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NEWSLETTER OF HORSE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA INC

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

OVER HERD



2011

Mare Rescue is Too Late

By Deborah Baker

Another muddy field full of starving horses with worm bellies; how many of our rescues begin this way? Once again HPS answered the call of a concerned citizen, but this time Animal Control had been to the residence numerous times to cite the owner for not caring for the animals. It was easy to see why Animal Control was trying to give the owner an opportunity to make the situation right. Most of the horses and mules looked only slightly thin to the untrained eye because bellies full of parasites deceptively make animals appear fatter than they actually are. In addition to the seven horses and mules, there were several alpacas, goats, and miniature horses and donkeys. Several pens contained dogs, Chihuahuas were running about the property breeding, and a skeletal English Mastiff lumbered weakly with her vagina protruding about 4 inches! What a horrible situation!

Our mission? To document the horses and mules for future reference, to rescue any horse we could, to educate the owner on how to properly care for any remaining horses, and to *motivate* her to take better care of her animals.

An emaciated mare stood off from the other horses and mules, finishing off the last bit of hay that had been tossed on the ground for her -far away from the group that stood by a round bale of hay. She could barely stand and tripped several times as she tried to make it to the water trough. Another horse quickly chased her from the water. Her owner stated that she had her for 21 of the mare's 25 years, and that she had read in a magazine that horses over 25 would lose weight and should be euthanized. The horse had been down on the ground most of the previous day and they were going to have her shot tomorrow. As for the other horses, she was trying to sell all but two.

We warned her of the dangers of her being perceived as an animal hoarder and suggested that she try to find homes for her animals, and to euthanize the poor Mastiff. We gave her advice on deworming and feeding the horses, and then offered to try to help the poor mare. She agreed to bring the mare to the sanctuary that evening.



The stories of the HPS horses are very similar in their beginnings but it is the final outcome that differs. Over the years I have seen too many horses as close to death as this poor mare. Spirit was my first rescue. He went on to become the loving pet of a little boy and then returned to the sanctuary at the age of 31. He is now almost 34 and still enjoying his retirement. Lovely Feather and her good friend Yuma recovered to have several years of peace and comfort at the sanctuary before finally crossing the Rainbow Bridge. Feisty Sierra and Stardust went on to loving homes where they still live today. Flame arrived grossly emaciated last year and, having taken his first off-property ride yesterday, is now awaiting a forever home. Poor Maize and others like her had been too broken to have a long window of time to experience peace and love.

We were too late for this poor mare. She arrived at the sanctuary that Sunday evening but on Monday evening went down in the medical stall and could not get into even a sitting position. Volunteers hoisted her up to her feet with a come-along only to have her go down again during the night. Her situation was so much like Prairie Flower's last winter. Prairie Flower lived in the medical stall the entire winter. We raised her 3 or 4 times, but she had more of a will to live. How I wish we had a sling so that horses such as these could be safely suspended until they are strong enough again to support their own weight!

Our poor mare was not with us long enough to choose a name. A veterinarian was called to help her pass over the Rainbow Bridge so that she would not have to lie in the stall and suffer. It was all that we could do for her.

Junk Yard Horse

by Joanie Benson

A concerned person called one of our members about this horse. Then the owner's daughter called, and I called the owner; we agreed to meet on the property so I could see the horse. The owner told me she had lost her job sometime back and had no money to care for the horse or the 25 feral cats she also had. Various issues had caused her to not be able to care for her property and it went downhill quickly. She had not lived there for years, but the horse did.

I have seen all types of deplorable situations where horses were kept. Still, I was shocked when I saw where this horse had lived for the last ten years. I followed the owner on the worst road "Little Red" had ever driven on, for about a mile back through a thick wooded area. There were huge pot holes filled with water all along the way. There was a fork in the road and we went to the right and up a hill. I was afraid I was not going to be able to find a safe place to park that would not puncture a tire when we reached the top of the small hill. A small area had been cleared from the woods and had become the worst kind of trash-dumping area. Great care had to be taken to avoid getting snared in wire, cutting my boots on glass or stepping on nails sticking up out of pieces of wood. There were two decrepit mobile homes and several falling-down small structures, but no sign of a horse. The well did not work and I was told there was a pond off through the woods.

We walked around and the owner told me about the horse: 17 years old, and she had him for 16 years. He had not been with any other horses for the whole time she owned him. I am not even sure that a veterinarian was the one who gelded him. He foundered years ago when he got into a full bag of sweet feed, had not had his hooves trimmed in four to seven years, never had any vaccinations, and her thought on deworming was to give him a couple of cigarettes to eat every few weeks. Still no sign of a horse. She said that her 12 acres were not fenced and she was concerned that hunting season was starting.



Finally the owner called the horse a few times. We could hear him coming through the woods, but they were much too thick to see him until he was about three feet from the edge of the woods. I was pleasantly surprised that the horse's body condition was very good. Then I realized that he had been living off the huge crop of acorns we have this year since there was not anything else for him to eat. Too many acorns can cause founder and/or poison a horse.

The owner had to walk him out to the main road since it would be impossible to get a trailer though there to the horse. Tamara Eichorn was willing to transport him to the sanctuary, and met the owner and gelding by the road.

Waco is a beautiful red roan with a flaxen mane and tail. No one could ask for a prettier horse. We put him in the round pen with the new sorrel, Kit Carson, who was featured in October's *Over Herd*. (Kit is not yet strong enough or well enough to go in with the other horses.) It was one of those wonderful horse experiences that I wish everyone could have seen. After 16 years of not being with another horse, we were prepared to step in if things did not go well. Waco was so excited and thrilled to finally be with another horse and Kit Carson was accepting of all the new attention from a strange horse. Anasazi was in the small field next to the boys and was not the least bit interested in their antics.

