



## Happy Valentine's day

The horses have their special boyfriends and girlfriends, too!

### Safe and Happy

Keeping a horse in a small area all of their life and never exposing them to various things creates problems. Honey had spent her entire 2.5 years living in a small fenced area behind a mobile home. This is where she was born and she never had a stall or good cover from the weather. Honey is doing great going in and out of her stall.....unless someone steps into her stall. Honey doesn't react like most horses, and she will come after the person with her teeth flashing. If you throw your arms up and aggressively yell, "NO" she becomes more aggressive. Normally if you act like that with horses that are acting out, the horse will back off, but not Honey. She is also extremely food aggressive. In Honey's mind the stall represents food since this is where her hay is and where she gets fed. Her stall must feel small and adding a person it gets really scary for her. She will turn around if given a chance to learn that life can be good and so can people. She is gaining weight and is now used to eating hay.



Ginger spent her whole life of 8 years behind a modular home with her dam, Nutmeg who is 20 years old. It was raining here when UPS made a delivery. They place packages on an old tree stump next to Ginger's stall. There was a large plastic bag over the package that was loose and blowing in the wind. It frightened Ginger so badly that she tried to jump one of the panels in the round pen and crashed through it. Melanie saw the whole sad episode and when Ginger tried to jump a panel that brought her out into the driveway, she once again crashed through the panel. Melanie saw her land on her neck and do a summersault and she was amazed that Ginger didn't break her neck. *(Cont. on Page 2)*



### Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM)

EPM is a devastating disease if not caught early and correctly treated. The symptoms can mimic about any illness and it would be easy to misdiagnose unless the correct test was completed.

The symptoms Meeka displayed were she was sore in all four feet.

This would indicate Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS) most commonly occurs in middle-aged horses (approximately 8 - 18 years) and is characterized by obesity, laminitis and insulin resistance. Since IR is also associated with Cushing's disease, the two conditions are sometimes confused.

Meeka is a beautiful 16 year old mare and her symptoms were just the same as Ebony Star who tested positive for type 2 diabetes when she came in with all four feet sore. Ebony Star is doing perfect on large doses of metformin. I was already plotting what I would needed to do if Meeka also tested positive for type 2 diabetes, test the hay, the feed and frisk all folks for sugar cubes and peppermints. *(Cont. on Page 2)*



### **Safe and Happy** (Contd. From Page 1)

We have had other horse that people had not exposed them to anything and it takes so little to panic them. Nutmeg is so much easier to work with than Ginger. Both look as if they have not been groomed in years. With Honey and Ginger, everything needs to be done in small increments or they can become upset. Our goal is to not scare them.

### **Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis** (Contd. From Page 1)

Of course, we also had an EPM test done the same time we tested for Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS). The EMS tests were normal. The EPM test was one of the highest we have seen, SAG 1: 64, and the others two were closer to what we have seen before, SAG 5: 16, and SAG 6: 16.

Once again we would recommend using Pathogens for testing and treatment of any horse that tests positive. <http://pathogenes.com/> If you give your veterinarian a check for \$38 when the blood sample is drawn it saves a little money. It is only two hundred for the treatment that only takes 10 days. Then the horse should be retested in 6 to 10 weeks. In all the horses that we have tested and treated there was only two that had to be retreated. There numbers were extremely high in both cases.

About the time that Meeka tested positive for EPM, we trapped an opossum in the covered hay feeder for Omaha and Eclipse. They had stopped eating the hay in the hay feeder and acted a bit afraid of it. It may have been because the opossum was living in the building and scared the horses. Both of the horses need to be tested for EPM. Omaha has been mouthing strangely and seems unsteady on his back legs.

### **“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”**

~Chinese Proverb

This Chinese Proverb rings a message of truth for the Horse Protection Society. Some folks have helped since the very beginning, January 1999 or close to that date, when they wanted to help the starved Saddlebred herd of horses in Cabarrus County. Some of those kind donors are still aiding the horses and it has been 20 years!

