

Painting a New Life

By Joanie Benson

Danielle was desperate to help a Paint horse owner find a new home for his starved horse. The owner wanted only to help the horse when he took it in about six months ago. At that time, the horse was in terrible condition at its previous home. Unfortunately, the current owner's rental home was destroyed in the recent tornados that hit in Johnston County, NC. Most people have no idea how to bring a starved horse back to health. You have heard me state this time and again: people mean well, but the outcome is not always good.

Danielle had no idea how to go about helping the horse and had no horse knowledge. When she contacted Johnston County Animal Control, she was told that they would put the horse to sleep if they took it. She went to the internet, found the Horse Protection Society, and called Sunday afternoon. She had already emailed pictures of the horse.



This photo was taken at the previous owner's home. HPS does not believe in leaving halters on horses when they are turned out due to the potential for it creating an accident and/or injury.

Often when we are contacted, the horses are not in starved condition but may be showing only a little rib. This was not the case with this Paint, and I called Danielle back right after viewing the pictures. They portrayed an emaciated horse (see photo at left) and, from Danielle's description, the horse was growing weaker each day. This made it imperative to get him out of his current situation as quickly as possible. Johnston County and the horse are approximately 180 miles from the sanctuary, and I knew it would be impossible to find someone to pick up the horse late Sunday afternoon. We also needed to get the owner to sign the horse over to HPS. Even when owners say they will surrender a horse to someone, we will pick up a horse only when we have their signature. Danielle's new mission was to get the owner's signature as quickly as possible.

When we do things like this, it becomes life changing in a very positive way. Danielle is now talking about looking for a way she can help other animals and aid Animal Control. You go, girl!

My mission was to find someone who lived close to the horse and would be willing to bring him to the sanctuary. Chris Palmer has been an HPS supporter for years and lives close to where the horse is located. She knows many good folks who are involved in rodeo sports and was able to put me in touch with Dale Blackmon.

So, here we are on Monday morning: Danielle has the signed release and I cannot get in touch with Dale. Nervous breakdown time! Patience has never been my strong asset. (My favorite prayer: "God grant me patience...right now!")



The Paint, after his arrival at HPS - halterless and heading towards the hay.

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Tuesday morning about 7:30: Finally our new starved horse is on his way to the sanctuary! It is a cool rainy day so one of our hospital stalls has been readied for our new baby.

At about 1:30 PM Dale pulled into the sanctuary. THANK YOU, DALE! We gave our new baby a chance to get his land legs back before unloading him. The first thing Jennifer and I noticed was about a thousand plus small baby flies covering his body. I have never seen so many flies on one horse! He happily went into the hospital stall after a checkover and then got covered with our homemade fly spray. I added a little grapefruit seed extract to the spray to help with the rain rot along his top line. Our new Paint horse has a body score of "one" and is a gelding. One never gets immune to seeing an emaciated horse, and it hurts the heart to think of the suffering this horse has endured. His approximate age is 13 to 16 years old. We are so relieved that he made the long trip with no problems.

After two days, the rain and cold winds have stopped and it's a pretty morning. Our new baby will be able to be transferred to a small field today with his own stall. He is too weak to be with any other horses, and he needs to be carefully watched for a while and, when he is stronger, dewormed.

If you have not yet become an Angel Sponsor, please consider helping with the monthly expenses of our new starved horse. You will experience a deep sense of pleasure at knowing you have contributed to his rehabilitation and you will be amazed to see his transformation through your Angel Sponsor photos and letters.

HPS Joins University Study by Joanie Benson

Dr. Niki Whitley, from the NC A&T State University Cooperative Extension Agency, contacted HPS to see if we would like to participate in a parasite study. They were looking for stables with at least 15 horses. Of course, we were very interested. The timing was perfect since we were going to deworm the horses that week. It had been nine weeks since the horses were last dewormed with Equimax, which costs about \$10 a tube and is for tapeworms and other parasites. (Normally, we like to deworm at eight week intervals.)

