



OVER HERD

December 2008

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Merry Christmas One and All

*Christmas eve is so special to me and I enjoy the peace at home,
When darkness comes the ritual is a quiet evening alone.
I like to reflect on the year that has past, the good and sorrow.
This evening has always been the quiet time before tomorrow,
When folks will stop by and the phone will ring with Christmas regards.
For tonight is my time to protect the horses while standing guard.*

*Christmas Eve is my time to thank God for his Son's light.
The moon will rise and I hope for a clear nice night,
For I am going to the barn for visit with our wise old ones.
The light in the barn is left on low and I feel gentle shoves
As I am surrounded by many of our old loves.
There is no better place than being in a stable on Christmas Eve,
For this is where it all started and it will make you believe.*

Joanie Benson

News from the Herd

- Silver Cloud and Jasmine both found new loving homes

Joke of the Month:

What's the quickest way to mail a little horse?

Use the Pony Express.

Quote of the Month:

A fly, Sir, may sting a stately horse, and make him wince; but one is but an insect, and the other a horse still. ~ Samuel Johnson

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Dumped on a Friend ~ Joanie Benson

All of us can think back to a time when we tried to help out a friend and it did not result in a happy ending. What would you do?

Your friend calls, "I was given a horse but need some time to find a boarding stable that he will be comfortable in. Can you help me?"

"Of course I will take care of him while you find a stable. I will find a place for him with my feathered friends and other four legged pals." The arrangement was for the horse to be delivered in August with a fee of \$100 a month; the horse arrived with only \$60 and the "friend" was never seen again.



Months go by and now that I'm the caregiver I run an advertisement to sell the horse that I do not own to recover some of the money I had to put out for his care. *(This is not legal.)*

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DUMPED ON A FRIEND (CONTINUED) After a while as the caregiver, I knew I was in over my head. I had met Joanie Benson at the horse rescue before and called her for advice. Joanie told me that I would have to get the owner to release the horse to me or I would have to take legal action to sell or move the horse. The “friend” was willing to release him to me and then I signed him over to HPS.

When I (Joanie) received the horse at HPS, I understood that the caregiver did her best to help a “friend” but she did not know anything about handling or caring for a horse; unfortunately multiple mistakes were made. The worst mistake was that the caregiver would chase him in an attempt to catch him. This poor guy could not understand why he was being chased and was scared to death. Since he was always alone and stressed; he would go into the woods where he could see other horses over the fence. He had broken out of his fenced area on several occasions which put him in harms way. The worse came when a stallion got off his property and attacked the poor gray Arabian. The good news is that he was not badly injured, but once again very frightened.

Often times people do not mean to abuse horses, it is just that they do not understand how a horse thinks; which can lead to dire consequences.

This poor 8 year old Arabian is now afraid of people and think humans only mean to chase him in order to cause harm. (*Predators chase prey animals, people should not do this.*) It is going to take time and gentle handling to reassure this gray Arabian that we will not hurt him. The good news is that he is in good body condition. Once we get him settled down, it should be easy to place him in a new loving home.



The Long Road Trips ~ Joanie Benson

HPS had received a report about a starved horse located on the south side of Gaston County. We also had reports about another horse in bad shape located about a half mile from the South Carolina line in Cleveland County on the west side.

Senior Feed

It is often full of fillers like beet pulp and other ingredients that do not add to the horses' nutrition. Thus, large volumes are needed to be fed. Horses have small stomachs and should not eat huge volumes at one feeding. A high quality pellet feed would take about 10 to 12 pounds per day to bring an older horse back to health. The feed is divided into at least two feedings of 5 to 6 pounds per. This amount is achieved by gradually adding a pound per day.

The first horse in Gaston County was in terrible condition. He would be rated a low 1 on the Henneke Body Scoring Chart. Both his eyes were infected and the pus running from them had caused the loss of his hair below both eyes. Most of his body was still covered with last winter's hair matted all along his back and shoulders. (We will not be able to remove this for sometime until he has gained a good bit of weight. He may also have Cushing's syndrome.)

His field would not have been bad if it had been kept mowed and the weeds knocked down. We saw no sign of hay. He did have clean water and signs of feed being fed in an old double sink next to the water tub. There was shelter in an old building at the top of the field. There was no manure in the field and we quickly figured out why. He was stool eating!

