



OVER HERD

Important News!

By Joanie Benson

Some of you are aware that we have received an additional grant for our Indoor Training Arena of \$10,000 from the Folke H. Peterson Foundation. Previously, the Foundation For The Carolinas through The George D. Patterson Family Fund had provided a grant for \$25,000. Our wholehearted “Thank you” goes to both foundations for getting us well on our way to a desperately needed Indoor Covered Training Arena.

Our devoted contributors have donated \$7,960 taking our grand total to \$42,960 and leaving a balance needed of \$25,540.

We have a very important but limited opportunity, because steel prices may keep rising. If we take this opportunity now, we can get our Indoor Training Arena built out of the same material as our other two large barns. This is a chance that HPS would be so sad to miss.

The north side of the roof will be build out of a cloud-colored roofing material to allow light through. There will be two large cupolas on the roof with fans and louvers in both that will be closed when the fans are not in use. We can start construction so very soon with your help. (cont. on page 2)

When Animal Control Calls, We Go!

By Joanie Benson

I was impressed with how hard one of the Animal Control (AC) officers in Yadkin County tried to work with the owners of two horses. She worked with the couple to feed the horses better but, as time went by, the husband lost his job. The owners have four young children and, with the loss of work, the income has been reduced quite a bit. This couple has no horse knowledge - - the wife did not even know what gelding and mare meant. (That kind of gives you the picture of what AC was dealing with.) There was no vet care for the horses during the year they were with these people.

I think they genuinely loved the horses, but as we say, “Love is not enough.” This type of person is the most dangerous for the well-being of horses. We see this time and time again and will not place horses with people who do not know how to care for them. I call it “Mystical Delusion.” They may have read The Black Stallion as a child and expect some supernatural connection with a horse. They are delusional! They do not feel they need to learn anything to take care of the horse, but will have this great connection with no effort or learning on their part. Or they do everything wrong to build a connection. As a true horse person knows, the connection can be built, but it often takes years of working with horses to gain the full understand of how to form a connection that most will never experience.



Dallas—with a huge “worm belly”

Another check on the horses revealed, as the husband told the AC officer, he had just enough money to buy a bag of sweet feed but not hay. Once again the horses were not being fed. The husband wanted to release the horses but the wife did not even though they did not have the funds to care for them. Finally it was agreed to release the horses to a rescue.

By the time we were called, it was late afternoon, so it was agreed that we would pick up the horses the next day. It is not a good idea to bring horses into a new place after dark unless it is a life or death situation. In these cases, they will go into a hospital stall until they can be evaluated. Kathy Haw kindly agreed to go get the horses. Both loaded well and, as it was early afternoon, we were able to introduce them to the (cont. on page 2)



Tex—very underweight on arrival



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a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



2011

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Important News!

(cont. from page 1) The building will not have the shutter windows around the outside since the cost would be too much.

I cannot stress enough how important this is to be able to continue to place horses. We are getting calls from folks who would like to have a horse placed with them, but we have only a couple that are truly ready to go. As each week passes that we cannot work with them due to weather, all of the horses are losing muscle tone, and there is ground training that some of the horses need before going back under saddle.

We are so close to being able to build the Arena! Please, please help. Simply write on your check that your donation is for the "Training Arena", otherwise we cannot use it for this project.

The horses have waited so long for their new forever homes. You can help shorten their wait.

When Animal Control Calls *(cont. from page 1)* Halfway House. This is a smaller fenced area with good shelter. We had a round bale delivered to the inside of the shelter. This gives us a chance to keep the horses away from the other horses and to get them dewormed.

The younger gelding is a lovely chestnut about 4 - 7 years old. Even though the older gelding is the leader, the younger one was probably getting most of the feed given to them. His gaits are fluid and he holds his tail up and head high. He may be a Quarter horse, mixed with who knows. His body score is about a "four" and the winter coat hides a lot this time of the year. It will take Dallas only a few weeks to be back to full weight.

The older gelding (below, right) looks more like a Quarter Horse and is maybe 18 to 20 plus years. (I am not putting my fingers in their mouths until they are healthy enough to get their rabies vaccine.) His body score is much lower; we rate it at a high "two." A horse with this body score can easily die. Not all horses will drop to a "one" before the body's systems close down. Even if we were not told that the owners were feeding sweet feed, we would know it since we can see it in the manure. Irregularity of feeding is very hard on a horse, plus they have to have hay every day. They were kept in a small area so there was not even roughage for them to graze. Tex is a sweet horse, and it is just going to take time for him to gain back all of his weight.

Dallas was feeling so good shortly after arriving that he jumped the fence and joined the horses in the gelding field. Tex has been gaining and we felt it would be less stressful for him to join Dallas than to stay alone in the area we had set aside for them. They are doing great in the gelding field and we are seeing them romp, even doing some cantering.

The owners did have four horses once but then traded two for hay at some point. We know the young horse, Dallas, is going to need to be worked with to become a nice, easy-going horse ready for a new family. The Indoor Training Arena would make this possible. The frozen ground, and the mud it becomes when it warms a little, makes it impossible to work with the horses and keep them conditioned. Our special Indoor Training Arena fund keeps growing with your help! Thank you so very much for caring.

Come welcome Dallas and Tex to the sanctuary.

HONORS & MEMORIALS

In honor of Ron Gordon's 80th birthday.
By Marilyn & Harry Swimmer
In honor of Marilyn Swimmer on her 80th birthday.

