



OVERHERD



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Another Black Tennessee Walker!

By Joanie Benson

Keep Those Aluminum Beverage Cans Rolling!

By Roberta McCardle

Many thanks to our wonderful members who continue to collect and transport aluminum beverage cans to the ranch to the Can City holding area. This is an easy, no-cost-to-you fundraiser. Every bit helps and is put to good use on the horses' behalf. Let's maximize our opportunities to collect cans....put a bag in your break-room at work....ask your family, friends, and neighbors to help. Ask a local business if you could put a collection bag in their breakroom (and then be faithful about picking up their cans regularly). Please note that this is ONLY for aluminum beverage cans. Thus far in CY 2009, the ranch has made \$346 on the cans. Again, thank you for your good hearts in taking the time and going to the trouble to do this for the horses. If our four-footed friends could speak, they would say, "Thank you for caring about us enough to help!"



When an unexpected truck and trailer pulls into the sanctuary on a Saturday evening..... it cannot be good! Especially when there is a horse in the trailer! Out of the truck hops a gal and her son that I have known for years and they are good horse people who take great care of their horses. We could not imagine what was going on.



The gal explains to me that they were at wits end with a horse they bought in 2005. The horse has had many vet visits for his ongoing breathing problems, and it is now worse than ever before! He had stopped eating a number of days ago and they had to give him a shot of Dexamethasone; even with knowing how hard this is on a horse's liver. It had to be done to help him as his breathing was so labored that they were fearful for his life. He had been given Prednisone a few days before and was on Ventipulmin equine syrup for his continuous cough. They were doing everything the vet told them to and nothing was working.

With all of the rain lately their barn was flooding so horribly that the rubber mats were floating. This has been a recurring problem and over the years the owners have spent a small fortune trying to remedy the water situation on their property. The mold and fungus was out of control in their barn. They had to move their other two horses to different property until things dried out. They knew that this poor horse could not go with the other two horses because he needed immediate help.

We agreed to take him in since his life was hanging in the balance. If he was not eating, chances are he was not drinking enough water and he showed signs of dehydration. He had lost a good bit of weight, maybe 100 pounds. I felt we had time before it would be necessary to start IV fluids. He showed all the signs of ulcers from the stress of fighting for each breath.

The next four days I had to use every trick I knew to get a horse eating. It was so important to get Aloe Vera juice in him for the ulcers and the supplements to help him breathe. We have cured horses with Recurrent Airway Obstruction (RAO), or as it used to be called COPD, before and I felt confident we could help him recover. I am not known for my patience (cont pg 3)



Rags to Riches ~ By Katie Simmons

Who would have thought? In November of 2008, only 7 months ago, HPS launched a training and riding program. With a professional horse trainer, Tamara Eichorn, a handful of HPS volunteers set out on an adventure (to say the least!). We focus on working with our saddle pals and potential saddle pals to get them back under saddle, regain the trust of a human to better prepare them for their new potential homes. What a seven months it has been! The volunteers found out if we could “really ride”; we also got the opportunity to brush up on some of

our horsemanship skills. The program gave us an education of how to properly work with and train a horse. The transformations came almost immediately (in horse AND volunteer!) and the results are amazing to us each and every day. Needless to say, the horses have been a little “pasture spoiled” getting healthy, and not all are crazy about having to come in from grazing to do some work! But you can now see it in their eyes, they enjoy it when we come to work with them individually, they love the attention and the praise.

For over 200 hours, the training group has worked specifically with 18 horses. Exercising them, working on their ground and stall manners, finding out what their fears are, building their muscles and most importantly building their trust. We are getting them ready for wherever their next home will be so that owners can enjoy them as much as we have.

Look at the very first picture we have of Sierra. She was nothing but skin and bones. Starved with trust issues, this little girl had a long way to go. Fast forward 1 year, she was one of the first to go through the training program. Healthy and eager to please, *(cont pg 3)*



Inca the Water Nymph ~ by Heidi Crowley

Inca is dozing when she hears the sound. She hurries to the source. One of the people who take care of her is holding it. She moves closer, puts her mouth to the hand and pushes with her lip. HERE I AM! PLEASE DO IT! The person smiles. She gives the hand another nudge. HEY! PAY ATTENTION! IT'S HOT TODAY! C'MON, DO IT NOW!!! And so the person moves the hose that's filling a water tub and, with a big smile, holds the hose up high. Inca steps closer and feels the cool water flow over her. She closes her eyes and pretends she is floating. The water moves from her neck down her back to her tail, along her side and down her legs. After a while Inca turns around to do the other side. Cool water again flows over her and then, her favorite part. The hose goes under her belly. HEAVEN! The person chuckles and moves the hose back to the water tub. WAIT...nudge..NOT DONE YET! For a few more minutes the water runs over her back. PERFECT! She gently nudges the person's arm. THANK YOU. And away walks Inca the Water Nymph, glistening, dripping, happy. Life is good at the Sanctuary.

(Another TWH cont pg 1) and picked up some Ulcer Guard just to be on the safe side and started giving him that also. Each feeding could take me a couple of hours to get him to eat a little feed with his supplements soaked in some alfalfa. By Wednesday evening we turned the corner and Thursday morning he wolfed down his feed. The ulcers are clearing and his heavy breathing has greatly improved.

The snap, crackle and pop of his lungs have reduced to heavy breathing sounds. Noble still heaves to breathe, but without the terrible straining as when he first came to HPS. It can take years to totally correct his lungs and promote healthy tissue. He has to be monitored closely and watched for lung infections. He will need to remain on the supplements for the rest of his life.

