



OVER HERD

February 2009

Volume 11 Issue 2

Another White Horse! By Joanie Benson

Project Day
 Saturday, February 7th, start 9:00 to 10:00 AM, or come when you can. We have painting and winter clean up to do. Please bring rakes, leaf blowers, and anything else you may feel would be helpful.

There will be a Pot Luck Lunch. Please bring something to share. Thank you for your help!

(If it is raining, the Project day will be the following Saturday, February 14th)

For years and years we would have the occasional white horse, Moon Glow and Snow Storm (3 different times). Today there is Vaquero, Padre, Shalimar, Snow Storm, Sahara, Drifter, and now another white horse. There is nothing like a white horse during the Mud Season! The horse will find the one black mud spot to roll or lay down and nap.



The requests to take in horses are never ending. Most are just to dump an unwanted horse. The horse is untrained, ill-bred and/ or injured. The prices of horses have dropped to an all time low for the poor untrained, non registered horse. The horse that is registered, but of questionable conformation, is also in danger of going to the kill buyers. Any fault in a horse can put it in the position of being unwanted. Only the well-trained, conformational sound horses are commanding a high sales price...unless the seller finds a sucker.

The seller of our latest rescue found such a Sucker. A "Sucker" is anyone who does not know enough about horses to judge the health, conformation, and body condition of a horse. An emotional purchase of a horse can lead to (cont pg 2)

Spirit Return by Joanie Benson

Quote of the month:
A horse is an angel without wings.
Author unknown



Spirit is back with us at the sanctuary. He left us in August of 2007 for a great home when his special person was just a young boy. This is the kind of home we always pray the horses will go to and with only one other horse there.

Spirit had always had eye problems and had to have surgery twice on his eye to help ulcers heal. His eyes were wonderfully cared for. His family loved him, but things change..... They had placed two older mares years before with a contract to return them if the people could not continue to care for them.

Of course the mares were returned (cont pg 2)

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(*Spirit cont pg 1*) and the family could not care for all four of the horses. With great sadness Spirit had to be returned to the sanctuary.

Spirit still has on-going eye problems and if he wears a fly mask it seems to help some. We have done two rounds of eye medications since his return.

Spirit is now 31 yrs old and will remain at the sanctuary. He is a great little Arabian and the kids here used to love to ride him. He picked back up with his old friend Navajo and is fitting right in with the other horses. Welcome back old friend.



(*White Horse cont pg 1*) a big mistake. This may put them on the “Sucker List.”

The purchasers had nice motives. They wanted to buy a horse for their son for Christmas. Mistake #1. They did not know anything about horses! Mistake #2. The horse picked was a (one) on the Body Conditioning Scoring with health issues. Mistake #3. Not enough funds to take care of a horse with multiple issues. I did not even ask them what they paid for the horse. Whatever amount it was, it was too much!

There are so many good books on the market and Internet to help people learn before buying a horse. The people thought that if they feed the horse once a day and left a round bale for the horse to eat, she would recover. The horse had not gained much in the two months they had her. They left her in the care of friends until Christmas when she would come to their house. They did take her to a veterinarian. According to the owners, he was still using the old timey floats for teeth, did not address her eye problem, or her runny nose. When we talked on the phone, I made suggestions for her care. Then I recommended that she see a good veterinarian about the eye problem, runny nose, and then later for her teeth. They said they could not afford to do that and then asked if we would take her in.

When she stepped off the trailer, the skinny body was so apparent. There were obvious marks from where a saddle had recently been on her. They thought it was okay that their son had been riding this emaciated horse. (These are nice people; they just did not know anything.) The horse’s eye was enough to stop you and make you do a double take. It was almost all white and distended. The first thing that came to mind was Glaucoma. Once I looked beyond the problems, there was a future good looking horse with nice legs and a decent frame.

Jonathan Featherstone, DVM, checked her eye and we still are not 100% positive it is Glaucoma. We had already started her on antibiotics, Beta Carotene, and Lutein. The eye was down a bit by the time Jonathan examined her. We are on a wait and see concerning her eye. This is the first time we have had to deal with Glaucoma. The very top of the eye still has a small amount of vision and there are veins coming up trying to heal the eye. There may be an old injury that was not cared for that is causing the symptoms. We will have her teeth done when she has gained more weight and can better stand the stress. It is going to take a while for the worm belly to go down.

Everyone has already fallen in love with her. She picked the name “Treasure” from the list of names we put together for her. It is a perfect name for her! If you have been thinking of sponsoring a horse, she would be a good one for Angel Sponsorship.



