



OVERHERD

The Long Ride *by Joanie Benson*

Volume 11 Issue 3 March 2009

Mark your calendars!
The MANE EVENT
will be the evening
of May 30th at the
Speedway Club.
Please join us for
cocktails, dinner,
and a live and silent
auction. Don't miss
out on all the fun.

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Two wonderful heroines saved Wind Star from certain death! Her time was limited because of her condition. The heroines had called stating that they could not get any rescue organizations near them to take this poor emaciated horse. The owner had two horses, one was in fair condition, and then there was Wind Star! What little food that had been provided was eaten by the other horse and there was no pasture to graze.



The heroines negotiated until the owner agreed to give up both horses. The one gal took the horse that looked to have gotten some food, while the other horse (Wind Star) was to come to HPS. Early one

morning the heroines blanketed and loaded Wind Star into the trailer with hay for her to enjoy on the trip. The ladies then headed out from the coast with their rescue. The trip took hours and they made it to HPS with no incidents.

Wind Star has starvation of the worst kind; it even looks like the other horse she was with has eaten a good bit of her tail. This is not *(cont pg 3)*

Stanley County Rescue

by Joanie Benson

Not all horses need to be a bag of bones to be removed from their present owners. The owner of two Tennessee Walking Horses in Stanley County was trying to find new homes for them. One horse was very thin and the other horse had lameness issues. (I have to admit I have a soft spot for TWH). A meeting was set to see the



horses and talk with the owner. Since Tamara Eichorn was headed that way (to trim a couple of horses' hooves) I asked her to bring her trailer along. I wanted to have the trailer there just in case we needed to get the horses out.

We had a long drive through many country roads just chatting about this and that. I suddenly yelled to Tamara, "STOP! There is a tiny dog sitting on that deer carcass eating it!" The little Boston terrier looked so happy to see us. She let us approach her and I realized why she looked so little... she was starved. Her body looked liked that of a miniature Greyhound; her skin was just hanging off of her. She was very dehydrated, *(cont pg 2)*

Giving an EPM Horse a Chance

by Joanie Benson



It warms my heart to see how folks will extend themselves to help save a horse's life. A stable owner took in a very nice looking Quarter Horse that was left out to pasture for years. In 2002, he was diagnosed with Navicular. When he came to the stable in the summer of 2008, he was overweight. He needed to be slowly worked back into shape for use in their riding program. He would only have to work three to four days a week for about an hour average.

Over time, he started to show signs of some issues such as walking, trotting, saddle slippage, and tripping while being ridden in the arena. The stable's veterinarian, after extensive tests, diagnosed EPM. (Something no one wants to hear)! The treatment decided upon was Bayer's Marquis which cost about \$800. Unfortunately, there were no signs of improvement after treatment, the owner and everyone (cont pg 3)



(cont pg 1 ~ Stanley County) when we got her some water she drank and drank and then drank some more. After her little tummy was full, she curled up on my lap and went right to sleep.

When we got to our destination, we found that the thin horse had already been placed with a family who has horses. I left my phone number in case the family had any questions on helping the horse gain its weight back.

The other horse with the lameness issue had been ridden by her ex-husband from time to time (he weighs a good 300 pounds). The horse was lame in the hind-quarter... Surprise!! The wife stated that she did not feel she could keep the ex-husband off the horse. We just couldn't leave the horse where there was a chance that he might ride him again. The wife did not

have the funds to feed and care for the horse. So off we went with a lame horse and a starved dog back to the sanctuary.

The lame horse was very picky about his new name; we had to go through two lists of names before he decided what he liked. FINALLY! He picked Mystery. He is so cute despite all the white on his face from an injury caused by a halter being left on way to long. He is going to be a very nice horse for a light rider once we get his hip straightened out. A few chiropractic treatments maybe just what he needs. Mystery is having a great time playing with the other horses and is only 20 years old.

Stop by and give him a good brushing... He would love it.

* Little Bit *

Quote of the Month:
**Horses can't talk,
but they can speak
if you listen.**

Author unknown

Deborah Baker agreed to care for the starved dog for a "Little Bit". A search for her owners has come up empty. Little Bit is recovering nicely under Deborah's great care and is strong enough to be spayed this week. We are happy to report that a family of Boston terrier owners has met her and has fallen in love with her. Upon the meeting of their dogs and Little Bit, a new loving home looks very hopeful.



