



# OVER HERD

## Four Legs and One Eye By Joanie Benson

The first call came In January. Two women were very concerned about two horses in Gaston County. They wanted to know: if they could get the horses out of their torturous conditions, and would we take them? The owner was not even providing hay a good deal of the time and we had an extremely cold January here in North Carolina. Animal Control had visited several times and they were able to require the owner to get the horses' teeth floated. Of the two horses, the little one was in worse shape than the bigger, stronger horse. What do you think I told them? You'd be right if you said "yes."

The gals told me that they would call the owner every time there was not any hay out for the horses. They were polite but firm, always reminding the owner that they would take the horses and care for them. They became very concerned when he told them that the little mare had bad diarrhea. Finally, he said he would let her go if they would pay for the dental charge he had incurred. They gladly agreed!

And so they called the sanctuary to make arrangements to bring her to HPS. They were disappointed that the owner would not release the other horse to them. (Their plan is to continue the campaign to get the second one away from the owner.)

When we spoke about bringing the little one to us, we heard for the first time that she was missing an eye and the socket was infected. The owner told the women, "It has been missing since birth," but no one believes this. Other one-eyed horses have come to the sanctuary without such an infection. Surgery will need to be done to close the socket area once the infection clears.

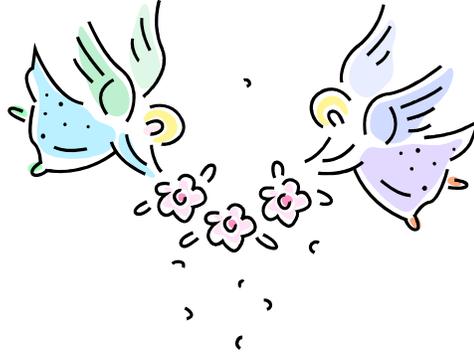
The little mare was blanketed for the trip since they would be traveling after dark and in the cold. They had put some nice hay in the trailer for her to munch on while traveling, and left her loose once on board. Both were needlessly concerned about loading her, because she jumped right on the trailer! The evening feeders at the sanctuary had prepared the hospital stall for her arrival, filling it with lots of hay for her to eat and plenty of fresh water. I checked on her several times through the night and each time, she was happily eating her hay.



My friends, even when you know what to expect, it is still a shock to see the condition of the babies when they arrive. The eye socket is very infected! It will have to be flushed with saline several times each day, followed by a dose of triple antibiotics for the eyes, carefully put in the socket area. Why did the vet who did her teeth not insist that the eye be taken care of? How could he or she walk away from this pitiful horse with that terrible infection not being treated? Now that she is with us, you know she will get the care that she deserves! She is not a young horse - - perhaps around 20 years old - - and she is just pony-sized. It is my understanding that she is the daughter of the other horse he owns, so it's possible that her small size may be due to poor nutrition since she was born, and possibly before that. When the owner did give them grain, it was sweet feed, so we will be watching for EPM.

Continued next page

This little mare's long hair covers her skinny body, and she has spent several days in the hospital stall to get the deworming started and to keep her warmer. As I write this, the weather has become a little milder, so she will be able to go out today. We would like to get her stronger before undertaking the surgery on her eye. Her immune system and body condition are too damaged to consider having it done now. She is even too weak for us to ask her to pick a name at the present time. She is interested only in eating!



She could use a friend or two to help her through this difficult time of trying to heal.

### **MORE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE HORSES**

Last month, we detailed some of the ways that you can help bring health and a future to the horses that others have tossed aside. We mentioned that **donations are always needed**, and you can commit to **becoming an Angel Sponsor** (see January 2010 newsletter for details), or may decide to **honor or memorialize a friend or loved one**—whether two-legged or four. We asked for your help to **become a feeder**; to **purchase Food Lion grocery cards from HPS**; or collect **aluminum cans** for cash at recyclers; and for those in relative proximity to the sanctuary, to participate in our Spring Tack Sale. Here's another, very simple way to get involved:

◇ **Surf the web using GoodSearch.** GoodSearch uses Yahoo as its search engine, but the main difference between it and any other way of surfing the web is that for EVERY search done through them, one cent is donated to your charity of choice. The Horse Protection Society of North Carolina has joined the ranks of charities that can be supported through Good Search.

Now, one cent per search doesn't seem like very much, but according to the site, a participating charity with as few as 100 "supporters" making two searches per day can generate over \$700 per year. Since HPS has over 800 people on its "snail mail" list and at least as many on its email list, if every one of us used GoodSearch on average two times a day, we could generate over \$11,000 per year for the horses! Just imagine what that could do, especially during these difficult economic times. And it doesn't cost you anything!

In addition to raising money through the GoodSearch search engine, the site has an internet shopping center where more than 1,000 stores are listed. Called "GoodShop", each store lists what percent from your sale goes to your charity. Many of the stores are household names, and may be places where you currently shop online.

Please check this out at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), and help your horses while you help yourself!

## **MORE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE HORSES**

***Aluminum Beverage Can Fundraiser - Please, Be a Part of This!*** If you are one of the wonderful folks who collect, store, and transport aluminum beverage cans to the Can City holding area at the ranch, the horses say "THANK YOU for helping!" If you are not yet helping with this easy fundraiser, please consider doing so. Even if **you** don't drink soda pop, you may be around folks who do....put a collection bag in your breakroom at work, ask your family/friends/neighbors to help or ask a business that you patronize to help. Roberta (our aluminum can cheerleader) picks up cans from a local business and reports how pleased they were to get the cans off their hands while doing a good deed. We know it's not mega-money, it **does help** and it **does add up**.