Noble is just 18 years old and from his registration papers it looks like he was normally kept for about two years before he was resold in the winter. The RAO is not usually as noticeable during the winter months.

If you read last months newsletter article about the other black TWH, you can understand how I laughed about this one coming in. Okay God, enough black Tennessee Walking Horses! I have stopped praying, you can stop sending them now. Who says God does not have a sense of humor!

Thank you for making it possible to take in another horse that is going to need long-term care.



Happy Birthday to Margie Gallman, Sondra Thorson & Judy Smidt - The Nah Nah Sisters.

Happy Birthday Lauren. By Cathy & David Lefko

Quote of the Month:

I have seen things so beautiful, that they have brought tears to my eyes. Yet, none of them can match the gracefulness and beauty of a horse running free.

Author Unknown

In memory of Skye Durant. The kids and I love you forever! By Ryan



SIERRA ~ rode to her new home July 4th!

(Rags to Riches cont pg 2) she adjusted perfectly to getting back under saddle and now enjoys trail riding and is gentle enough for a beginner or even child to ride. To date, there is an application pending on her for a new home. (Note: Sierra went to her new home on the 4th of July.)

Legacy will tell you that he doesn't like to work and be away from his mares, but we are finding out differently! We just recently started to work with Legacy who is a handful to "catch" and get in the stall to groom and tack - who can blame him for not wanting to leave his Cheyenne and Shoshoni? As much of a handful that he was and still to some extent is, get him in the round pen and under saddle....perfect gentleman. Without the dedication of our trainer and volunteers in the training program, we would have waited a lot longer to work with Legacy. Now, he has the potential to be a fantastic ride and companion.

Sierra will be our 5th horse our training and riding program to be placed in a new home. So many wonderful things are happening at our sanctuary. Keep watching the website for updates on the current horses going through the training program, but don't forget to glance back at some of their "before" pictures and then just look at them now, rags to riches.....you bet!



Sanctuary Update ~ by Joanie Benson

Each day I am thankful for the wonderful volunteers that come to the sanctuary and care for their horses. This summer has been nice and quiet with the herd, nothing serious going on, just the usual routine care.

Poor Pumpkin, our rescued kitty, ate some food that gave him pancreatitis. Deborah Baker and I rushed him to the Emergency Clinic Friday evening. He had to have numerous procedures to save his life; radiographs, feeding tube, blood tests and IV catheter to name a few.

Our bill was over \$1,200! Monday morning Deborah and I went back and transferred Pumpkin to South Ridge Veterinary Hospital. Monday evening we had to decide whether to take him back to the Emergency Clinic for the night or take him home. Poor Pumpkin was so unhappy and still not eating so I decided he would be better off at the sanctuary. Pumpkin joined Sirius in the house and Sirius was so very kind and gentle to Pumpkin. It was great for Pumpkin to be at home and he started wolfing down food the first evening. After spending four days inside on a special diet he was able to join Calie, our 18 year old kitty, outside. (We still do not know what the additional blood tests and care will cost for Pumpkin's day at South Ridge). Please help with Pumpkin's life saving care.

Mojave was finally able to join his friends in the herd after his hooves were cured of all the cankers. The cankers had started with his front hooves and then moved to the back hooves. He was very good about staying in his stall through all the rain; he was only allowed out on dry ground. Mojave will have to be watched carefully for any signs of reoccurrence.

The contractor that built our new barns is starting work on the vinyl fencing for the sanctuary. We are putting a two rail fence across the front of the house and along the drive on the house side. Across the drive where we rehab the starved horses there will be a three rail fence, from that corner along the road the vinyl fence will run 24 feet. We will install a short metal gate (painted white) so the drive can be closed off. To fence the pasture that is on the side of the house there will be a three rail vinyl fence that runs 24 feet along the road and 24 feet of fence that runs along the side of the house. The goal is to have vinyl fencing around all of the property. The new vinyl fencing will serve as a barrier to the road just in case a horse gets away from someone or breaks out of the wire fencing. The money for the vinyl fence came from a \$6,000 grant. Wow! Does it look great! We hope to add a sign out front soon too.

Next spring we are planning a tack sale. Please check through your old tack for donations to help support the cause. All donations will either go on sale or be used by the sanctuary for the training program to get the horses back under saddle; we are in special need of light weight saddles for this program.

In Loving Memory of the Great Comanche who died bravely on July 14, 2000. We will never see your like again. Sadly missed by Roberta

In memory of our beloved horse Eddie who passed over the Rainbow Bridge on April 21st. Rest In peace, Eddie, good and faithful friend. By Charles, Jill, Zan & Ellie, Mom Ruth.

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****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**



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As we celebrate our freedoms and thank the men and women who have/are giving us that right. I would also like to thank all of you who continue to support HPS. For the horses are also celebrating their new freedoms. Thank You and May the Lord Bless You and Bless those who have and are serving our great Country.

To honor my sister, Mini, who has rescued dozens of homeless animals and found them new homes. Love Ruthie, Rick Sam and JuJu.

In honor of Mackenzie Stall. By Marcia Kane

In honor of Joanie Benson. By Emity Beroth

In honor of my friend, Vicki Childers, on her birthday 6/17. By Angie Rosenberger

This donation is to care for the horse on the front cover of your newsletter - Firelight. By Sheila Saints.

In honor of Louise Burt whose daughter is Katherine Lofgren of Hickory Grove Elementary School. We hope that this will provide some help towards your mission. By the HGEC Social Committee

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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.