Waco is on Milk Thistle to help clean his liver...

Waco, Kit Carson and Anasazi now have a chance for a Merry Christmas because of your caring about the horses that so desperately need HPS. Please consider becoming *Angel Sponsor* for one of these wonderful horses or make a holiday donation in someone's honor.

Desperado and Sage Return to the Sanctuary

By Joanie Benson

Desperado and Sage left the sanctuary about a year ago to live at the same stable but with different caregivers. They both received excellent care, but this past summer Desperado lost some weight. The caregiver and I talked several times and changed some of his feeding, to no avail. The caregiver became more and more concerned for Desperado since winter is right around the corner and facing the possibility of him losing more weight. Desperado was off on his top line and needs about 30 to 35 pounds. Saddlebreds will show even small amounts of weight loss more than other breeds due to their body structure. Often it is difficult to determine what is causing a small weight loss and what actions will return the horse to full weight.

Desperado has always been wonderful with both adults and children. We pray that once he has returned to full health, we will find a great new home for him. He was always a favorite with everyone here at the sanctuary, including Cheyenne who was thrilled to see her old friend back. They were both in the "Carole Lewis" herd that, in 1999, HPS took responsibility for during and following the ensuing prosecution. While at HPS previously, Desperado had been in the gelding field, and once back all the geldings came to visit over the stall walls to greet their returning friend. Autumn took back up with Sage since they had been BFFs before she left. (This will not make Salida happy.)

Sage's caregiver's business had dropped to very little work, and his boarding stable had lost three boarders in the past week. He had already sold three of his horses. He hated that he had to return Sage to HPS, but felt it would be easier to place her now than later when winter set in. Sage looks great and is a wonderful horse. Both caregivers were so sad that the horses had to come back to the sanctuary.

Sage is just 14 years old and did not come from an abusive situation. She is trained western style, and is gorgeous with a tail that almost touches the ground. Anyone would be proud to have her as their horse - - she is very nice and responsive .

*During this Christmas season, please help the horses at the sanctuary with a donation.
You will help keep things going and ensure our ability to take back horses that were
placed but that people can no longer keep.*



DESPERADO at the hay feeder

SAGE hanging out at the water trough



HONORS and MEMORIALS



Honoring Joanie Benson & ALL the volunteers. Merry Christmas! By Dianne Doub



Merry Christmas!!! In honor of ALL who have done so much for my critters and me, a Merry Christmas wish. A donation has been made in honor of Joanie Benson, HPS, the volunteers and a whole bunch of other friends. With much appreciation!!! By My Critters and me! (Spunky)

Our Thoughtful and Kind Youth

Lindsay Kornegay had a fundraiser for HPS as part of her Senior Project. It was an open Fun Show and Lindsay raised \$842.
Thank you sooo much, Lindsay.

Lexie Miller donated her birthday money to help with Honey Bun.
This was a very generous thing to do, and
We Thank You Lexie!

In memory of my buddy, Montana. All horses deserve, at least once in their lives, to be loved by someone.

By Lisa Murray

In memory of Claudia Meyer's horse, "My Conclusive Dream," who was a very special horse in Claudia's life.

By Marilyn Swimmer

In honor of Natalie Spalding.

By Suzanne Casey

In honor of "Stacie", a little feral kitty who was willing to protect her litter of kittens against all comers. She should be nominated for "Mother of the Year."

By Sara Lewis who has been feeding Stacie and her babies.

In honor of Pam Chandler who does so much for animals - wherever she finds them.

By Jill Heddleson

Monthly Donations & Contributors

Thank you to all the donors who have kept the plight of starved and abused horses so close to your hearts. As we approach the season of peace, please know that you bring daily peace to every one of these abused and abandoned animals. The need is so great; each of us can do only what we can do. And you each do so much by remembering these noble horses who have lived through harrowing times before they come to peace here at the sanctuary.

We wish everyone a peaceful and Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy Kwanza. It is truly a time of year when everyone can celebrate, including the horses at HPS.

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There is still time to receive a tax benefit by making a donation to HPS before December 31, 2011. Send your check to HPS, 2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023. Honor a friend or relative; help a horse.

ALUMINUM CAN FUND-RAISER UPDATE

We recently took in 306 pounds of cans...this brought us up to a total of \$ 779.90 for calendar year 2011 to date (November). We have always wanted to break \$1,000 in a year and would like to try and make it happen this year. There's still time for people to bring in their aluminum beverage cans -- it's like "free" money. The horses' nutritional needs go up in the winter...every bit helps and is appreciated.

Will you help us to attain our goal?

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:
Horse Protection Society, 2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023

Check out our Website:
www.horseprotection.org



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Phoenix and Alamo Returned

The poor economy has struck again - - and Phoenix (below, left) and Alamo (below, right) are now back at the sanctuary. Both are great horses in good condition. Alamo is very a sweet Quarter Horse who would be good even for a child. He is 18 years old now and as cute as can be. He has taken up again with his best friend Strudel who came to the sanctuary with him, years ago.

Phoenix is now about 14 years old and also a cutie. He became fast friends with Waco, and you can find them playing together in the gelding field. Both needed a buddy, and now they have each other.



We will start working Phoenix & Alamo under saddle shortly. They are wonderful horses that would be great additions to any family.

