

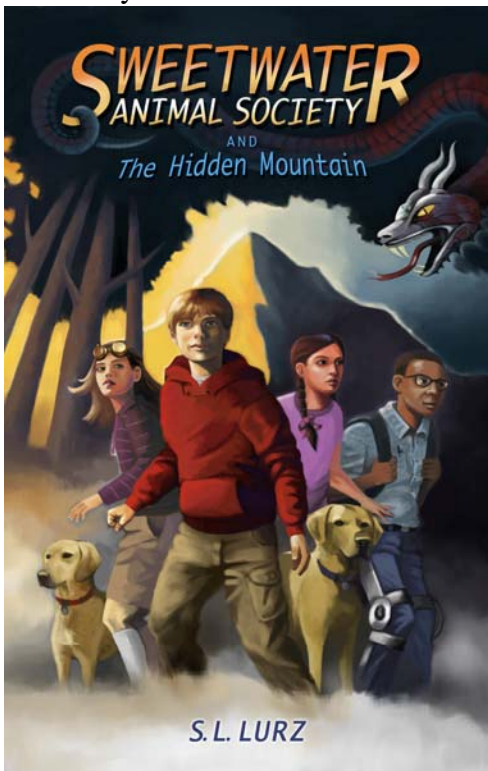


OVER HERD

New Book Series To Benefit HPS!

Author and animal activist, S. L. Lurz uses a series of children's action/adventure books to raise awareness and funds for HPS.

Inspired by her eight horses, three cats and two dogs (many of which are rescues), S.L. Lurz has created the wonderful, fictitious world of Sweetwater Farms. Using wit and adventure, she subtly reveals the series' underlying theme of respect for all living things. Come visit this magical place where a young boy who wants to one day be a veterinarian realizes he can not only talk to animals, but can turn into them as well! Young readers and adults alike are sure to be entertained, informed and inspired by this creative storytelling.



"I absolutely loved it," says HPS director, Joanie Benson. "The animals are such a delight and kids will greatly benefit from this inspirational story—an awesome summer read!"

Sweetwater Animal Society and The Hidden Mountain will be available in hardcover July 23, 2010 and will retail for \$16.99. You can take advantage of a pre-publication promotion and purchase your copy **by July 22** for only \$14.99; this includes free shipping and a personalized, autographed copy from the author. In addition, \$2.00 per pre-publication book sale will be donated directly to HPS. Visit sweetwateranimalsociety.com and click on the "buy" link to order your copy now!

If you prefer to mail your order, please complete the form below and mail along with your check to:

Lukos Marketing Group, Inc., P.O. Box 49778, Charlotte, NC 28277

Note: all orders will ship July 23, 2010.

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HPS

So-called *Experts* By Joanie Benson

Even when new horse people try to learn and do everything right, things can still go horribly wrong. This was the case for a family and a horse in Bladenboro County. The family saw an ad for a 19-year-old Appendix (half Quarter Horse and half Thoroughbred) for sale. The owner sent pictures of the horse and the family went to meet him. He was thin and was very long in the toe. Even though he did not look like the pictures they were sent, the family decided to buy him anyway so they could get his weight back up and his hooves taken care of.



The new owners brought the horse home on a Saturday and had the hooves trimmed on Sunday to remove the “Duck Feet” in the front and trim the back as well. A couple of weeks later, the horse was showing soreness in the front. The owners called in another farrier, Melissa Schaber, to check the horse. Accompanying her was Tim Northern who represented himself as a ‘Founder Expert.’ With nothing more than the use of a hoof tester, Northern pronounced the horse foundered.

The owner tried to explain that the horse had very long toes just a couple of weeks before, that he had been trimmed right away and was thin when they got him. The farriers did not seem interested in anything the owners had to say. The owners were new to horses and really did not understand founder. Both of the farriers were more interested in criticizing the horse and his thinness, the size of the pasture area for their horses and telling the owners that they must have black walnut and/or wild cherry trees on the property as this is what had to have caused the founder. The owners checked their property, and found no black walnut trees on it. (If a horse eats even a little of a wild cherry tree, it will get sick and there will be additional symptoms. Normally a horse will not touch wild cherry trees until the leaves drop in the fall. Just four to five wilting leaves can kill a horse.)

Micmac's hoof after "expert" trim



Northern directed Schaber to trim away the front of the hoof wall starting about an inch below the coronary band which sits at the top of the hoof wall. Both front hooves were done in the same way, leaving only the quarter walls and NO support for the horse in the front. (The front legs/feet of horses generally support over 65% of the horses' weight, so no support in the front is not a good thing.) Several adverse things can take place when a horse loses this much of the front of the hoof: the horse can knuckle over at the fetlock or the knee joint if they try to shift their weight forward; the horse can continue to rock back on his hips, as he would with hooves that are too long. This puts undue strain on the suspensory ligaments. This horse continued to rock back after the trimming.

