



# OVER HERD

Volume 21 Issue 12

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## What do You Think Occurred?

Late on a Thursday afternoon we received a phone call from a ranger at South Mountain State Park in Burke County. They had found an Appaloosa horse in a field in the park on Wednesday and had been calling every possible equine rescue and Animal Control. No one would take him in. The gelding needs weight, but the biggest issue is his eye sight or lack thereof. Anyone could look at him and know he was blind in one eye. His other eye may be blind also or have every limited eye sight. I agreed that HPS would come get him the next day.

This was one of the most interesting road trips Tom McCardle and I have ever taken to pick up a horse. Map Quest said it would take 1 hour and 46 minutes....I don't think so traversing the miles and miles of narrow mountain roads pulling a trailer. The state park has a very nice set up for campers and their horses.



Continued on page #2

## Unbelievable

*As I think back over the events that lead to this beautiful chestnut mare arriving at the sanctuary I still don't want to believe what the owner told me.*

*This story starts with a phone call to us about an owner that was going to shoot his horse. This is a young mare in good condition that should have a long and happy life.*



*I agreed to call the owner and sure enough I was told that the mare would be put in a hole in the ground before he would spend one more cent on the horse. The story goes: The mare was bought at Vale horse auction about two years ago. She was the perfect horse and anyone could ride her. She was meant to be the extra horse.*

**May I introduce Red Sky.**

*Four months ago she turned into crazy horse, according to the owner. She turned touchy on some spots on her body and would buck the owner off when he tried to ride her.*

Continued on page #2

## Calendars are Available NOW!

We will mail the calendar directly to the person you wish to send a gift and include your Christmas message. Easy to write on calendar pages.

**You will be helping the rescued horses.**

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Number of Calendars: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$19.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + postage \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Postage for 1 calendar \$3.00, Postage for 2 calendars is \$3.50, Postage for 3 calendars \$3.75 or

Will pick up calendars at the sanctuary: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed Total =

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Or go to our website to order on Pay Pal. [www.horseprotection.org](http://www.horseprotection.org)

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



## **What do You Think Occurred?** *Continued from page #1*

Tom says I am too optimistic when I speculated that, 'since the horse is an Appaloosa with no spots on his butt he may have night blindness if he is pure bred. What if he broke through his fence and wandered off? Besides Burke County, Lincoln and Catawba County are very close to the park.' It would not take long for him to lose the weight if he had been out on his own. Even with all the terrible things I have seen, I still want to believe in people unless proven differently.

Tom and the rangers felt the horse had just been dumped off in the park. They may be correct. No one had called to report a missing horse. Seldom do people report a horse missing. They just ride around looking for the horse. What do you think happened?

*(The name he picked is the first one I thought of for him: Spotted Owl)*

## **Unbelievable** *Continued from page #1*

*This is a big Man! Think football player, 200 plus pounds and a western saddle on this small mare...Ouch! I tried making suggestions to help the mare and cure the issues and he didn't want to hear it. He tried to sell the horse, he tried to give the horse away to anyone who would take it and nothing worked. The thought of someone killing this 10 year old little horse was unacceptable! I agreed that HPS would take in the horse.*

*The first thing we are going to do is have a chiropractic adjustment done, which includes a sound horse check. If the cinch on the saddle had been tightened, just once too tight, it could be "Hello at the Rodeo!" Please say a prayer that the owner's weight didn't destroy her tendons or hurt her back that could cause her to become swayback in the future.*

*The little mare looks more Arabian than Quarter horse, which the owner said she was. You look at her tail set, ears and body conformation and you can't help but think Arabian. The only thing missing is a dish face. The appointment has been made with Dr. Mary for the two new horses, we will have to let you know what we learn next month. Red Sky is the perfect name for this pretty little mare.*

*This little girl feels like a blessing from God and a Christmas gift for all of us. She reminds us what Christmas is all about.*



## ***This is the last month of the year for any additional TAX DEDUCTIONS***

This is the last month this year to receive another tax deduction credit for your favorite nonprofit...that is HPS's horses of course.

### ***Ways to help the horses:***

Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at [smile.amazon.com/ch/56-2122078](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-2122078) and Amazon donates to Horse Protection Society of North Carolina. It is so easy to sign up.

### ***Provide HPS with your email address:***

This will save HPS from paying for printing costs and postage. We hate to have to drop folks from our mailing list, but when we have not heard from you for a long time; it is not good business to keep sending the newsletter. We feel it is important to keep our supporters up to date about developments at the sanctuary.

***Calendars are Available NOW!*** Order form on page 1.

*In Loving Memory of Cricket, Melero & April's Fool, wonderful horses all. By Kim Lane*

In memory of Pamela Thompson Dale, who dearly loved horses almost as much as they loved her. By Shirley Barger

*Teton, rest in peace sweet & beautiful boy! Thank you for the great memories. You were loved. By Sissy Whitlow*

*In loving memory of Mystic Dream; Nov. 12, 2001. Forever in our hearts. Roberta*

*In memory of "Fancy." By Debbi Hood-Miller & Jack L. Miller*

*In loving memory of my dad, Richard Fortner.  
By Diane Etheridge*

## *Your Spirit of Christmas is Felt and so Appreciated*

**In honor** of Ann Harrison Stacker - Thinking of you. By Mom Stacker

**Happy Birthday** Maressia Fox, another horse lover, (Nov. 11). By Becky Lyerly



**In honor** of Sarah Johnson's November Birthday and Jodie Douthit's and Dottie Rebhen's December birthdays. By Sybil Athey

**In memory** of Harry Swanson of Swanson Arabians, Alexis, NC who passed away suddenly on 11/6/2017. Harry was a life long member of the Arabian horse community. He was a true horseman, and a true friend. Harry will be missed by everyone he touches. By Don & Suzanne Brown



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**Scientists Studying Horse and Human Building Trust**

The Italian researchers could have saved time and money by just coming to the sanctuary and we could have happily explained how to partner with a horse. “They are trying to understand what exactly is going on with that connection many riders and owners claim to feel. Through high-tech research using wearable monitoring systems and advanced algorithms, they’ve determined that horses and humans tend to align their physiological responses to emotional stimulation.” In plain English what they are trying to figure out, when is the horse and human in sync together?  
 “The opportunity to have a choice is one of the new frontiers of animal well-being.” This is only true for people who don’t understand horses. People who understand horses will not run them around in a circle, pull and tug on the lead line or use a rope halter that is designed to hurt horses. Folks who read horses are constantly checking with the horses to see if they are okay with what is going on. I try to teach each new volunteer to give each horse a choice first. Folks who know horses have worked with horses this way for years and years. This is no big secret; just pay attention to what your horses is trying to tell you. If you don’t listen unwanted behavior may escalate until you end up on the ground with the horse looking down at you saying, “ARE YOU LISTENING NOW?”  
 What do you think Red Sky was trying to tell his owner?  
 This is the best thing you can give your horse for Christmas.

*We wish each of you a safe and blessed Holiday Season!*