



OVER HERD

Happy New Year from the Horses with new Homes!

Thank you for making it possible to provide what the horses needed to recover and find new quality homes!

Stetson could have died without the care he received every day while at the sanctuary. There are many sad stories on the internet of horses being treated for EPM (Equine protozoal myeloencephalitis) that had to be put down when the treatments did not work. It has been kept quiet that sweet feed can be a contributing factor to a horse acquiring EPM.

Stetson had been treated three times for EPM before coming to HPS. He was treated twice with Marquis and once with some herbal concoction. The first thing that needed to be done was a full blood panel to make sure that Marquis had not damaged any organs along with the EPM test that we have been using for years. (<http://pathogenes.com/>) Dr. Ellison has spent years studying EPM and developing a test for all three types of protozoa and the only treatment HPS has found that works without damaging the horse. The treatment is reasonably priced and only takes 10 days. The sad news is he had to be treated twice since one of his daily treatments was missed. Stetson's care cost thousands and thousands of dollars and this could only take place because of your caring donations.

HPS does a significant amount of research on equine illnesses. We tried Marquis at the insistence of the vets we were working with in 2002. It proved to be a huge mistake! We would never give this to another horse with EPM. The good news is that Stetson is fully recovered and has left the sanctuary for his new home. This large Off Track Thoroughbred (OTTB) is a wonderful sweet horse and now has a perfect home.



River was picked up by Iredell Animal Control and we took him in September 2013. This beautiful Saddlebred had some of the worst front hooves I have ever seen. His hooves were full of infection and the digital radiographs showed some bone damage. His soles were only 3/8 inches thick.

When we take in horses from ACs we do not get much information concerning the horse's history. River looks and acts like a horse that was shown for many years. Years of wearing shoes could have contributed to his extreme contracted heels and thin soles. His front legs are scarred and this may have stopped his showing career, but he still moves nicely. We have no idea when or how he was injured. HPS expects River to have a full recovery and to be a great riding horse. Not everyone is willing to take in a horse that still needs more time to fully recover. He has a great home with a beautiful remodeled

barn and perfect ground to help his hooves to heal fully.

Diego has been at the sanctuary for what seems like forever. He came to HPS February 2009. Many people do not appreciate Arabian Horses or understand them. Diego and River will be sharing the great new stable at their new home. Placing a 25-year-old horse is not easy and it takes just the right home to value the older horses and understand their care. Diego is in perfect health and only needs a little Red Cell added to his feed every other day. Often older horses cannot digest the iron in the hard form in the feed. Diego is a great ride, but not for a total beginner. He expects his rider to ride correctly.

Diego has always been a favorite here at the sanctuary. Thank you so very much for making it possible for Diego to wait for just the perfect home.

Everyone is happy when the horses find new quality homes, but they are so missed by all of the volunteers. They are loved and cared for at the sanctuary and you make this possible!



News from the Herd

Comanchero has had two episodes where he slipped and could not get back up easily. Our records were checked and when he was supposed to be tested for EPM (*equine protozoal myeloencephalitis*) he was missed. Dr. Bob Gochnauer came to check him. The company we use is <http://pathogenes.com/> and the test checks for all three protozoal. The treatment kills all types of the protozoa and is given for 10 days. We have never had any side effects with any of the horses we have treated.

Nine other horses also had blood drawn for the EPM test. We will not have the test results back until after the newsletter goes to our editor and I will let you know the results next month. We do a few horses at a time even if they are not showing outward signs of EPM. It is worth treating the horses early in the disease. Many of the horses that come to the sanctuary have been fed sweet feed and this can be contaminated with the protozoa. Extruded feed and pelleted feed is normally heated high enough to kill the protozoal off.

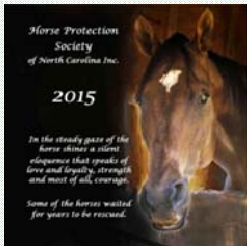
The Herd was dewormed with Equimax to kill tapeworms. This only has to be used once a year. HPS likes this product since it has more of the tapeworm medication (praziquantel) than other brands. It also has ivermectin to kill off the other types of parasites. We have to assume that the horses that come to the sanctuary have never been dewormed for tapeworms. Each of the new horses receive a ½ cup of peanut oil over their feed morning and evening for 10 days to help prevent an impaction colic when all the tapeworms die off. HPS deworms for tapeworms during the colder months since the oil will add extra calories. The oil is only necessary the first time a horse is treated for tapeworms.