The farriers told the owners it was going to cost hundreds of dollars to bring the horse back, and that a single visit could be as much as \$250. They knew they were in over their heads and called HPS. The owner emailed pictures of the front hooves, and I was appalled! I warned them of the issues that could take place after such an extreme trimming. They delivered the horse to the sanctuary within a few days.

Micmac needs more weight than most folks would realize. We don't want him to gain too quickly since he has been putting so much strain on his back tendons. The digital radiographs showed that the front of the hooves had been sheared **so much that the tip of the coffin bone was about only a quarter of an inch from the front of one hoof wall.** The veterinarians were as concerned as I for his well-being. Micmac showed no sign of founder in either front hoof! Tamara Eichorn (HPS's farrier) put on front shoes that extend beyond the front of the hoof to try and get him to put his weight on the front hooves and take the pressure off of the hind tendons.

I called Tim Northern after the full analysis of the horse was completed. He said the most common cause of founder was black walnut poisoning. I know the vets would disagree! Mr. Northern graduated from a six-week course at Oklahoma State Horseshoeing School about 20 to 25 years ago. I also spoke with Regan Kester, the current head instructor at the school, who told me that the students are taught to never make a diagnosis of an issue, as that is the veterinarians' job. Regan had never heard of an accepted practice of removing the front of the hoof wall as was done to this horse. Regan asked if x-rays were done first. I told him the owners said that they would have been willing to have digital radiographs done, but the farriers never brought it up.

Re-sectioning of the hooves for severe founder and white line disease is an acceptable practice done in conjunction with a veterinarian, followed by shoes put on by the farrier for support. This is very different from what was done to Micmac.



Photo of a HEALTHY HOOF

There are many possible causes other than founder for the pain the horse was feeling in his front hooves. The most common cause of pain when hooves have been allowed to grow out so far in the front is compacted bars. Since the horse was not being ridden and was simply in a field all the time, the bars would not have worn down naturally. Cutting the bars back will often relieve the pain. **It will now take eight months to a year for Micmac's hooves to grow back to normal.**

Micmac is in need of shoes (as opposed to remaining barefoot like the other HPS horses), and he will need more-than-normal farrier care (every four weeks). He is also still underweight and needs to gain more weight. Poor Micmac was basically a healthy horse before these so-called experts diagnosed and "fixed" him; now he has a long rehabilitation that is going to be very costly. This sweet horse is greatly in need of some Angel Sponsors. Will you sign up to help him?



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: Micmac

Please write "Micmac" 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

NOTE: While Micmac's story is not typical, it is also not uncommon. But it is important to remember that there are many good farriers who have done extensive studying and stay current with continuing education. The key is how to find the good ones.

In many cases, you may find websites with stories of their successes and accomplishments as well as information about them. They will belong to professional associations. Getting referrals from large animal veterinarians is another route to take. An Expert Farrier would not do extensive trimming on a horse with suspected laminitis or founder until digital radiographs were done. Any farrier who tells you she/he can tell what is going on inside the hoof without radiographs is a fool—so don't you be fooled. Without a healthy hoof, a horse can die (remember the race horse Barbaro? He died from laminitis).

Understanding Tendon Injuries By Joanie Benson

Tendon injuries are difficult to treat, as the recovery time can be months of rest, and many horses will not return to full performance. This article will address the flexor tendons that run down the back of all four legs. They are the easiest tendons to palpate for abnormal changes, like scar tissue and heat. The deep digital flexor tendon lies under the superficial flexor tendons, and both play important roles in the horse's movements and soundness.

Flexor tendonitis is a common condition diagnosed across all riding disciplines. Tendonitis is a degeneration of the tendon that results in disruption of the normal collagen fiber pattern. Tendonitis of the superficial flexor tendon is also referred to as “bowed tendon.”

Tendons function in a variety of ways during movement. They transmit tensile forces generated by muscle contraction, providing support to the skeleton and acting as energy stores. If a horse does not have well developed muscles, it will put undue stress on the tendons. Since water accounts for approximately 60% of the overall weight of a tendon and collagen accounts for about 30%, keeping your horse well hydrated is critical to tendon health. Only about 1% of the tendon is made of elastin, which gives it its elastic nature and ability to stretch without damage.

