

Thin Soled Hooves

There are so many possible hoof issues that can affect horses, and we have had to deal with most of them over the years. The following are serious issues we have seen at the sanctuary: abscesses, laminitis, founder, thrush, white line, fungus, hoof rot, contracted heels, canker, thin hoof walls, creaks in the hoof walls, and thin soles.



Gypsy came to HPS less than a year ago. The visual assessment showed front hoof issues, poor coat and color. She had the appearance of a bay color, and yet Gypsy should have been black. This is indicative of poor nutrition that we see in most of the equine that comes to the sanctuary. Gypsy was tender on her front hooves. We had digital radiographs and blood panels to determine the issues causing her painful front feet. Gypsy had a slight rotation in her coffin bones and very weak soles.

Several factors can contribute to the sole depth. The extreme wet conditions through the fall, winter, and spring soften the hooves, and they will wear down more easily. We corrected the nutrition.

Gypsy's body condition is improved, and she is now black instead of a bay color. Usually, in dryer weather, the rocks around the barns and hay feeders will encourage the hooves to be harder and the soles to thicken, but in the wet ground, it is the reverse. Some horses have a genetic predisposition to problems with their hooves. Thoroughbreds are one breed that is notorious for hoof problems.

A way to test the thickness of the horse's sole is to exert five to seven pounds of pressure with your thumb on the sole. If there is give on the sole, it is too thin. There are steps that should be taken to diagnose the cause of the problem. We like to start with our veterinarian and have digital radiographs done. If there are any signs of laminitis or founder, then a blood panel needs to be completed. You should have a discussion with your vet concerning the horse's diet. Our next go-to person is our farrier who will have a chance to see the radiographs, and should develop a plan to help improve the hooves.

There are various treatments to help harden the bottom of the feet, and we like to use Venice Turpentine. It comes with a brush to use to cover the sole only. We have used this for many years and find it effective. There are many different types on the market today, and you may find something else that works. Since we are still dealing with the wet ground, it is time to up the game to boots with cushioning pads. Just like it is so important for you to wear shoes that fit correctly, it is the same for your horse. There are professional farriers that often will fit and sell horse boots. I would rather work with a person that has been trained to fit the boots correctly rather than take a chance and buy boots over the Internet that may or may not be correct for Gypsy's condition.



Gypsy Today

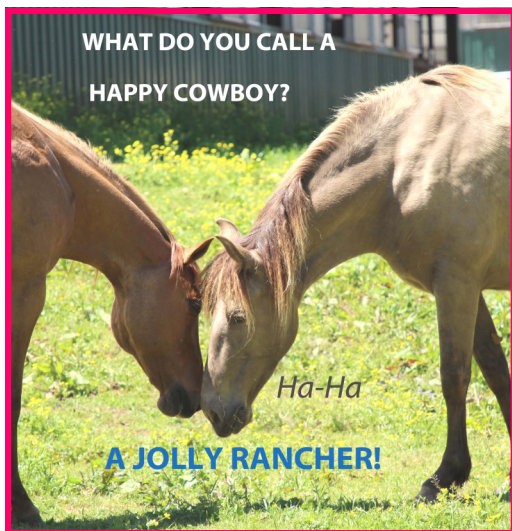
Horses and Their Sense of Humor

By Melanie Ruscoe

One of the greatest joys I have working here at HPS is getting to know each horse. It didn't take me long to realize that the horses have an amazing sense of humor! At first, I would think, did that just happen? Am I making more of this than it is? But as time went on, I came to know that it really is true. Horses really do have a sense of humor!

Take Cruiser, for example. We had the horses put up in their stalls and Beth, and I were having a conversation right outside of Cruiser's stall. I can't even remember what it is we were talking about, but I remember our complete focus was on each other and what we were talking about. Cruiser had his head hanging over the wall, and now and then, either Beth or I would give him a scratch. I vaguely remember thinking he was a little agitated about something but figured he probably just wanted us to shut up and let him out. He kind of swayed his head side to side, getting Beth's attention and she rubbed his face and asked him what his problem was. Right then, he completely turned around, stepped up on his tippy toes, pressed his butt against the stall front, and deposited a giant pile of poop at our feet!

Then there's Bandolero. Now I know several of us will readily admit that he likes to agitate us humans. I could write a book on the different things this boy has done! Just recently, though, we had to bath him. As I caught him and took him to the hose and started at his feet, I thought wow, this is going pretty good. Then he positions himself so that he's standing on the hose, cutting off the supply of water. This has happened before, no big deal, so I put my hand on his chest and ask him to back up. He only needed to take one step, but instead, he takes three...landing right on a different part of the hose. Okay, how about just a tiny step forward? Oh no, we have to take two steps sideways to land on a different part of the hose. At this point, I'm thinking, is he doing this on purpose? I walk him down the side of the building, then all the way back, to repeat the same dance. I'm sure he was dying inside! Do you know what's great, though? At first, I was getting frustrated, which of course wasn't helping, but then I just had to laugh at him and let him know what a great joke he was pulling off. After that, we enjoyed the rest of our bath together. And yes, it was together, as I was as wet as he was when we were done!