(cont pg 1 ~ Long Ride) uncommon for starving horses to try and get protein by eating the manes and tails of other horses. We really have to be careful with Wind Star, if she goes down from weakness, she might not be able to get up. When Wind Star first got here, she would lie down for two hours at a time. This made me very nervous and just about the time I would go to get her up, she would carefully get up. It appears that her hip may be out of place. Because she is just too emaciated, we cannot have any chiropractic work done yet.

We waited as long as we could to have Wind Star's hooves trimmed. Her hooves may not have been worked on in years; the heels are laid over on the back and the fronts

are very long, cracked, and breaking off. Wind Star is wonderful; without a halter or holder, she offers each hoof to Tamara for trimming without even leaning on poor Tamara as she works!

We are working on curing the terrible rain rot on her spine which runs along both sides and covers the hip areas. A fungal infection this bad is painful. Wind Star has a bald spot on her withers from a bad infection that has not healed correctly, so we are watching this area for signs of further infection.

Wind Star is a Thoroughbred about 18 years old, since it is difficult to read her tattoo, we are guessing a bit. The story on Wind Star's background is sketchy at

best. We were told that the horse was found tied to a tree, left to die but the owner took her in about five years ago. Then it was said that Wind Star was a racer and the woman paid \$500 for her. Last but not least, the old classic "She is only thin because she is old."

She loves attention and has not given anyone a minute's problem. This is going to be a long, slow rehabilitation. Our thanks and prayers go out to Wind Star's heroines who are the only reason she is alive today.

Please consider helping to offset some of her expenses by becoming her Angel Sponsor.

(cont pg 2 ~ EPM) at the stable was heartbroken. The vet recommended that this beautiful, well-trained Quarter Horse gelding be euthanized. All the arrangements were made; but when the time came, the stable owner just could not do it!

Along with lots of pasture time, the stable worked with him to keep his muscles from atrophying. Again, nothing helped! (All this history makes me wonder if he had EPM all along instead of Navicular).

Frustrated and helpless, the stable called HPS; they could no longer afford to keep a horse that could not earn his keep. He would have to be put to sleep! Normally we would not take in a horse like this, but we are studying and searching for a cure for EPM. The worst that can happen is that we keep him sound for a few more years of quality life; at best we may find that elusive cure.

We have not asked him to select a new name yet, we are letting him get comfortable in his new home first.

Additional Notes:

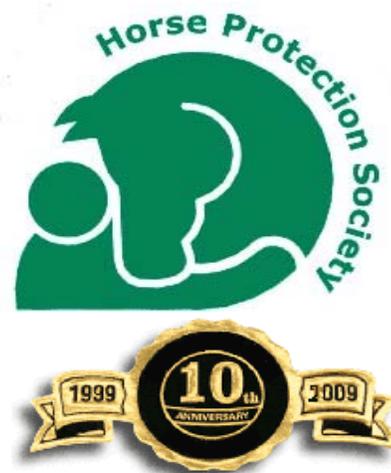
Mojave is doing well on his new treatment for EPM. We will not have any conclusive information until after his 45 day treatment and then take him off everything and then wait and see..... If this is not the correct treatment to kill the protozoa, then we are prepared to try another treatment.

So many horses have been put down due to this devastating illness. So many people do not realize that sweet feed is often contaminated with the EPM protozoa, which is caused by opossums. Opossums can get into the grain anywhere; from the growing, to the transporting, and to the manufacturing plants. The feed has to be heated to at least 160 degrees to kill the protozoa. Most pelleted feed is flash heated to 200 degrees and this will kill the protozoa. That is one of many reasons sweet feed should not be given to horses.

Please help us to be able to continue looking for a cure for EPM.

Monthly Donations & Contributors

On Behalf of all the contented siigghs around the hay feeder, I would like to say a “heartfelt” **THANK YOU**. For without your Cherub (*big sized*) generosity, HPS would not be.



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Founded by Joan Benson and incorporated in 1999, we continue to reach out and to grow. We are always seeking new members.

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Check out our Website:

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