Health Tips

It is so important to eat right and take top quality vitamins and minerals every day! Folks say, "I don't need to take anything. I eat healthy foods." One study provided that if you ate an organic peach in 1950, you would have to eat 52 organic peaches today to get the same amount of vitamin A that you would have gotten from one peach in 1950.

One of the best ways to improve your health is to grow a garden. Improving the soil is very important to increase the poor soils that we have in North Carolina. If you live in a newer home it may even be sub soil that was put back on top. HPS has huge piles of composted hay and horse manure which we are happy to give away. If you want a pickup truck full we will use the tracker to load it for you if you cross our palm with a small amount for the diesel fuel. Some folks get trash can full at a time for putting around their plants.

If gardening is a new experience for you, there is loads of information on the internet. Many gardeners are going to permaculture or square foot gardening rather than digging up a square spot and putting in the traditional rows. Raised beds are often a nice way to garden and then covering the new plants with straw to lessen the water requirements and help to keep the weeds down. Gardening is a great family activity and gets everyone outside.



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Honors and Memorials

In honor of Dottie Rebhan's Birthday in December. By Sybil Athey
 In honor of Jodi Douthit's Birthday in December. By Sybil Athey
 In honor of Lisa Murray's January Birthday. By Sybil Athey

In honor of Ann Seagle. By Tiffany Ferebee
 In honor of my daughter, Kim Clark, who loves animals. Merry Christmas! By Betty Lentz

Marilyn and Harry Swimmer have been honored by Diane & John Kibler

In honor of Jim and Pam Settle. By John & Kathleen Cox

In honor of my granddaughter, Vivian. She has selected HPS as her charity for several years. By Nancy Aubel

In loving memory of Sunni, Sudi & John Adams. By Mary A. Myers

In memory of Snickers, gentle companion and beloved friend of Miss Angel Lehouf. By Roberta

In loving memory of our dog, Cayce. By Diane & Chris Etheridge

In memory of Roberta's little sweetheart, Sampson. By Kathy Haw

In honor of a horse's loving family, the Long Family. By Bonnie & Jack Munday

Happy Holidays to Judy & Tony Leonardo, Jim & Sue Elmo, Kris & Dave Cantleberry, Jeff & Dena Greenfield, Casey Greenfield, and Amy & Tony Leonardo." From Lou and Janet Elmo

In honor of Liza and Ann Hough. Happy Holidays! By Royce Hough

Five-year-old Eva asked her friends to donate to HPS instead of getting presents. Thank you Eva Bolin!

In memory of Andrew Long. By Carolyn Tice

In loving memory of Mrs. Betty Laferty. By Carolyn Tice

A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful December Donors!

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**For a \$25 or more donation, the named person can receive "Over Herd" for 1 year.

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Address Correction Requested

Happy New Year!!! We hope!

The Horse Protection Society has been rescuing horses for SIXTEEN Years! HPS is starting 2015 with a major problem. Our hay suppliers only have enough hay to provide for the horses until the end of January. We have been searching for hay! The cost is going very high! The local hay we found is \$45 a bale and \$200 for delivery at about 12 to 13 bales at a time. This supplier only has about 100 to 125 bales. Chris Morgan, who lives next to the sanctuary, has offered to off-load any hay we are able to purchase and put it in his large hay barn until we need it. Then Chris will deliver the hay to the horses. Of course we have to pay Chris for his service and use of his hay barn. The horses need 240 total round or the very large square (3'x3'x8') bales to carry us through until May when the new hay will be cut.



All of these extra costs could easily take the cost per bale up to \$80 to \$85 a bale. If we have to get hay delivered in from out of state the costs could be even worse. At the present time it takes 14 large round bales a week to feed the horses. The amount of hay we are trying to secure does not allow for taking in any new starved horses. HPS would have to raise a good deal more funding to be able to budget in taking in more horses in need.

We budget for the 14 bales a week at a cost of \$40 a bale. These new costs will double the expenses and we do not have the funding to cover the extra costs. The other problem is that normally we pay for the hay by the week and now we have to have the cash to pay upfront for the hay and the delivery of large amounts of hay. We already know that the quality of the hay will not be as good as what the horses are used to.

All of this is worry-some for everyone! *Even small donations help to add up to be able to purchase the needed hay.*