How about Chicopee? Most of you know he has a cleft palate, and as a result, he almost always has a snotty nose. And yes, he has absolutely used it several times to splatter our faces, but that's not what he did this time to be so funny. Joanie and I and a couple of volunteers were out between the barns talking, and we see Oliver, our barn kitty, dart around the corner, jump up on a watering tub and start drinking. We're all laughing at him, thinking it'd be a little funny if he fell in (at least I did) and Chicopee goes up to the tub and looks like he's going to get a drink. Oliver and Chicopee eye each other up, Chicopee lowers his head to the water and, instead of drinking, starts bobbing his head up and down, splashing in the water! Oliver gets a little stiff and starts looking panicky when suddenly the splashing water makes contact, and if cats could fly, Oliver would have! Oh, we laughed and laughed. Too bad we didn't have that on camera!

I could tell story after story, and maybe I will over some more of these newsletters, but I'll leave it at this for now. You may or may not agree with me on whether horses have a sense of humor, but maybe after reading some of these, you might think differently. Or come and visit and grab a chair and sit and watch as these characters put on a show.

Our heartfelt esteem to all of the kind folks who help to make the care of the horses possible. May God bless you!

Let us not forget that the 4th of July represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation. It is also important to remember that this country was formed in "God we Trust."

Anne Marie Allison
Sybil P. Athey
Charles L. Beck
Kathy & Tony Bell
Annette (Gail) Bradley
Pam & Steve Carlton
Kay Coltrain
Betsy D. Dean
Tony England
Susan Ferguson
Lisa A. Hachey
Brenda & Charles Hemperley
Dr. Leslie C. Henson
Amber Hozey
Virginia M. Johnson
Stephen & Mary Kicinski
Randi Kinney
Kimberly Y. Lane
Gerry Layson
Judy & Mike LeGrett
Betty B. Lentz
Myra Mahoney

Roberta A. McCardle
Jill & Charles Messer, Jr.
Carolyn Miller
Barbara Byrd Moore
Debbie O. & Mike Morris
Taylor Osterhout
Ray M. Phillips
Melissa Pletcher
Dottie Rebhan
Betty & Harold Rhoads
Melanie Ruscoe
Robert Schantz
Harriet A. Seabrook
Cynthia R. Sheaffer
Gail M. Shinn
Lisa M. Slatt
Carol & Tom Tighe
Elaine D. Towner
Shelly & Stephan Ugolini
John Vinal
Linda Yarrington

In honor of Sybil Athey's July birthday, a long time volunteer at H.P.S. By Dottie Rebhan

In honor of Heidi Simmons.
By Cynthia Sheaffer

**In memory of Betsey Arnett.
By Panther Reunion**

In loving memory of
Comanche, July 14, 2000.
Always in my heart, Roberta

HPS is Going to have a Sale



We need your clean items donated for a Sale that will be **Saturday and Sunday, August 3rd and 4th**. Just call or email to let us know when you can drop off your gently used items. Please, no clothing donations. And one of us will be here. horseprotection@windstream.net or 704-855-2978 We will email back or phone back to let you know we received your message.

You will have all of July to get the donated items to HPS. Useful household items, decorator items, and clean horse tack, although this is not just a tack sale. There will be some horse items, but not a much as we usually have. We will keep any good saddles and bridles, etc., that we can use for the rescued horses.

Please let us know if you can help out. If you don't have anything, please ask neighbors and friends to help out. We can make this a great sale with your help. **Thank you for caring!!**

Donation From: _____ Phone# _____ Address _____
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 Whom would you like to receive your Honor, Memorial, (please circle one)?
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 This will save money in printing & postage.
 THANK YOU!

Wahoo!!! Vacation Time

I'm back! I lucked out and found a low-cost round trip ticket to Colorado, direct flight for only \$270.00. I went West earlier than usual since Carson was graduating from High School. He had a fun party at the ranch with great Western-style food.

The arrival temperature was 49 degrees. It was the coldest May in 25 years. Early several mornings, Bryant or Patty started a fire in the wood burning stove that took the chill off the house. The first week in June was much warmer, and finally, it was 'shorts weather.' The spring was inundated with rain almost every day in the afternoon.

As the day progressed after a beautiful sun rise in the East, the land and mountains to the West of the ranch was a constant slide show of change. The boiling clouds carrying an impending storm, rushed over the high peaks as they moved East covering the ground in shadow. Often the clouds in the afternoon will help to create a magnificent sunset. The light seems brighter and the shadows more intense. It was so peaceful at the ranch.

I don't worry about the sanctuary while I am gone. We have the best folks watching over the horses, and taking care of every thing! **Thank you everyone!**

