



OVER HERD

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Two Poor Horses from the Kill Buyers

A benevolent couple brought home two starved horses supposedly going to slaughter. The gelding did not last long as the horse was diagnosed with liver failure and had to be euthanized.

The second horse, a mare named Willow, was diagnosed with strangles. After three months and thousands of dollars, the poor starved mare was finally cured of strangles, and follow-up tests assured she was cured and not a carrier of this contagious disease. Willow could not gain all the needed weight while she was so sick. At this point, the benevolent couple was not financially able to continue caring for the mare and HPS agreed to take her.

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Poor Willow is still extremely under weight. She is slowly gaining.

A Sad Story...But a Lesson to be Learned

A kind neighbor called to see if we could take in two horses.

One of the horses is a 17-year-old Thoroughbred in good body condition named Ebee. However, a few years back the horse refused to be ridden under saddle. No cause could be found except that the horse may have kissing spine, a condition where vertebrae in the spine are too close together rather than spaced apart as in a healthy spine.

The second horse is a 24-year-old Irish Sport Horse that is not sound. He has an arthritic knee, and it is called over at the knee, is allergic to bugs, and is bothered by the heat. He is a tad over 17 hands and his name is Jo-Jo.

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Continued from Page #1, Two Poor Horses

Beware! Horse traders and kill buyers have a long list of ways to fool buyers or play on their compassion. People are frequently encouraged to **donate any amount towards the “rescue”** of a horse going to slaughter. Of course, there are no refunds if not enough funds are collected. Kind folks way too often get tricked into buying horses offered by kill buyers on the Internet. These kill buyers indicate that if not sold, the horses will be sent to a slaughter plant. The slaughter plants in Canada and Mexico, do not want sick horses or skinny horses. Sometimes, when people go to pick up their horse at the kill pen, the horse does not look like the one they thought they purchased from the picture on the Internet. Guess what, it may not be! Maybe that horse died, or they sold it two or three times, and you are getting a kind of look alike.

During the summer months there are times when we mainly have to rely on the Angel Sponsor donations. The reserves funds carry us through.

Bless you and every donor!



Meeka came to HPS starved and with a broken jaw. She is beautiful today, but needs to be treated for EPM.

Continued from Page #1, A Sad Story

The elderly owner had taken steps to provide for her beloved horses. Her will called for the horses to be supported by the sale of her real estate and personal property, and a caretaker was named in the will.

However, the story takes a sad turn. The health of the elderly lady declined significantly because of a stroke, requiring her to possibly spend the rest of her life in a care facility. All her property and personal items had to be sold by the state to help cover her care and expenses. The caretaker could not care for the horses without funding. The neighbor was told to find homes for the horses or they would be put down by May 19th.

Many of us need to think about long-term care insurance. Or to figure out ways to protect your estate and your beneficiaries whether they are people or your animals.

The kind neighbor collected \$4,000 in donations to aid the two horses and various other items.

I felt in my heart that God wanted HPS to take in the horses. They are two beautiful cared for horses. The generosity of our contributors makes this possible to commit to their long-term care.

Thank you!

Body Condition Score Predicts Survival Rate of Malnourished Horses

By Kentucky Equine Research Staff

'.....Body condition score proved the only clinical marker associated with a probability of survival after hospitalization. According to researchers, "for every one whole number unit increase in the body condition score, the odds to live increased 14.6 times." All of the horses with a body condition of 2.5 or 3 survived, and all but one of the horses with a body condition score of 2 lived. Researchers, however, observed reduced survival rates for horses with a body condition score of 1 and 1.5, both near 60%. This result coincides with an earlier study that identified body condition score as a potential indicator of death in malnourished animals.'

The above information was published by the Kentucky Equine Research Staff. HPS highly disagrees with the above information. It only proves that there needs to be more correct information given by nonprofits like HPS that normally only loses a starved horse that has a secondary condition that is not curable and the equine would be humanly euthanized. The other problem we have seen is the owners giving huge amounts of feed to the horse just before it is confiscated. One of the issues may have been underfeeding the horses that have a body condition score of 1 to 1.5 and continue to starve the horse concerned they may cause a refeeding syndrome.