By Janet & Lou Elmo

In honor of Marilyn Swimmer on her birthday,
February 26th.

By Alison & Kevin Stellner

*Happy Birthday to Marilyn Swimmer
From HPS*

Several IBM employees have made pledges to HPS, but IBM has not sent us a list of the donors. We are very sorry that we cannot list you or send each of you a "Thank You" note. Please know that we are grateful for your caring and generosity.

In memory of Papa and Mom Ruth Long's 58th wedding anniversary which would have been on February 15th. By Jill & Charles Messer

*In memory of Jan Smith
By William E. Eutsler*

Happy Valentine's Day
to all.
By Jill & Charles Messer

In loving memory of Wrangler,
a little bit of stubbornness amidst a great sweetness.
Your friend, Roberta

*In memory of Rocky.
By Michael & Suzanne Webb*

In honor of Robin Moxley of the Yadkin County Sheriff's Department.
By Dianne Doub

In honor of Ann Seagle's birthday on February 2nd.
By Tiffany & Joe Ferebee

*In honor of Ann F. Seagle.
By Benjamin Seagle*

In honor of Tiffany Ferebee.
By Ann & Benjamin Seagle

*In honor of Glenda Thompson.
By Ann & Benjamin Seagle*

Happy 90th Birthday Grandmom and Mom.
Love always, Frank & Greg Zinke

*In honor of Betty Lentz's Birthday, January 24th.
By Kim Clark*

The People's Corner

Health Tips from Joanie Benson

Coming to you from Joanie's personal experiences or research

Bye Bye Blackbird Rant:

Included in the HPS Bylaws is the following statement: "Maintain the Bible's principles and message of conservation and kindness to animals."

Didn't you wonder what killed all the birds that were reported on the news recently? Well, SURPRISE... The USDA admits to murdering more than tens of millions of birds over the last decade! The USDA's program is called *Bye Bye Blackbird*. They used poisons such as DRC-1339. These massive bird killings were funded with your tax dollars. Among their own list of targeted birds are Cowbirds, Starlings, Redwing blackbirds, Canadian geese, Grackles, Pigeons, Crows, Doves, Ducks, Falcons, Finches, Gulls, Hawks, Herons, Owls, Ravens, Sparrows, Swallows, Swans Turkeys, Vultures, and Woodpeckers. Even a Bald Eagle was reported to have been killed. What about the protected species on this long list (not that it is right to kill any of them)? What about all the bugs these birds eat thereby protecting people against the illnesses carried by these bugs? Doesn't it make you wonder if the USDA is responsible for the other mysterious animal deaths that have been reported across the country? What about the huge fish kills that are taking place across the US? You know we love the horses and it is our mission to care for them, but we also care about all animals. What is going on here!

The USDA has also known that a highly dangerous neurotoxin that absorbs throughout the entire plant has been killing the bees and other pollinators. These poisons are a threat to our animals and to humans. Neonicotinoids attack the central nervous system, yet the USDA has known this for two years. The EPA approved these dangerous insecticides knowing that they kill bees. Bayer Crop Science falsified safety data to get it approved. Why is this still on the market???

Monthly Donations & Contributors

“Beware the Ides of March” has been used as a warning of bad things to come since it marked the day that Julius Caesar was murdered in the Roman senate in 44 BC. But the horses in need of our sanctuary had no warning about the bad things to come their way; they simply experienced neglect, abuse and starvation on a daily basis for months, or years, at a time. Once here, however, their lives improve - they have hay and other good things to eat, fresh water to drink, doctoring to soothe their hurts, and abundant love.

And they blossom. All because you care.

May blessings be upon you. Thank you so for your kindness and your donations.

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****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

(continued from page 2)

Box of Cold Cereal

I just wanted to buy a box of cold cereal when I was shopping. That sounds like an easy thing to do, except that I always read the labels to see the ingredients. It seems that now we do not have to be concerned just with the toxic chemical ingredients in the food, but also the packaging.

Kellogg is using methylnaphthalene in their packaging and it can leach into the cereal. 28 million boxes were recalled. The only safe cereal I could find in the store was Oatmeal. The full ingredient list was oatmeal, but what about the packaging?

We have all learned about the harmful Bisphenol A (BPA) in water bottles, baby bottles, lining of cans and other common food packaging. BPA disrupts the endocrine system and mimics estrogen, and can cause a long list of health issues from prostate cancer to mental development - - and don't forget that weight gain is also on the list. Why has this packaging not been outlawed?

And what about the 20 common lipsticks containing lead that the FDA tested? (They tested only about 20 brands.) Why is lead still allowed? Lead is not on the list of ingredients, so what else is in products that is not on the labels?

Have an inquiring mind and get educated to protect yourself and your family.

Grapefruit Seed Extract

I just heard on the news this morning that children have, on average, four to ten colds a year while adults average two to six colds a year. There are two simple things you can do to totally prevent colds.

One: Take a small amount of grapefruit seed extract. We use a powdered form here at the sanctuary and give it to the horses that have low immune responses. I also take a quarter- to a half-teaspoon each day. (Check your prescription drugs before you start on a grapefruit seed extract regimen because there are certain ones that do not interact well with grapefruit. If you have such prescriptions, do not use this extract. If you're uncertain, check with your pharmacist; they generally know these things.)

Two: Take vitamin C every day. Ester C is better to take than normal vitamin C, and, of course, eating a good diet is important for all of us if we want to stay healthy.