filled with health and happiness for us all.

Eugenia C. Allen
Sybil P. Athey
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HONORS and MEMORIALS

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

A Merry Christmas donation has been made in honor of Joanie Benson, HPS, all the volunteers and a bunch of special friends. To say "thank you" and in honor of ALL they have done for my critters and me.

With much appreciation!!!



Merry Christmas to Nana
Margaret Reed.
From Doris & Alex

Thank you to HPS for all you do for our
equine Friends!
By Eugenia Allen

A wish for Mom to get well and have a
Happy Holiday Season.
By Frank Zinke

In honor of Sybil, Dottie and Jodi.
By Lisa Murray

In honor of Dottie Rebhan's birthday and Christmas.
By Miriam H. Park

In honor of Dottie Rebhan and Jodi Douthit's
December birthdays.
By Sybil Athey

In honor of Michael & Olly Weige in Germany.
Merry Christmas!
By Dianne Doub

In memory of Toby,
Joy Simon's sweet, sweet dog.
By Janet & Lou Elmo

In memory of my buddy, Montana.
Always in my heart.
By Lisa Murray

In loving memory of our cat, Miss Grace.
She will be greatly missed.
By Diane & Chris Etheridge

In memory of Sunni,
my best friend and teacher.
3/31/76 to 11/14/09
By Mary Myers

In memory of Sandra C. Humphry.
By Rebecca S. Pless

In memory of my Mother, Elizabeth Blackmon, who
passed away to another life on October 23, 2010.
By Judy Blackmon

In memory of Catherine Bellamy
who loved all creatures, especially horses.
By Heyward Bellamy (married 65 years)

In memory of Muffin, Marilyn Swimmer's pony who could do it all.
By Janet & Lou Elmo

In loving Memory of the Great Mystic Dream, November 12, 2001. It was a privilege to know him.
Sadly missed by Roberta.

In memory of the long relationship between Care and her beloved Star.
By Mary & Baxter Smith

Donation From: _____ Phone# _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email address _____

Please use my donation for: \$ _____ Indoor Training Arena Fund \$ _____ General Use

Angel Sponsor: \$20 for 1 month \$60 for 3 months \$120 for 6 months \$240 for 1 year

Whom would you like to receive your Honor, Memorial, or Angel Sponsor (please circle)?

Name: _____ Email address _____

Phone _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Would you like the above recipient to receive "Over Herd" - Yes No

Your message for the newsletter:

****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.**

Mail completed form to:



For our members - remember, the sanctuary is open on Saturdays for you to visit the horses that your memberships support. Come by and say hi, but remember - no treats. Your presence and gentle loving are wonderful treats for our equines. And you will leave knowing what a difference you have made in this world through your generosity.

HPS OFFICERS

President	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com
Treasurer/Medical Needs	Ashley Bethea	704-855-5447	abethea125@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Norma Miller	704-542-6162	kz5nm@juno.com
Corresponding Secretary	Jane Oglesby	704-896-8251	janeog@bellsouth.net
Executive Director	Joanie Benson	704-855-2978	hps@horseprotection.org
Newsletter	Janet Elmo	704-843-2073	janet48@windstream.net
Web Administration	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com
Web Administration	Stephanie Mills	704-560-9712	slmills@windstream.net
Feeding Schedule	Joanie Benson	704-855-2978	hps@horseprotection.org
Stallion to Gelding Support	Janet Elmo	704-843-2380	stalliontogelding@gmail.com
Pet Finders	Elena Bogan	704-680-2492	laney_grace@yahoo.com
Riding Program Coordinator	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com
Equine Placement Coord.	Elena Bogan	704-680-2492	laney_grace@yahoo.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Tammy Seifert	704-243-4444	tlc.homes@live.com