Most of the recommended refeeding plans that I have read will continue to starve the horse. Horses with the lowest body scoring have no reserves to survive when giving just small handfuls of hay throughout the day it continues to starve the horse. A poor study that was done by Davis University years ago has done more damage than good. It was a faulty study that some horses died with body scores of 2 and 3. There were no equines with a body score of a 1 in the study that was listed.



Sierra was just one of the many horses that arrived here with a body score of a 1.

She had a full recovery

Feeding the Malnourished Horse

HPS normally can successfully rehabilitate rescued starved horses, despite body score, unless the horse has a serious secondary condition that is not curable.

Feeding the starving horse is an art form, not a science. Generally, a starving horse can be given as much hay as it wants to eat. Evaluate the horse, age, health issues, and body condition is the first step. Introducing small amounts of grain, electrolytes, appropriate supplements, soak alfalfa cubes, and vitamins.

Do not feed Senior feed! A good quality feed that does not have beet pulp or too much molasses is the best for the horses. Too much sugar can cause metabolic issues in a starved horse. Even a foal feed that is packed with nutrition is better than a Senior feed. Start day two or three with one pound of feed morning and evening. If the horse responds well to the feed, you can add another pound of feed every two to three days until you reach the amount appropriate for the horse's starting condition.

Soaked alfalfa cubes are an important part of the starved horse build healthy muscle back. Be careful not to buy cubes that are so hard they will not break up in water. We purchased a product manufactured by DuMOR and we had to return the bags of alfalfa cubes. After 14 hours of soaking the cubes would not break up hitting them with a hammer.

All starve horses have ULCERS! Sometimes the ulcers are so bad the horse will not eat and drinks very little water. A ½ cup of Aloe Vera juice over the feed or soaked alfalfa morning and evening will cure ulcers if give until the horse is completely recovered and all stress has been removed. Sometimes it can take a year for their immune system to fully recover.

The supplements and vitamins are given based on what the horse needs. Give these with great care and not just give it because it sounds good in the advertisement. We use human vitamins since the quality is often better.

Also, remember, stress can kill a weakened horse. Allow the horse time to recover and gain strength, if possible, before subjecting it to a veterinarian and farrier visits. Everything concerning the horse should be done slowly and very gently. Only soft brushes should be used since it is skin against bone.

You are always welcome to call HPS with any questions about feeding a starved horse and more information.



EPM Treatment

HPS started in January to have the herd tested for EPM. We have been fighting for the horses to get the needed treatments to save their lives since then. Dr. Ellison has lost credibility and the veterinarians do not trust Pathogenes testing.

Seven of the worst horses have had the blood draw to send to UC Davis for testing, The cost for each test has escalated to \$187.00 from \$20.00. Our attitude is whatever it takes to get the horses better.

Not all veterinarians understand this illness and how important it is to treat it as early as possible and not wait until it shows up in weakness of the hindquarter. This condition way too often shows up in the final stages.

In memory of Ernie Boy. By Stacey Lockman

In honor of my husband, Harvey's 85th birthday. By Susanne Blume

In honor of Tyler. Bailey and Hunter. For the beautiful horses. By Donna Dziura

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Little Paint

The little paint Tennessee Walker Horse at only nine years old had been run into the ground. We are always hopeful when the horses first arrive that they will recover. This undersized horse should have been much larger. Once she started feeling better and running, we knew there was no hope and only a life of pain. Little Paint’s tendons were destroyed! It may have been genetic, but doubtful. Degenerative suspensory ligament desmitis (DSLSD) is characterized by progressive degeneration of the suspensory ligament and fetlock hyper dorsiflexion. There was no way to reverse the level of damage that had already happened in the horse’s ligaments.

DSLSD is an autoimmune disease brought on by the miss-use of the owners. Often owners will tell us what they have done in the name of “TRAINING.” Little Paint, when approached in her pen, would run in circles around you. This response led us to believe she was repeatedly worked in circles too hard and too long. Over time, the strain of over-repetition of exercise and paces, even after a horse is tired, can result in DSLSD. Started under saddle too young and/or rider that is way too heavy.

It is so hard to say “Good-bye” to a pretty young horse like Little Paint.

