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OVER HERD

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Helping Horses

There are so many ways to help horses and HPS tries to use every opportunity to educate and share what we have learned over our many years caring for horses.

We receive phone calls and emails from all over the county concerning every aspect of having horses in your life. When the inquiry concerns any type of health issue, I always recommended calling their veterinarian.



Then to contact me after the horse's exam. Many times the vet has already checked the horse. This was the case of the horse named Money and his devoted owner Alana Lear. About the middle of January Alana contacted me after Money had his eyes check. The veterinarian diagnosed cataracts, but didn't give them any real help. Alana and her husband found our article on our website about Recurrent Uveitis. Alana said in her email....."*"he seems to get better at times and then sometimes he is running into his stall."*

This sounds like Recurrent Uveitis or as it used to be called, Moon Blindness. A horse will seem normal and then have a blindness attack in one or both eyes. Each time this accrues the horse' eye ball atrophies a little more until they are totally blind in one or both eyes. This causes

more horse to go blind than any other issue. Gray, white, some paints, and Appaloosas horses of all breeds are more prone to Recurrent Uveitis and cancer. We have seen cataracts in every color horse imaginable.

Alana purchased the recommended beta carotene and lutein with bilberry encase Money had Uveitis and stated giving it to him. Alana also, used a handful of chopped cabbage three times a week put in the horse's feed for cataracts to help keep them soft so the horse doesn't go blind from the hardening of the cataract as we recommended. It is important to protect the horse's eyes from UV rays and the horse should wear a good fly mask during day light hours if they have any type of eye issue. Alana bought the top of the line Guardian Mask (\$200.) for Money. The wonderful news is that Money's eye sight has improved in the first few weeks!



Money is a 20 year old gray Quarter Horse and this is only his second owner. Hopefully they will have many happy years together. Alana was so thrilled to be able to help her horse that she sent us two Guardian Masks for the rescued horses. We will keep them back for the more serious eye issues that we have to deal with. *Alana and Money have our heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful gift.*

How to Bring Peace to Your Barn

Peace in the barn is so very important for the good health of horses. Picking the right person/s to help with the care of the horses is so important. These should be generally happy people who enjoy life. They appreciate the horses' different personalities and work with them based upon their differences.

There are horses here that will always be the first ones into the barn for breakfast. Cree and Natchez are good examples and they will happily go into their stalls. Should you hand out the feed as the horses come in and get in their stalls? Appositely NO! The horses that have their food are going to be upset by the horses going by and feel threatened. Every horse should be up in their own stall, the feed mixed and the feed should be handed out in the same order every day. Our horses will stand quietly watching the feed room door for the first buckets to come out. They know the order that they will get their feed and all is at peace. Some will give you a soft nicker and a little dance as you get to their stall.

Feed them out of order or put the horses up before all the feed is mixed and you have upset the horses. No one ever said horses have patience. Now, if you start yelling at the horses they will only become more upset. You have to be just a little creative to keep the horses happy and quiet. If you have a scowl on your face the horses will react negatively. (New research shows how horses respond poorly to angry faces and negativity.) This is only one of the reasons it is so important to work with gentle positive people. A quiet barn is important for the horses to relax. Remember their hearing is 10 times stronger than ours, so the horses respond better to soft voices and a quiet barn.

Checking each horse here twice a day takes time and some horses eat quickly. They can be checked first and turned out. We just close the stall door behind them to keep the nibblers from going in and out of the stalls looking for a dropped bit of feed. It helps to encourage them to leave the barn as you turn the other horses out.

Certain horses will become very agitated with the feeder if fed out of order. The horse is mad! Put a horse in the wrong stall and it will through horses into an upset. "You're not the horse that belongs next to me"...and trouble can begin. Natchez eats quickly but it is better if he is let out after most of the horses have cleared the barn. He will act aggressive to horses walking by his stall. He just threatens the horses. The folks here have found an easy way to stop his actions. They just move him to a stall where the horse is messy and throws their feed all over the stall. It keeps him busy looking for all the little pieces of feed left behind.

If you are in a hurry all the horses will sense you are not at peace and things will not go well. Take deep breaths and put why you are in a hurry out of your mind so you can enjoy the time with your horses. Horses like routine and respond well when things are always done the same way in the same order.

We can take these simple lessons into our everyday life. Don't we all like to be around positive happy people?

Honors and Memorials

Happy Birthday to Tiffany Ferebee. By Ann and Benjy Seagle

In honor of Betty Lentz. By Floyd Lentz



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Rain, Rain Go Away

All summer we prayed for rain as we watched the grass turn brown and the ground crack open. Now we are praying for it to stop raining. We need many loads of fill dirt before we can start the construction of the covered hay feeder. The fill dirt has to have just the right moisture level to be able to be compacted correctly. The dirt can't be too dry or too wet. We just need a dry window of time and we can get the covered hay feeder built. My favorite prayer: "*God grant me patience.....right now!*"