Niki came and collected a fecal sample from each horse, and then returned the next day and dewormed the horses whose sample had an (parasite) egg count. Salida had a very high count, but since she had just been returned to HPS, this determined that she had not been dewormed in who knows how long or had been dewormed with one of the types than no longer works. Her egg count was extremely high at 1,300 per gram of fecal material. This is inexcusable! Not counting Salida, 15 of 43 horses had a low average egg count of 73 eggs per gram. The rest of the horses had a zero count. Interestingly, the two youngest horses—both only three years old—had the highest egg count of 250 and 275, the level that is now recommended to deworm horses. I am not really comfortable with letting the horses develop parasites and then deworming them. I like the "zero" amount—no parasite eggs!

Niki, or another person working on the study, will return every two weeks to retest all of the horses and only deworm those with an egg count. They will continue coming every two weeks until the study is completed. To date, if we had to pay normal costs to have the horses' fecals tested, the cost would have been over \$1,400.00.

Some horses have a natural higher resistance to parasites than other horses. I wonder what the impact of not being dewormed at younger ages has had on the natural resistance of our two young geldings. Both came to HPS at 18 months old and had little care or nutrition in the first part of their lives. I expect we will learn a great deal from this deworming study, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to participate in it.

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Monthly Donations & Contributors

Another \$1,480.00 has been added to the Indoor Arena fund this month. Thank you for helping to move HPS more down the road to our goal. We still need about \$9,000 to finish the electrical work, the rock sand needed for the flooring, and other items.

HPS received an additional \$1,084 this month due to contributors signing up with their place of employment for matching contributions or an additional percentage of their contribution. Please check with your employer and inquire about their policies for matching charity funds that you donate. Some employers will also pay for hours you volunteer at the sanctuary and send the funds to HPS. Often time companies are not promoting the various programs of giving they have available, so you have to ask.

The Angel Sponsorships are still the only funds we can count on each month. The additional "surprise" donations are so important in helping us meet our monthly budget. Each month our expenses are approximately \$9,000-\$10,000 to care for the horses and property. The sanctuary has been caring for approximately 42 to 46 horses each month.

Each of you is so important to the positive results of the recovering starved horses. With all my heart-"I Thank You for Caring!"

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HONORS

Happy Mother's Day!
 By Floyd Lentz

In honor of B-Bop Clayton.
 By Barbara Clayton

memorials

In memory of Robert Salines.
 By Nancy Kirkner

In memory of Papa Bell on the anniversary of his death,
 May 10th.
 By Jill & Charles Messer

Donation From: _____ Phone# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Please use my donation for: \$ _____ **Indoor Training Arena 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: _____

Email address _____

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Mailing 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 People's Corner

Health Tips from Joanie Benson

Coming to you from Joanie's personal experiences or research

Have you wondered why we have not heard any news from the Fukushima plant in Japan? The situation is out of control! Reactor one melted down in the first 16 hours of this disaster. Reports say there are signs that two additional reactors, Nos. 2 and 3, have gone into meltdown.

The EPA ended the special monitoring from the Fukushima radiation despite continued rise in nuclear fallout and increased contamination across the U.S. Their testing did not encompass uranium or plutonium, only radioactive Iodine – 131 and Cesium – 137. If they are not monitoring, then they do not have to report results. The evidence is we are not being told the whole truth. Gee Surprise! The EPA has detected radioactive materials across the whole country in the air and water supplies! Since the administration is so pro-nuclear reactors in the U.S. and wants \$54 billion in subsidized loans for new reactors, is it any surprise the news of what is really happening in Japan is not on the news in the U.S.?

The important thing is - what can you do to take care of yourself? Potassium Iodide tablets are used to prevent damage and cancer to the thyroid. Cancer may not show up for years after exposure.

Ginseng has been shown to significantly lessen cellular damage and so have large doses of niacin B3. Boron taken at 3mg a day can help detoxify the effects of radiation. In extreme fall out areas: Drink 4 ounces of the liquid calcium, Bentonite clay and take 2 Potassium Iodide (KI) tablets or as directed on the label. Periodically - every 2-3 hours - drink another 2 ounces of the liquid clay. In lower fallout areas: Drink 2 ounces of clay twice daily, take 1 Potassium Iodide tablet every morning and take a weekly clay bath. Unlike other clays, only Smectites (Bentonites) can absorb large amounts. It is characterized by its expandable properties. (I like the Atomic Iodine to aid in a healthy thyroid.)

Each of us has to take responsibility for our own health and our family's health. I heard a new term, which I think applies here, "Normalize Bias." This is when the general public wants to believe that all is okay regardless of the true facts.