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Cleveland County

By the time we arrived at the second property it was getting late in the day and seemed much colder than before. The pony-horse was in with goats and old vehicles. There was a large round bale of hay that neither the goats nor the pony was eating. The good news is that the pony was about a 2 on the Henneke Body Scoring Scale. He has a large worm belly and looked so sad standing in this small area with no grazing available.

No one was at home so Cindy and I drove over to the neighbors to ask permission to walk down and get a closer look at the pony horse. The person was related to the folks next door. He told us that he told the owner that he should take the little guy out into the woods and shoot him. (It is hard to keep quiet at times like this.) He was able to give us the owner's telephone number. Since the day was fast disappearing, Cindy and I decided to leave. I would give the owner a call as soon as I got back home.

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Long Road Trip (continued) The rest of the property and the large home, next to the field, were well cared for and very neat. We tried the doorbell on several sides of the house and no one answered. We were trying to decide what to do next when here comes this little tiny old lady. The horse belonged to her son and she was concerned for its well being and thought it would die this winter.



Luckily for us, the son was close at hand and his mother phoned him. We are always polite and approach people with the spirit of helping them. We always hope that we will be able to tell folks how to care for their horse and head on down the road. Things were going well with the son until he copped a bit of an attitude and Cindy was able to quickly defuse this. I assured him the horse may be able to return to health and showed him a picture of Navajo when he first came to the sanctuary and what he looks like now. I believe the owner in this case was telling the truth about the horse. He had a veterinarian look at the horse and was told, "He is just very old." He was told to feed senior feed, which he was. His mother said she was feeding the horse a full gallon of feed morning and night. (What is a gallon of feed? I know what a gallon of milk or gasoline is, but have no idea what a galloon of feed is. Feed is fed by the pound!) Cindy asked to see what they were feeding the horse and she pointed out the average horse needed 13.5 pounds of feed a day. I told them that when a horse is in this condition the feed needs to be doubled. This would mean the horse should have more than half a bag of feed divided into at least four times a day. They were appalled at how much this would cost per day and the son stated he had paid over \$15 for the bag of feed. Cindy and I knew at this point he would turn the horse over to HPS. We shared with them what we would feed the horses, supplements that he would need along with free feed of good quality hay and soaked alfalfa cubes twice a day. The vet would be called to check his eyes and a full blood panel would be done. The owner first said the horse was 40 years old and then changed it to 43 years old. He very easily could be right on, with this old boy's age. The owner signed the horse over to HPS and Cindy and I left knowing this old boy may have a chance to live. We made arrangements to pick him up the next day.



Cleveland County (continued) The owner was pleasant to talk with and stated he had been trying to give the pony away for sometime. However, no one wanted him. He was given the little guy a couple of years ago and the pony was much thinner at that time. Unfortunately the weight he had put on, he had begun losing lately. The owner had been feeding the little guy sweet feed (YUCK!). He knew the hay was poor and the animals would not eat it.



He felt the pony was between 20 to 25 years old based upon what the vet had told him. He also told me that he had arthritis in his front legs.

Arrangements were made to pick up the pony the following day. He agreed to leave a release of ownership for HPS.

Second Road Trip the Next Day!

Cindy was at the sanctuary with her trailer in tow. We loaded the hay, blankets, halters and leads in the trailer. We headed out for another day on the road.

Both horses were perfect gentlemen; they waited patiently while I put the blankets on them and then

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Road Trip (Continued) walked right into the trailer. The horses rode to their new home snugly wrapped in their blankets while munching hay.