The elastic nature of the tendon allows it to store energy during movement and increase efficiency. When the tendon is unloaded, nearly 95% of the energy stored is converted to joint motion, while the remainder is lost to heat into the tendon. Tendon strain injuries occur through one of two ways: either a sudden overload or by continual degeneration due to micro-damage (which is not yet fully understood). Normal tendon strains have been measured as ranging from 3-8% at the walk, 7-10% at the trot and 12-16% at the gallop. Since the tendon can sustain strains of up to 12-20% before rupture, it becomes obvious that a horse's tendon is operating at or near maximum level while at the gallop, assuming the horse is in a well-muscled state for exercise. Older equines don't have the tensile strength of younger horses, and tendon injury can occur faster than these typical strain rates. At a point prior to failure, if the load is removed from the tendon, it will regain its normal length and shape. However, if the load is not removed, and the continued loading exceeds the elasticity of the tendon, damage will occur. The release of heat in a tendon during galloping can reach 113 degrees Fahrenheit. Exposure to this temperature for as little as ten minutes can result in loss of cell viability.

Following a tendon injury, healing begins immediately with the inflammation phase that lasts for approximately ten days. The damaged site fills with blood, forming a type of clot which some researchers feel helps the healing process. The repair and healing in a tendon can last six months or more. The potential for re-injury is much greater once a tendon injury has been sustained.

While the best diagnostic tool is an MRI, it's not always possible to employ, so for most horse owners an ultrasound scan of the affected tendons is the most effective way to diagnose tendon issues. Cold saltwater equine hydrotherapy is the premier drug-free treatment for the most common causes of lameness. Unfortunately, it's not available to most horse owners. Ice baths are very good for recently injured tendons, and should be continued for 24 to 48 hours after injury to limit the development of potentially injurious cells. After the initial period, it may be beneficial to apply heat to warm the local tissues to deliver the needed systemic components for healing. Often, owners will have the ultrasound scan done only when the injury occurs, but it's **just as important** to be done again during healing to see if the treatment is being successful.

Honors and Memorials

In honor of Pat Featherstone.
By Suzanne Featherstone

In memory of my friend Lucy Grubb's horse, "I'm Just Jim," who lost his battle with navicular disease on April 20th.
By Carole Massey

"I had a birthday party and asked for donations instead of gifts. Please use this to buy food for the horses. Thank you!

Sincerely, Sarah Britt"

The rescued horses send their "THANK YOU" to young Sarah.

In memory of Marie Condron Harfman

Her spirit lives on in the horse community and in all who have known her, worked with her and shared her sense of humor.

By Pat Gondos Samuels

In honor of Scout's one year anniversary with us.
By Janet & Lou Elmo

Monthly Donations & Contributors

Spring has finally taken hold here in North Carolina. The sanctuary is full, and so are our hearts. We - and the horses, especially, - are so grateful for the dedicated support of our donors, despite the difficult economic times for so many. Thank you for not forgetting those who have been abused, forgotten and ignored. May you and your loved ones be blessed always.

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Making the World a Better Place for Horses

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 organization. Your donations are the main source of income to support the sanctuary, and are eligible for tax deduction.

Donation From: _____ Phone# _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email address _____

Please use my donation for: \$ _____ New Barn Fund \$ _____ General Use

Angel Sponsor: \$20 for 1 month \$60 for 3 months \$120 for 6 months \$240 for 1 year
 Whom would you like to receive your Honor, Memorial, or Angel Sponsor (please circle)?

Name: _____ Phone _____ Address _____
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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

The Officers of the Horse Protection Society of NC meet on the second Sunday of every month. All members are welcome to attend these open meetings, held at the ranch in the home of the Executive Director. The role of this body is to make decisions regarding the day-to-day activities at the sanctuary and to ensure that those decisions are properly implemented.

HPS Officers

President	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com
Vice President			
Treasurer/Medical Needs	Ashley Bethea	704-855-5447	abethea125@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Tammy Seifert	704-243-4444	tlc.homes@live.com
Corresponding Secretary	Jane Oglesby	704-896-8251	janeog@bellsouth.net
Executive Director	Joanie Benson	704-855-2978	hps@horseprotection.org
Newsletter	Janet Elmo	704-843-2073	janet48@windstream.net
Web Administration	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com
Web Administration	Stephanie Mills	704-560-9712	slmills@windstream.net
Feeding Schedule	Joanie Benson	704-855-2978	hps@horseprotection.org
Stallion to Gelding Support	Janet Elmo	704-843-2380	stalliontogelding@gmail.com
Pet Finders	Heather & Ian Yarnot	704-779-2908	ian_yarnot@hotmail.com
Historian			
Riding Program Coordinator	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com
Equine Placement Review	Deborah Baker	704-855-1267	de_bakre@yahoo.com