



OVER HERD

Volume 12 Issue 1 January 2010

A Special Christmas Present for HPS, and a Great Way to Start the New Year!

If you haven't spent a lot of time on a working farm or ranch with large herds of sheep, goats, alpacas or horses, you may not be familiar with the term Livestock Guard Dog (LGD). There are several breeds of dog that fit into this category, including the Maremma (pronounced mare - emma). They are not like our household pets; they are often raised among and then live with the herds they protect, and tend to consider the animals in the herd to be "their family." They are not widespread here in America, and those that work as LGDs are not, and should not, be treated as pets. Their diet needs to be very controlled as the animals are highly sensitive to chemicals typically found in most "people" food and dog treats.

Several years ago, we lost our beloved Maremma, Tundra, to an unsuccessful cancer surgery when she was only four and half years old. Joanie has said that Tundra was one of the most amazing dogs she had ever known. Now that the coyote population around the sanctuary has grown, some of the HPS officers began talking about getting another Livestock Guard Dog. Joanie started looking on Pet Finder for a dog that could protect our precious herd. There wasn't anything that piqued her interest until she read about some pups and their mom and dad - - all of which had been abandoned by their owners. The family had been living on their own for some time. The pups Joanie saw online are a cross between a Maremma and a Komondor, another LGD breed known for its dreadlocks. These offspring should grow to be very interesting looking! The HPS Officers agreed to bring in one of the pups from their rescuers in Arkansas. The tab for the needed spaying, vaccines and heartworm check came to only \$100 - far less than it would have cost if done here.



Now the question was - how to get the pup from Arkansas to China Grove, NC. There is a group of wonderful and caring truck drivers, called "Dreamin' Your Way Home", that transports animals to new homes across the country. "Our" driver, Terry, who brought our pup, Glacier, arranged to meet Joanie no later than 6:30 one morning, outside of Statesville. She had talked to Terry several times along the way to see how Glacier was doing. He said that it took her about five days to warm up to him, and over the course of the week that they shared the truck, they became trusted friends.

We were ready! We had fixed up a stall for her with a bed, and her feed and water bowls. At first, she was afraid of everyone and of the horses, but it didn't take her long to warm up to the great folks here at the sanctuary. We started by just walking her on a leash, introducing her to the horses while they were in their stalls, and allowing her go up to folks as she wanted to.

After a few days, Deborah took Joanie's dog, Sirius, on a leash and Joanie had Glacier. Glacier was happy to see another dog, so Joanie turned her loose. They walked the property while the pup ran and played. The first barn of horses had been turned out and, while they were curious, none came after her. She is making great headway and will soon be able to be on her own during the days.

Glacier is not even a year old and hasn't developed her instincts of a Livestock Guard Dog, yet. On the other hand, she has not shown any interest in chasing the cats or our chickens, and this is a very good start!

!?! “Turn Them Loose – Don’t Starve Them” !?!

Responsible animal ownership – whether the animal is a dog, cat, ferret, snake, horse, well you get the picture – means being responsible for the animal until a new home is found or the animal passes on. Whether or not you believe that animals develop an emotional bond with humans, certainly an owner – ANY owner – recognizes the dependency of the animal on the human for food, water and shelter. Yet, once again, HPS received a call from Iredell Animal Control (IAC) about another horse turned out and left to fend for itself. This is our fourth call of this type this year!

The wonderful people at IAC took him in, fed him, brushed him and waited for the phone call from the owner - - that never came. The horse gained weight from the hay and feed that were provided. He blossomed from the attention of one of the Animal Control staff who grew to love this sweet horse. She bought him a brush, carrots, and alfalfa pellets, and he loved her attention. When we went to pick him up, he would not get on the trailer until she came to say “Goodbye.” Her tears spoke of the relationship they had developed over the several weeks he lived with IAC waiting for the phone call that was never to come. His owners had stopped caring about him – and so they turned him out from his home to face the dangers and hardships of wandering about alone.



Meet Rawhidel

What a beautiful buckskin gelding...until you looked at his front knee! A tape measure placed around that unsightly joint measures nearly 12 inches! We have seen too many of this type of injury over the decade we have been taking in unwanted and uncared-for equines. It generally signifies an injury ignored and left untreated. In this youngster—we believe he’s only around 8 years old—this situation may also be contributing to damage he has experienced in his hindquarters. Many of the horses, such as Cloud Dancer and Morning Glory, did wonderfully here for many years with continuous treatment of similar problems. Sometimes we know, as with Shenandoah, that they won’t be with us for an extended period of time. We never know how much time each horse is going to have or how it will respond to treatment, but we always try, and we hope for the best.

We recently heard from a friend who had attended an auction. She said that on the outside of the stalls, which held skinny horses, were posted signs that read “Turn them loose, don’t starve them.” How can *anyone* think this is a good, let alone reasonable, solution? These poor, skinny equines are not wild horses that know how to survive on their own. Horses owned by people will starve if turned loose!