Now our second twenty years are starting this year. It is, “....*The second best time is now.*” Some of our donors have not been able to recover fully financially to achieve the amounts they once were able to contribute to aid the rescues since 2008 when the economy tanked. This is a national problem and some nonprofits will not be able to sustain the loss of income. It has been difficult for us and we need all the help we can get. The horses are so worth it! I wish that each of you could be here once a week to see the improvement from when they first come to us. Sometimes the mental improvement is more astounding than the physical improvement.

There are new things that we will need to accomplish that can help more than the horses at the sanctuary in the coming years. We don't know everything that we will be called upon to achieve. We just need to be ready and open minded. I do know that the next 20 years will be an adventure just as the last 20 years have been. You too can be a part of what is to come.

### **News from the Sanctuary**

**MUD, MUD** everywhere! We have never seen a fall and winter like this. We have lost track of how many times the pond has overflowed. Even the part of the fields that are on a sloop is muddy and the horses running will plow it up. So much for the pretty grass that was coming up from sowing the grass seed last fall!

It took a crane to clean up the compost pile and Chris is working on the covered hay feeders by removing the deep mud and replacing it with rock. The cost is huge!!! (Cont. on Page 4)

***Thank you for your kind notes of congratulation on our 20 year anniversary and the donations.***

*The year has started off with some huge expenses.  
The horses need to be tested for EPM, more grading and gravel is needed and the furnace in the old house is dead.*

**In memory of a friend who was a horse lover. By Christine Palmer**

**In honor of my granddaughter, Vivian Aubel. By Nancy Aubel**

**In honor of Alice Bischoff. By Scott Bischoff**

**In honor of your 20 years of dedication and hard work- well done. By Karen Crowell**

**In Heaven now: BJ was our beloved German Shepherd, who shared 11 1/2 wonderful years with us.**

**By Julie & Keith Wilson**

Elaine Addison  
Carolyn H. Alexander  
Judy & Niko Antonakakis  
Nancy K. & David Aubel  
Lyn J. Baldwin  
Kathy & Tony Bell  
Alice L. Bischoff  
Scott Bischoff  
Sandy Boaz  
John A. Bonk  
Joan S. Bowen  
Gayle & Gene Cannon  
Pam & Steven Carlton  
Faye Carter  
Suzanne Wallace Casey  
Tonya Chandler  
Ann & Benny Crayton  
Karen Crowell  
Spunky Dagenhart  
Betsy D. Dean  
William J. Donovan Jr.  
Dianne Doub  
Donna L. & Robert C. Dziura  
Tony England  
Tiffany W/ Ferebee  
Karen B. Feezor  
Susan Ferguson  
Patti Flaherty  
Barbara Freer  
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Mary May Gillespie

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Lisa M. Slatt & Alan Spanos  
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Elaine D. Towner  
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Basil M. Watkins Jr.  
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Maliene Williams  
Julie & Keith Wilson  
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Rhonda Wright  
Linda Yarrington  
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 THANK YOU!

**News from the Sanctuary** *(Contd. From Page 2)*

The horse trailer is stuck in a field. We had to unhook the truck to have it inspected and get a new registration. Even with the new heavy duty tires and four wheel drive we couldn't move the truck and trailer. We had to unhook the trailer and it was difficult to get the truck out of the field.

The mud cakes on the horses' hooves and legs above the fetlock joint. Every couple of days all the mud has to be washed off and the horse has to be checked for fungus on the mud caked area. The wet weather softens the sole of the horses' hoof and makes it more prone to bruising, thrush and abscesses. Each horse owner needs to keep a close check on their horses. Horses are also prone to fungus on other parts of their body when there is so much rain. It is important to doctor any issues as soon as they are found. Keeping the horses groomed in this weather is impossible. Grading and gravel is being put down.

The horses have their routine and it varies when it rains at night. We can tell that many of them spent the night in the barns by the condition of the floors. What a mess!!

On a fun note: we planted some pansies and Johnny-jump-ups at the end of summer and they are blooming and so pretty. We lost the rest of our flowers due to the first heavy frost. The daffodils are coming up already.

I think it may be another crazy winter....at least it has been so far.