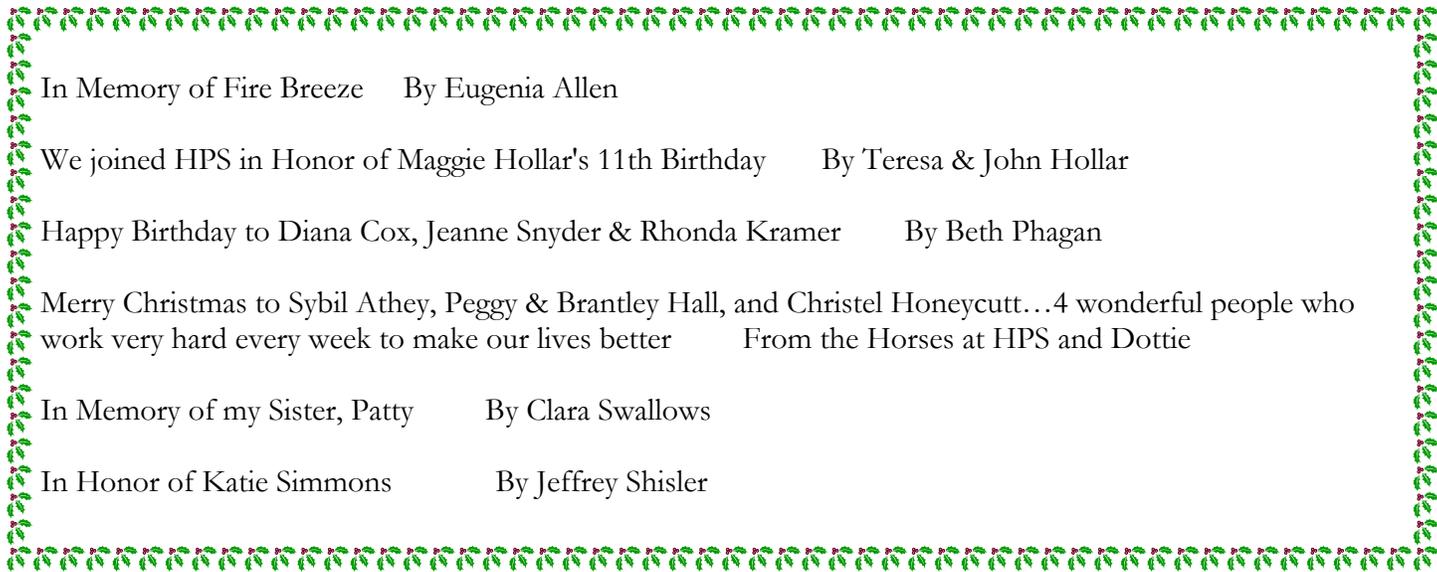
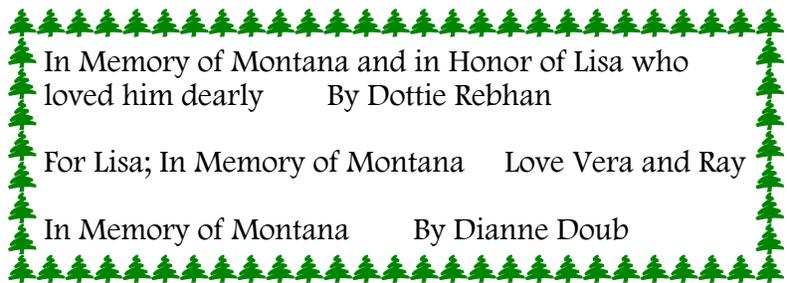
Their new short term home in the round pen and adjoining stalls were ready and waiting for them with fresh hay and water. We gave them a small amount of alfalfa cubes soaked in hot water and about a pound of feed. They were both so hungry; however because of their teeth condition they were having difficulties eating the hay.

Your old 43 year-old boy picked Chieftain for his name and the little guy picked Twinkie. They love attention and happily greet folks with soft nickers.

Even before the vet arrived to check Chieftain's eyes, they started to improve due to the care given by the devoted folks at the sanctuary that care for your horses. Eye antibiotics are being put in Chieftain's eyes four times a day. Full blood panels have been pulled on both horses. Because we had lost a pony once from liver failure that had been pastured in a field with old vehicles in it; we do not want any surprises this time.

Please say a prayer for our horses. If you are not presently an Angel Sponsor, please consider aiding Twinkie.

Despite our best efforts and long dedicated hours to his care, Chieftain passed over the Rainbow Bridge. Farewell gentle soul.





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HPS runs on monthly donations We cannot do this without your support. Thank you!

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HO HO HO

Merry Christmas to all and Thanks for all YOU do



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Making the World a Better Place for Horses

It is the mission of the Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc. to make the world a better place for horses through education, rescue and rehabilitation.

Founded by Joan Benson and incorporated in 1999, we continue to reach out and to grow. We are always seeking new members.

HPS is a fully incorporated 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. Your donations are the main source of income to support the sanctuary and are eligible for tax deduction.