Domestic horses have a long history of being cared for, and being turned loose or “free”, especially alone, leads only to a slow, terrible death if they are not found and rescued.

(Continued next page)

??Turn Them Loose??, (cont'd from page 2)

If they don't starve, they are extremely vulnerable to attacks by coyotes, bobcats and wild dogs. The domestic horse, by itself, does not stand a chance against an attack by wild animals. Feral horses live in herds and understand how to protect themselves.

Furthermore, domestic horses have no idea how to find water. Sound crazy? Well, we've trained them to be used to their water tubs being cleaned and filled with fresh water. How long can they survive without water, assuming they are not otherwise injured or sickly? Turn Them Loose??? No way.

Thank you to all the caring folks who love these horses! Your support, we fear, will always be needed to counteract the irresponsible acts of ignorant or cruel owners.

*The greatness of a nation and its moral progress
can be judged by the way its animals are treated.*
– Mahatma Gandhi

Become an Angel Sponsor today!

If you dream of owning your own horse, but know that it's not possible right now or if you look at the pictures and read the stories of our horses and want to help, we invite you to become an **Angel Sponsor** to one of the 45 equines at the Horse Protection Society. For only \$20 a month (\$240 a year), you can sponsor a horse of your choice!

You may select a horse on your own or we can choose one who needs your help. You'll receive a picture and the story of "your" equine(s) as well as updates throughout the year. You'll also receive our monthly newsletter, "Over Herd", via an email link or by snail mail, your choice.

You are always welcome to come and see "your" horse or pony during visiting hours on Saturdays from 10-4 at the sanctuary in China Grove, NC. Live out of the area? No problem – Angel Sponsors can live anywhere and know they're making an important difference in a needy horse's life.

It's easy to become an Angel Sponsor. Simply fill out the form below and send it along with your check to:

**Horse Protection Society
TLC Program
2135 Miller Road
China Grove, NC 28023**

Angel Sponsor's Name: _____

Angel Sponsor's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Angel Sponsor's Email Address: _____

How would you like to receive your newsletter? Email link By Mail

Name of the Equine(s) You Wish to Sponsor: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please write the name of "your" horse on the Memo Line of your check.

Most current Angel Sponsors send a monthly check to HPS – this helps immeasurably with our ability to meet our monthly expenses. If you prefer to support "your" equine bi-monthly, quarterly or annually, those options are also available to you.

I will send \$ _____ (please check one) monthly quarterly annually

The horses and ponies of HPS are grateful for your ongoing support!



Horse Angels of the Month

Last month's newsletter detailed the financial challenges facing HPS with 46 horses to care for, with more than a third of them needing dental care imminently with no funds to pay for it. Almost before we knew that Over Herd had left the local post office en route to you, we received a lovely note and check to cover the entire 16 treatments! Long-time supporters **Jane Billingsley** and her granddaughter, **Rachel Pope**, said it would be their honor to provide this necessary care for the horses of HPS. And we are honored by their devotion to our cause. Thank you so very much—especially from the horses who will benefit from your generosity.

Honors and Memorials

In honor of Joanie Benson & her troops—
God bless you for the unselfish love you so
freely give.
By Sarah Walentine

In honor of Carole Massey and in memory of her
horse, Jasmine. By Sonja & Bob Skelton

In honor of Alyessa Wainright for her kindness to all
animals! Love, Aunt Sheila

In memory of Gator who died too soon. By
Judith Cashwell

In memory of Montana. By Lisa Murray

In memory of Linda Ann Braund, a supporter
of HPS for many years. She will be greatly
missed. By HPS

Merry Christmas to Raymond & Kay Coltrain.
Love from Nancy, Mike, Lucky & Chester

To honor the Troy Seymour family at
Christmas. By Dottie Doub

**With great appreciation to the members
of Cardinal II Pony Club for giving up
their gift exchange and, instead, donating
to HPS.**

It's a Barbaro Christmas! By Bobbie Bowen
Merry Christmas to everyone! Love, Dianne Doub
Merry Christmas from Judy Taylor
To Kathy Smith, a wonderful daughter, Merry
Christmas! By Jack & Mary Graham

Merry Christmas to our Nana, Margaret Reed, who
loves horses. By Donis & Alex Smith

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!
By Barbara & Ronald Comito

With special thanks to the **Misty
Meadows Mitey Riders** program
for their wonderful
donation of tack and equipment.

