



OVER HERD

Volume 25 Issue 6 June 2024



In the Beginning, January 1999 By Joanie Benson

All the IRS paperwork was filed to make the Horse Protection Society of NC a nonprofit. The average approval time was 18 months to two years. The IRS did not have enough agents.

The Horse Protection Society of NC (HPS) marked a milestone with its inaugural 12 Officers at the first Office's Meeting, a significant step towards our shared vision.

Approximately 20-plus rescued horses were turned over to the newly formed nonprofit. I had rescued starved and abused horses for eight years. I had created a fun business to care for the rescues. I knew I had to give up all the fun things since there wouldn't be enough time to run a nonprofit. I learned how to get an IRS agent to take our request seriously and put the application on the top of the pile. We had our IRS approval in less than five months.

Rescue of a Saddlebred Herd

Years before, I witnessed a trial in Cabarrus County of a woman accused of starving a herd of Saddlebred horses. Her name was Carole Lewis. I sat with a gal who used to board her Saddlebred horses with Lewis, a trainer who knew her and had worked with some of her horses and the feed supplier that was owed about \$15,000 to \$20,000. The court was a poorly acted circus! Lewis ignored the court order and transported the horses to South Carolina. I told the people met in court, "If Lewis ever comes back to North Carolina, let me know." A couple of years went by, and I got the call. She was back with the horses.

January 16, 1999

When the Horse Protection Society volunteers and I arrived to begin the rescue operations for the 31 starving American Saddlebreds, we were greeted by a horrible scene.

Duchess, an 18-year-old mare, was found lying in a gully and unable to stand. It was January and cold. We covered her with everything we could find in the car and our coats.

We went to the sheriff's office, and it took hours to convince him to let us try to save the horse. We needed a search and seizure warrant. After cutting fences to get the veterinarian's truck and equipment to Duchess and hours of trying to help her, she had to be euthanized.



We were too late to help Duchess and other horses that had already died, and we found others buried.

Continued from Page #1

When we started filling a huge water tank with clean water, the horses fought for access to the water. There was no clean water available for the horses. Buffalo Creek was contaminated with E-coli. HPS rescue volunteers filled the huge water trough for eight hours as the horses attempted to rehydrate their bodies with clean water.

There was a race back to the sanctuary to fill our truck with hay. The herd had reverted to wild and would go after anyone entering the horse's field. Judd and I grabbed a hay bale and swung over the fence. The first few hay bales placed for the horses provoked a near stampede. We threw the bales as far as we could. The horses were after us when we went into the field and chased us out.

My son-in-law and daughter sent the herd a tractor-trailer load of the prettiest alfalfa hay, and volunteers from Home Depot helped unload the truck into a barn. Folks were amazed as they saw and smelled the beautiful hay.

Meanwhile, Carole Lewis was charged with thirty counts of **felony** abuse. HPS had just brought the first felony animal abuse case in North Carolina!



Filly



Colt

HPS's efforts returned the 30 Saddlebreds to total health. There were many other poor horses that needed special care to survive.



Bronco was eight years old and had been kicked out of the herd with six other horses.



Bronco recovered by the end of summer 1999.

Unwanted Intruder



A cute little Ruby Throated Thrush built a nest at the top of our artificial pine needle horse head. Christina photographed the eggs and removed the cowbird egg from the nest.

Adult cowbirds are too lazy to build a nest and care for their baby birds. They lay one egg at a time in different birds' nests. With its early hatching and aggressive behavior, the cowbird poses a threat to other bird species. It often pushes the smaller birds out of the nest or monopolizes the food by sitting on the baby birds. This behavior, while a survival strategy for the cowbird, can harm the survival of other bird species in the area.

Late summer, just before migration, we saw a hundred or more, cowbirds in the field with the horses.

You Never Have to Worry About Getting Bitten

You are welcome to come meet Dillion and the other beauties. (HPS is open for visits on Saturdays.) According to the paperwork we received, the past owner had Dillion for at least six years, but it could have been longer. Based on the dental records, he is 24 years old. The owner needed to rehome her horses.

Our dedicated volunteers, a couple who have been instrumental in our work, took in the horses. They went above and beyond to help Dillion gain weight, trying everything they knew, but to no avail. The last resort was to reach out to us. According to them, Dillion only has one tooth, making his situation even more challenging. We have made arrangements to have the tooth removed.