In 2008, HPS made \$906 from the cans. In 2009, it brought us \$676. The worldwide price of aluminum is down, so **to raise the same level of funds as previously, we must turn in more cans now**. EVERY PENNY goes to the horses. For a modest effort on our part, we can do much good. Please, won't you join us and be a part of this effort?



**Help the horses**

**and the "green" movement while you're at it!**



***Participate in our Spring Tack Sale Fundraiser.*** Have you penciled in the weekend of May 1 and 2? This will be our fundraiser tack sale. You can participate by bringing us your unwanted saddles, bridles, halters, pads, stirrups—well, any tack that you no longer need or want. HPS will first check to see if it can be used at the sanctuary for the riding program, to ready our horses for Forever Homes. Anything that can't be used will be cleaned and put in the Tack Sale in May.



Simply include your name, address and email address along with a listing of your donated items when you drop off the items at the ranch. We need to make this a HUGE fundraising success, so be sure to mark your calendar and tell your friends. **THANK YOU!!!**

## Strange Month—or Is It? By Joanie Benson

I began to write this article on February 17th, and thought I'd be able to tell you how strange it is that we have not had to take in any horses this month! I cannot remember how long it has been since there was a month with no new horses. Oops - - just a day later, I got the call about our latest arrival, detailed on page 1. Oh well, at least we've added only the one, because, of course, no horses have left the sanctuary for new homes either. We have a couple of approved applications, but both families have to finish up barns with stall areas for the horses. The cold and wet weather has made that almost impossible. But a hint of spring arrived this weekend, and we're hoping the new guardians are making good progress in preparing for their new charges.

We have some terrific news this month. HPS received a grant for \$25,000 for the construction of four custom **portable** barns, each with two stalls. Our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation go to The George D. Patterson Family Fund for making the buildings possible.

Two of the new barns will provide four stalls and allow us to tear down the old three-stall barn that we use for rehabilitating starved horses when they first come to the sanctuary. This well-used structure was built out of salvaged materials, and we will **not** miss the dirt floors and smaller stall sizes. The new barns will also allow us to change the location from where the present barn is by moving them back closer to the big barn where the drainage is better. In doing this, it will give more room for the horses and also allow us to enlarge the round pen that is used when the horses first arrive. The new horses will have access to the stalls from the round pen. As the horses improve and get stronger, they will then be allowed into the small front field.

Starved horses are much more comfortable if they are not in with other horses to start with. They feel too vulnerable with others, and feel safer if they are by themselves but can see other horses close by.

The stalls will be 10' by 12' with double Dutch doors on both sides of the barn. As each new horse recovers, we will be able to allow him or her to join the other horses by simply opening the back doors. After they are comfortable with their new pasture-mates, we can move them to stalls in the large barn. The new barns will have glued down rubber mats in each stall.

The second set of four stalls will be on the south side of the first large barn. This will allow the horses to be turned out in the side field. At the present time, Cinder, Noble, and Candy Cane have the side field. Instead of walking Cinder and Noble into the big barn to be fed morning and evening, their stalls will be right in their field area. Once again, we will have the option of which field to turn the horses out into because of the double Dutch doors on both sides of the barn. The buildings will have a window on each end for good cross ventilation.

The other building that will be removed is "Angel's" old small barn. Many years ago, this started out as a hen house on our neighbor's property. The small building was dragged over to the sanctuary, repaired and moved several times. We even added a small stall to the back of this little building. It became known as the "Pony Palace." What a misnomer THAT was! As you might imagine, dragging the building around did not do it any good, and it got patched with this and that. Once in a while, we find Midnight hiding out in it, cribbing.

The new barns with rubber floors will make it more sanitary for the horses and much easier to keep clean. *We are so looking forward to having them all completed and in place*, as it has taken much longer than originally anticipated. We have had some donations to help with this project and these will be put to great use for the purchase of gravel to put around the buildings to eliminate mud and promote good drainage, and for extra necessities for the barns. We're getting there - with your help!

## Monthly Donations & Contributors

It's said that on St. Patrick's Day, everyone is Irish! But at HPS, every **day** is a celebration to our horses, and it's all because of YOU. Our population at the sanctuary has swelled this winter, and we would not have been able to help so many except that you did not forsake these charges. We are so very grateful, and THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts. May the Lord bless you.

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 Whom would you like to receive your Honor, Memorial, or Angel Sponsor (please circle)? Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_ 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

## Honors and Memorials

Eight year old Emilia Reutimann celebrated her birthday and asked her friends to to make a donation to HPS in lieu of gifts.

Thank you Emilia!!

In honor of Tiffany Ferebee's birthday. By Ann & Benjy Seagle

*In honor of Dianne Doub's birthday. By Donna Dziura*

**Happy Birthday to Betty Lentz.**  
 By Floyd Lentz

*Happy Birthday Mom, a "beautiful woman."*  
 By Frank Zinke

In honor of Linda Yarrington and the beautiful love she gave her grandson, London. He will live in her heart forever.

By Amy Henderson

In memory of Burk Eargle.  
 By Ann and Benjy Seagle

*In memory of Nugget, Smokey and Lucky. By Missy Anderson*

In loving memory of our dog, Cayce.  
 By Diane & Chris Etheridge

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