



## Happy Valentine's Day

Most of the horses have a best friend or several best friends. Bronco and Rising Star are keeping very close company, but that may change once they join the rest of the horses. We often see horses that have been together for so many years' pair up with new friends.

Meeka didn't have a friend. She had been kicked in the jaw by a horse before she came to HPS. It broke her jaw, and the injury hadn't been repaired. It is easy to understand why Meeka didn't trust other horses, until Ebony Star became her best friend. She also needed to have a good friend. Here are few other horses that have become a pair while at the rescue.



Gypsy & Cruiser



Red Sky & Flame



Pecos & Nova



Penny & Ebee



Ebony Star & Meeka



Rising Star & Bronco



## Snow Days

The rainy days have caused the new grass seeds to start growing, but there is something about snow that will often give the grass a good boost as well as the horses. The horses have the pond field open to them all the time, but they so enjoy the other fields when we open them. It is often an excuse for them to race through the field.



When the snow came, we let them in the back and side field. They were so excited rolling in the snow making snow horses, rearing, jumping into the air, playing, and racing around the snowy fields. They had such a wonderful time playing in the snow!





## Should you Feed Warm Bran Mash?

If you have been on earth long enough, you will remember when it was standard to feed a warm bran mash once or twice a week when there was cold weather. Today, we know that a change in feed should be done gradually over several days.

The biggest issue with bran mash is the inverted high phosphorus level and the low calcium which risk the development of hyperparathyroidism. For the same reason rice brans are fortified with additional calcium carbonate.

If you like to feed your horse something warm on those cold nights, you could add warm water to your horse's feed. Some horses don't like their feed wet, so you may have to start slowly. HPS's old horses and the ones in rehab are given alfalfa cubes soaked in hot water and then broken up.

## Penny's Training

By Grace



Penny is a newer horse here at HPS. It is important to give the horses time to settle before working with them. I also like to ensure they are fit to be ridden by observation and getting to know your horse. When starting a new horse with prior training I like to test them to see what they know and what they don't. This means haltering, ground cues, trust, and response to pressure. Penny haltered great and does well with being touched.

Of course, it took a bit of time for her to get use to not being around her friends but every day is an improvement! Ground cues are also very important to touch up on because that will be the foundation of riding. Right off the bat I can tell that there is a possibility that she is a horse who knows neck reining. This will help me when it comes time to ride her.

**Trust is also another big thing.** If she doesn't trust me to lead her on the ground, how can she trust me to lead her when I'm riding? So, a few basic exercises such as walking over the tarp, weaving through cones, stepping over cavalettis, and following me without the lead all show her willingness to follow me. All of which she passed with flying colors!

Lastly, I like to see how they respond to my body language and pressure. I ask her to watch my body by gently stepping to the side near her flanks and reaching my hand out towards her hindquarters. A good response is turning around which can mean that they are more attentive. Penny has gotten increasingly better about paying close attention to what my gentle movements meant. As mentioned, before she was at first quite distracted by getting back with the herd meaning she wasn't as focused on me. By this week Penny is improving and getting more comfortable with being out in the arena. She has a very promising future as a well-trained riding horse!



## Bronco and Rising Star

Bronco and Rising Star were both checked by two veterinarians. We already thought we knew what was going on, but we did have one surprise. We knew that Bronco had a goiter as soon as he arrived at HPS. The long hair hid it a little, but it was huge! We put him on Nascent Iodine and the goiter is slowly getting smaller. Iodine is one of the most important minerals to make thyroid hormones. The gland cannot make enough thyroid hormones if it does not get enough iodine from the horse's diet. Hence, iodine deficiency is the primary cause of developing a goiter, but cancer should not be overlooked.

Bronco is also being tested for equine Cushing's disease, also known as Cushing's syndrome, and also referred to as Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (or PPID). It may be caused by a tumor or other dysfunction of the pituitary gland, or endocrine system in general, which in turn leads to over-secretion of cortisol by the adrenal gland.

Persistent and abnormally high levels of hormone secretion cause a wide range of detrimental health effects for a horse, such as high blood sugar and the suppression of the immune system. There is one test that checks for thyroid function, Cushing's syndrome or PPID, and blood sugar levels. Often owners dismiss the various symptoms as "old age" and don't have the horse tested.

Rising Star's neck was checked because we had never seen a neck like his. The neck from the throat latch down was stiff feeling with irregular lumps all the way down.

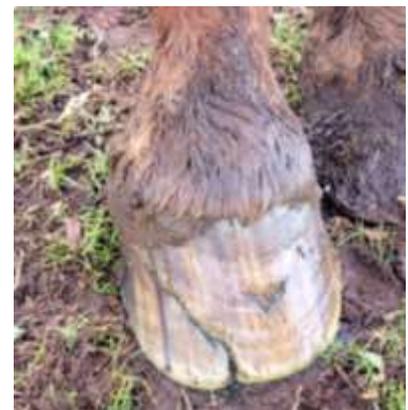
The veterinarian also found that Rising Star had a much smaller goiter. We were surprised we had missed it! He was also put on the Nascent Iodine.

Our farrier checked Rising Star's large creak in his hoof. He believes it will be fine and trimming over time will solve the problem.

There are issues that will have to wait until the two horses are in better health, like vaccinations and dental work. These two lovely old horses could use Angle Sponsors to help pay for all their issues and care.



Rising Star's hoof in December



Rising Star's hoof in January 2022 after trimmed by the farrier



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**Tusca Feb. 2nd Weather Prediction at HPS**  
 By Joyce Darling

I am originally from Punxsutawney PA, home of the famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil. So, I thought it would be fun to predict our own weather here at HPS! If Tusca sees his shadow it means six more weeks of winter. **If he doesn't see his shadow spring is around the corner.**

**Tusca's prediction is..... Six more weeks of winter**