



OVER HERD

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Happy
Father's
Day!

Another Horse Needs All of Us

So many things can cause it to become too difficult to keep a horse that you love. Health issues, financial problems, the distance away you have to keep your horse, and not knowing if the horse is receiving the necessary care. We received a call from an owner who was at wit's end concerning the horse's failure to gain weight.

Several veterinarians were consulted and still the horse was not gaining. This gelding is a 5 year old registered Tennessee Walking Horse. The pictures the owner sent showed a horse with almost no chest and a skinny hind end, ribs showing and u-necked. He would be considered a two on the body scoring.

The owners were to provide transportation for the horse to the sanctuary. It became evident that the health issues were preventing this young horse from getting the help he needed. I contacted the owner and told her of my concerns and made the offer to pick up the young guy. I think the family is just overwhelmed and I am glad we can help.

Christina and Jared Smith want to experience everything concerning the horses. Jared has experience driving trucks pulling a trailer. They are gentle and extremely component handling the horses. It is different handling a horse you just met and quietly getting them into a trailer. Each time it is different and an adventure.

They readied the trailer, opening all the windows, checked the hay, and changed out the halters in the trailer and planned on filling the gas tank and headed out late in the afternoon for Mecklenburg County. The drive was uneventful. The property was gorgeous and the other horses were in wonderful condition. Even so, most people don't understand what is needed for a horse like the one Christina and Jared picked up. They were told by the owner of the property, not the horse owner, "the horse needed to be ridden every day." (This is not the first time we have heard this kind of opinion expressed. Riding or exercising a debilitated horse will be so detrimental to them!)

Jared handled unloading this tall boy with ease while Christina opened the fence to the front small field. He was walked around to introduce him to the area and let him meet Meeka (new mare) and Eclipse. Sometime was spent observing him moving around with the other horses and greeting the herd over the fence.

It is wonderful when a pickup goes so well.

This morning I went to check on our tall skinny boy at breakfast time. Some of his feed was left and mixed in with most of his soaked alfalfa. He had stopped eating. I stepped into the stall and he pressed his nose into my neck and then up into my hair. (This horse will melt the heart of everyone.) I picked up his feed pan and hand fed him until he took over eating from his pan. He finished off most of his feed. He needs to get used to being fed in a stall since he was being fed out with the other horses in the field. This could be a big contributing factor to his skinniness. Everyone is going to fall in love with his supper great horse.

Please consider becoming an Angel Sponsor for him or one of the other rescue horses at the sanctuary.

Thank you for making it possible to bring him here and provide for his needs. I am so thankful that HPS is here for horses like this. Summer time the donations lessen and we need your help and if your budget is too tight, pray that the folks who can will aid the horses.



Photo sent to HPS



Jared Checking his legs
upon arrival

Life at the Sanctuary

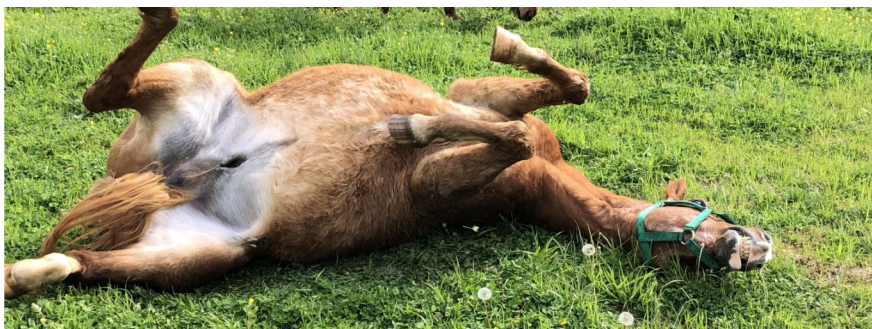
May has been an interesting month. The Dr. Bryan Taylor, the equine dentist was scheduled to take care of all the horse dental needs. We planned to do all of the geldings first since while the horses were drugged would be the easiest time to clean sheaths. (This is the male private parts of a horse.) What needs to be removed is called smegma. We may have neglected to mention to the new volunteers that we were also doing sheath cleaning. Everyone was a good sport and all the boys are shiny clean.

The next appointment, it was the girls' turn. The mares also need cleaning periodically of their udder area. It will build up a layer of dark sticky grubby stuff! Rubber gloves, a softening agent, warm water, small cloths and towels are all helpful to facilitate these necessary horse maintenances.

The new mare that had her jaw broken eight months ago is doing beautifully in all ways. She has been through so much, but in spite of everything, she has warmed to us. She is gaining weight nicely and her faded out coat color has darkened to a rich burn ember color, like Flames.

The folks put together a list of names they felt would fit this pretty girl. She was happy and adjusted to the sanctuary, time for her to pick a new name. Melanie and Christina were happy to give this a try. Well, pretty mare was more interested in her buddy Eclipses and concerned that he was getting fed. Finally everyone was standing still and Christine explained that it was time for her to pick a new name. The first couple of names were a definite, "I don't think so." The third name received an even worse reaction by head flip off. The next name Christina asked her was "Meeka." (An American Indian name meaning "Mischief.") Our girl quickly moved forward and came in so close to Christina, she was pressing with her side against Christina's. She wrapped her pretty head around the back of Christina. Wow!! I love to see a horse so happy about their new name.

(Cont. on Page 3)



I have fallen and can't get up to go get my teeth checked!

We want you to know how much we appreciate your donation and your trust. As part of the volunteer team here at the Horse Protection Society, we understand that our distinguished contributors are the main ingredient of our success. Thank you for being such an important part of the horses' lives.

Sybil Athey
Kathy & Tony Bell
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THANK YOU FOR GIVING
YOUR TIME AND EFFORTS. ~ BY JANICE
CHEESEMAN

In memory of Smoak Buff,
Kimberly Buff's
beloved horse ~ By the
Horse Shadow Run Drill
Team.



Life at the Sanctuary (Cont. from Page 2)

Every few years the dander lice decide to invade the barn. It is much easier to kill off the blood sucking lice with a couple of doses of Ivermectin. One commercial product said that if you got this product on your hand, you had to flush your skin for 20 minutes under running water. We surely would not use this product! One of our new members swears by vinegar baths. The white vinegar baths have greatly helped, but it is going to take a couple more baths. Time will tell.

Ebony Star had a toxic episode and fever that caused laminitis in all four hooves. The full blood panel showed elevated liver enzymes. Mysteries like this drive us crazy trying to figure out what she ate. It could have been on small toxic plant pieces or leaves in the hay. We are doing supportive care at this point.

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The first picture is Meeka when she first arrived. Her color is faded. The second picture shows Meeka after just a few weeks. Yes, she is gaining weight, and there is more needed. The color shows the improvement in her health by turning so much darker.