Stardust and Fire Dancer found new loving homes

It is 7:30 AM, a stiff breeze is blowing and the temperature is at an all time low once again; just 11 degrees. The first feeder has arrived and headed to the barn to start mixing feed and soaking the alfalfa. The outside hot water bib is frozen once again and they have to come to the house for hot water. (Let's pray that the pipe doesn't break.) There was that awful morning when all the water pipes froze and we had no water. It took hours to get things thawed out and the water going again.

There is extra work this morning because all of the horses are getting the five-day Power Pak worming. There are horses that need antibiotics, MSM mixed, and the cancer mixture made to put into their feed. Each horse has its own recipe of feed and supplements based upon need. Then there is the hay to be put out for horses. Don't forget how much fun cleaning the water tubs in the freezing weather is. We have water heaters in the tubs, but some mornings they have cut off, who knows why, so the ice has to be removed from tubs. The doctoring can take a good bit of time to complete since every horse is gone over from head to hoof. There are the med sheets with each horse listed with its present doctoring needs. This has to be checked in the evening also since some horses need doctoring twice a day.

The feeders have been putting hay out in the barn hallways for the horses to eat at night. The barn front doors are kept closed to keep the wind out of the barn and the back doors are left open.

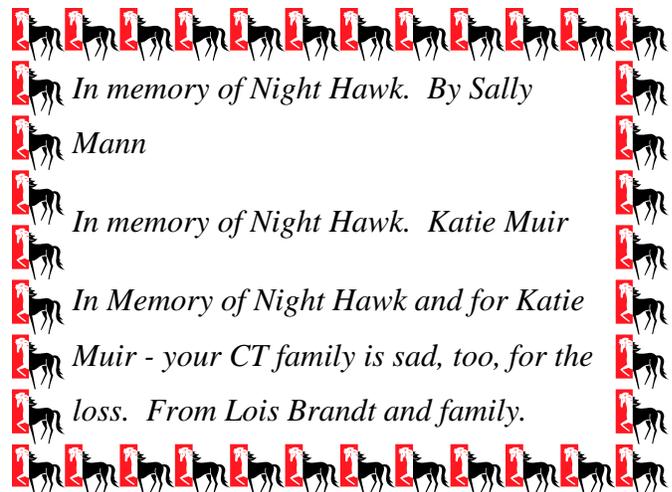
Our pretty new white horse is put up in a hospital stall to help keep her warmer. Jelly Bean goes into the round pen for the night. He is an escape artist and it is a safe place for him to spend the night. He is like a little dog that thinks he is a Great Dane. He wants to go play with the big boys.

Our 18 yr old, "Calie" cat has been spending the nights in the feed room in a nice warm cat bed brought out by someone. Pumpkin will also steal some warm cozy sleep in there on cold nights.

There are always extra things to do morning and night. Quera is on an immune booster give in catheter three different days and the catheter has to be flushed morning and evening to keep it open.

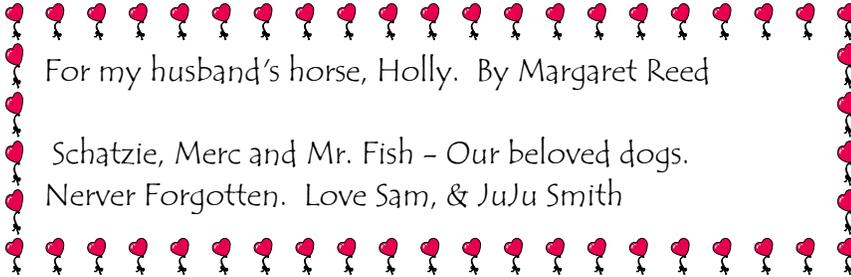
Then there are the unexpected things, like Cherub going after Santa Fe and running him into a latch that ripped open his side about seven inches long and now the vet needs to come and sew him up. Oswego's eyes were puffy and closed and needs to be checked also.

It is almost 3 o'clock, the vet is here and so is one of the morning feeders still doing jobs around the sanctuary. The evening feeders have arrived to do some needed work before starting the feeding. It has warmed up and the gals are part of the training program working with your horses to put them back under saddle. I hope all of them will saddle up and take a ride. It would be good for them and the horses. Just another day at the sanctuary.....



MONTHLY DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTORS

HPS would like to thank the monthly donors for your continued generosity and love for the horse in our care. You are helping us make the world a better place for horses through education, rescue and rehabilitation.



For my husband's horse, Holly. By Margaret Reed

Schatzie, Merc and Mr. Fish - Our beloved dogs.

Nerver Forgotten. Love Sam, & JuJu Smith

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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.