Let us share a piece of encouraging news. Years ago, A&M University in Texas conducted a research study on horses with only a few teeth left in their mouths, a condition similar to Dillion's. The study showed that these horses could eat hay again when the odd teeth were pulled. This research gives us hope that Dillion's condition can improve.

Dillion can nibble grass and loves to do so. He does fine with soaked alfalfa cubes and with his grain lightly wet down. The problem is that a horse needs about 20 pounds of hay daily, but a skinny horse needs much more. If he had grass and no alfalfa, he would need to eat 60 pounds of grass to equal 20 pounds of hay. We don't have any fields providing that much fresh grass for a horse. HPS has the fields reseeded every year and helps provide grass in the fields. The herd loves the fresh grass, which is good for the horses.

Cadbury didn't fare well with the herd, so we put her in with Dillion. They seem to like each other, and for the time being, this is working great for both of them. Cadbury has gained her weight back and has become so friendly. She has decided that attention is a good thing! Dillion is a perfect companion for Cadbury since he is a gentle big boy.



Our Oath to Our Horses

When you are hungry We will see you get feed
When you are sick or hurt We will care for your needs.
When you are sad We will give you hope
When you are scared We will help you cope.
And when you are lost And can't see the light
We shall be your beaconShining ever so bright.
This is our oathWe pledge till the end.
Why you may ask? Because you're my friend.

The following horses are EPM (Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis) **Negative** tested by UC Davis, CA.
80% of the horses in North Carolina will test positive for EPM. HPS has dealt with this devastating illness since 1999.

Cruiser, Dallas, Ebee, Honey, Misty, Onyx, Queen Ann, and Silver Bell



The Horse Protection Society has more horses that are being treated and tested for EPM.

Please call for more information:

704-855-2978

Or Email:

horseprotection

@windstream.net



The horses thank you for all of your love and caring which makes their care possible. You are their saviors!

Lynn & Paul Baldwin

Meaghen C. Bates

Wendy Baynard

Kathy & Tony Bell

Elizabeth (Liz) Bergeron

John A. & Judy Bonk

Jacqueline Calderon

Judith D Cashwell

Nina Grauer

Heather Hamilton

Deidra Helms

Brenda & Charles Hemperley

Dr. Leslie C. Henson

M. Lisa Higgins & Darren Woods

Donna M. Hipwell

Sue & James G. Hobbs

Amber S. Hozey

Susan Kersey

Randi Kinney

Joellyn Kobler

Cynthia Lee

Brittney L. Liddic

Michelle Marckwardt

Roberta McCardle

Ben Meredith

Elaine & Mario Merida

Jill L. & Charles Messer, Jr.

Carolyn J. Miller

Barbara Byrd Moore

Debbie O. & Mike Morris

Mary A. Myers &

Ronnie Burgess

Pamela J. Neidig

Lisa B. Odom

Ann C. Powlas

Melly Quinones

Betty & Harold Rhoads

Harriet A. Seabrook

Gail M. & Mike Shinn

Ashley Simmons

Lisa M. Slatt & Alan Spanos,
MD

Tacy K. Smith & J.R.
Schermerhorn

Kara Stacy

Laura L. & William Stafford

Elaine Towner

Nicky & Gilbert Turner

John Vinal

Timothy W. Walsh

Myra Warren

Maliene Williams

Lisa & Walter D. Wood

Rhonda B. & Richard Wright

Thank you!

Donation From: _____ Phone# _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email address _____
 Membership—single \$35 _____ Membership—Family \$50 _____ Honor/Memorial \$ _____
 Who would you like to receive your Honor/Memorial (please circle one)?
 Name: _____ Email address _____
 Phone _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Your message for the newsletter: _____



Horse Protection Society
 2135 Miller Road
 China Grove, NC 28023

Address Correction Requested

You can help support our efforts to save horses by
 providing your email address to us at:
horseprotection@windstream.net
 This will save money in printing & postage.
 THANK YOU!

PLEASE HELP HPS FINE A NEW BOOKKEEPER!

Maybe you know someone who would like a side hassle.

Extra money can help out most folks.

Our Bookkeeper of many years has moved to
 Alaska and can not help us any longer.

It is important for our new bookkeeper to know
 Quick Books.

Please give me a call: 704-855-2978

Or email a resume to: horseprotection@windstream.net