In memory of my horse, Rafferty, who was 25
when he had to be put to sleep due to a leg in-
jury from a kick. He fought for several weeks to
recover, until nothing more could be done for
him. Rafferty was part of our family since he
was six months old. He is missed! By Sharon
Shively

"It is the horse's gift to connect us with Heaven
and our own footsteps." Ronni Sweet In Lov-
ing Memory of Night Hawk and Rose Bud; I
know you are running pain-free in Heaven! You
are greatly missed & loved! Love, Katie

Honors and Memorials (cont'd)

Thank you, Mom. I love you., Frank Z
In memory of my father, Edgar W. Sunham,
who loved horses. By Trisha Scudder
In love and honor of Tiffany Ferebee. In
Christ's Love by Charlotte, Chris, Christopher
and Collins Ferebee

With gratitude and thanks to the many tire-
less volunteers who tend our precious herd.
From Janet & Lou Elmo

In honor of Joanne Johnson. By John Casey

In honor of my daughter Melanie Boone -
Happy Birthday. By Jahala Morehead

In honor of Susan & Andy Mackay, Donna Sherrin, and Sharon
& Charney Bromberg. Happy New Year! Janet & Lou
In honor of my friends, Marie Kaden and Linda Ceuidera. By Cindy
Brooks

In honor of Kristin Kriedt, who requested a donation instead of
a Christmas gift. By Betty Strzykalski

In honor of Carol Bellinghausen. By Alexia Bellinghausen

In honor of Jane Oglesby. By Katherine Davis

In honor of Tammy Seifert's fundraiser. By Jeffrey Rose

In honor of Vicky & Peter Childers. By Angela Rosenberger

In honor of Mrs. Lisa Miller, 8th grade teacher at Weddington Mid-
dle School as a gift from her first period homeroom students.

In honor of Dottie Rebhan's birthday & Christmas because she
loves the horses at HPS. From Miriam H. Park

Monthly Donations & Contributors

As we enter the new year, we offer heartfelt **THANKS** to our supporters on behalf of the horses. Despite the difficult economy, your dedication remains strong, allowing us to continue to care for those whom others have discarded. We couldn't do it without your financial support. **THANKS** and May the Lord Bless You.

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 Whom would you like to receive your Honor, Memorial, or Angel Sponsor (please circle)? Name: _____
 Phone _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email address _____ Would you like the above recipient to receive "Over Herd" - **Yes No**
 Your message for the newsletter: _____

****Any donation is appreciated. Please make your check payable to Horse Protection Society. **For a \$25 or more donation, the named person can receive "Over Herd" for 1 year. Mail completed form to:
 Horse Protection Society, 2135 Miller Road, China Grove, NC 28023**

President	Katie Simmons	704-904-7709	KSIM7300@ctc.net
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Stallion to Gelding Support	Susie Lurz	336-973-5501	slurz1@aol.com
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Riding Program Coordinator	Katie Simmons	704-904-7709	KSIM7300@ctc.net
Equine Placement Review	Sandy Daily/Katie Muir	704-213-6400	sdaily@carolina.rr.com

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope everyone had a wonderful and happy Christmas!

Now it is the New Year and on its heels is tax time. We will be sending out the Tax Notice Letters before the end of the month. If you have moved this year and have a new address, please email it to HPS. Often people keep their email the same even when making a physical move. That may be fine if you get your newsletter over the Internet, but the tax letters need to go by "snail mail." So if you've moved in the last year, please drop us a note with the new mailing address, just to make sure. You can either email the information to us: hps@horseprotection.org or send it by the Postal Service. We'd like to hear from you as quickly as possible so your Tax Notice packet is not delayed in reaching you.

We have also found that many of the AOL email address stopped going through when Windstream bought out some areas. If you are among the customers affected by this change, please email us with your new email address. We have over 800 hard copy newsletters that get mailed each month. If you can help us whittle that number down, it will help HPS to save funds every month. Then be sure to let us know if you have a problem opening the newsletter; we will happily put you back on snail mail.

We've come a long way in our first decade, and it makes me so happy to see the improvements we have been able to provide for these wonderful beautiful creatures. The horses are happiest in this cold weather.

Earlier this morning I was watching the horses running out of the fog towards the barns to be fed. Of course, I did not have a camera with me. There is always so much to do and those few moments mean so much to me. I felt a nudge and it was Liberty behind me looking for a little rub. I had been watching Glacier enjoying her new home - racing around and stopping to smell this and that along the way. Every day she becomes more comfortable around the horses and the volunteers.

"Thank you God. We have made it through another year. It has had its many challenges, but you have always been there. You have made it possible by opening folks' hearts to the need. Please bless each and every one!" ~ Joanie Benson, China Grove NC, 12/09



Editor's Note: In an effort to get Over Herd out to you by the first of every month, we have **changed our deadlines**. For your article, honor, memorial or donation to be included in your month of choice, please be sure it gets to us no later than the 20th of the month in which you would like it published. If we receive it too late for that month, be sure to look for it in the following month's edition. Thanks so much.

Save your Unwanted Tack: HPS fund-raising tack sale is coming. Date TBA. Watch for more info!