



OVERHERD



God Does have a Sense of Humor

By Joanie Benson

Volume 11 Issue 5 May 2009

The Mane Event

Just a few items I picked from the list of over 300 wonderful items!

Silver Horse Head Hook, Solar outside lights, Tooled leather handbag, Old Lacquer box with carved jade on top, Cultured pearl necklace, Pendant with 1/2 carat diamonds, Turquoise & Silver necklace, 1800's wood shoe mold, copper bird bath, Terra-cotta Cascade Solar Fountain, Ladies' Western belts, Sofa table with green marble top, Portable Navigation System for your car, Cuisinart Water Filtration System, Topaz necklace, Bushnell Telescope, Fender Electric Guitar, Sapphire and diamond ring, Stainless Steel table lamp, Art Glass Bowl, Home Project Kit with cordless drill & everything you need, Cuisinart Slow Cooker, Digital Camera, Izod Men's Jacket and Solar Turtle.

The invitations are in the mail! Let us know if you do not receive your tickets. It is very important to have everyone's name, address, phone number and email that plan to attend. Please send in your reservations as early as possible – limited seating. This is not a formal affair, casual business dress is fine.

May 30th Saturday evening - 5:30 PM - cocktails (cash bar) - Dinner 7:00PM

I have had two TWHs that I dearly loved in my life and am determined to once again have a special black Walker as my last horse. My past two loves wanted to kill me and anyone else that came near them when we first met. With love and patience, they turned out great! Today with so many different people handling the horses we need to take certain precautions and therefore, cannot take in aggressive horses.



This story starts over a year ago when I received a phone call from a family whose father had just died. He left behind a black 23 year old Tennessee Walking Horse that that no one wanted because she was an overweight, foundered mare with an attitude! I became disappointed when I heard about her bad habits which included dangerous behavior around people and I immediately knew she could not come to the Sanctuary.

(cont pg 2)

Two Ponies and a Horse Come Back

by Joanie Benson

The miniature horse, Crackerjack captured our hearts in November of 2006. The poor little guy had been just left in a pasture with no care. Crackerjack was overweight and foundered in all four hooves. For the next eight months his little hooves were trimmed at least every four weeks and touch up filing was done in between to keep him balanced. Crackerjack was recovered from the founder; he had lost all the extra weight and was running around bucking making everyone laugh. He was healthy and went to his foster home.

Today: Crackerjack is horribly over weight again by 75 to 100 pounds.



He can barely walk and he is terribly foundered in all four hooves. The radiographs of his front hooves show the coffin bone straight up and down with remodeling. He is now six years old and with the devotion of our volunteers and our good farrier, we may be able to save him once again.

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(2 ponies cont pg 1) The little paint pony, Popcorn was rescued in July of 2005. For 20 years the people that owned her, left her alone and provided her with little to no care. Her eye socket was open and full of infection that required surgery to repair. The fronts of her hooves had just been chopped straight off and she could barely walk. She was only with HPS for a short time before she went to Doris and Mike Lane, as a 1 eyed seeing eye pony for “Big Mama” a blind horse! They also had a mule - Lollipop, and a donkey – Cupcake, that was from HPS and they took excellent care of them. The Lanes provided the needed surgery on Popcorn’s eye and their farrier took good care of her hooves. After several years, due to health issues, Doris and Mike needed to down size to a smaller home and Popcorn came back to HPS; and shortly thereafter went to her foster home.

Today: Popcorn has foundered and her hooves are a mess! We had to have digital radiographs done and the rotation is not as bad as Crackerjack’s but a 26-year-old pony does not need this in her life.

Liberty was with Freedom, locked in a barn from January 2001 to February 2005 when they were rescued and came to HPS. They had the worst hooves of any horses I had ever seen. The front hooves had heels of seven and nine inches long. Several years of work went into rehabbing Liberty and his hooves. He only needed to grow more sole on one front hoof and he would be perfect. He was stable enough to send to his foster home.

Today: Liberty’s hooves in the front are duck footed, flared on the sides, he is flat-footed and still does not have the sole depth that he should have.

All three have deformed growth of their hooves. It reminds me of selenium poisoning,

(cont pg 4)

Mother's Day Mother's Day Mother's Day

(Sense of Humor cont pg 1) I suggested that the family send their mare to our trainer, Tamara Eichorn for evaluation, which would include work on the founder and reintroduction to other horses. The TWH had only been with her mother for six years before the mother died. After that she was left alone so she didn’t know how to play well with others! Her fear levels were high because all she had known was her field where she didn’t have any positive human contact. She was kept at the family vacation home where she did not always have someone caring for her.

Tamara had gotten the extra weight off her and even saddled her for a few short rides. The mare still had mental issues (wasn’t sure how to be a horse or even play well with others) but she became overly attached to another horse and was very paranoid about leaving her side. (My hope was that the family would leave her at Tamara’s, the poor mare wasn’t ready to be moved again.) Unfortunately the family gave the mare to someone that wanted to breed her to a Jack, hoping to get a gaited mule.

Meanwhile, earlier this month I had a one sided conversation with God. “*God, I have waited so long for a black TWH. Don’t you think it is about time, before I get too much older*”?

Then about a week later I received a call from a gal who had taken in a 16 hand bag of bones black TWH two months previously (from the people who had the Jack). The gal could not afford to provide the care and rehab for the horse. This gal did not realize she had hit all my buttons and I am thinking,

(cont pg 3)

Spring Brings Interesting Visitors

by Joanie Benson

We were happy to see one of our friendly rat snakes. It had to be Fred or Ethel since it was only about five feet long. Rickie and Lucy are more like six foot. One of the couples had babies and a couple of little ones have visited the barn. They are gray and black when young and then turn blacker with the white belly.

We have some interesting birds that have been visiting: a beautiful white egret, a blue heron and a pair of green herons. The latest and most unusual is an Egyptian goose. She comes in with the Canadian geese. (Thank you Heidi for figuring out who our visitor is.) There are very few of these in the United States. There is another bird that visits that looks like a sea gull, but I don't think it is. It comes to fish in the pond. A number of birds also like the new barns and are happily building nests and raising babies.

We have been watching a family of foxes and some lucky folks have seen the tiny babies. Mom is young and thin. We have seen her hunting during the day. She denned under our burn pile, so it will not get burned until the fox family moves out.

There is also a small gray fox that will visit early in the mornings.

The sanctuary is a great place for watching nature. We never know what we will see next!



(Sense of Humor cont pg 2) *"Thank you God! My horse!"* She offered to bring the horse to the sanctuary a few days later and if I did not like her, she would take her home again and figure something else out. I have to admit, I was really excited!

Deborah stopped by, and I shared my excitement about the Tennessee Walker coming in. Deborah laughed and said, *"Wouldn't it be funny if it was the TWH that Tamara had last summer!"*

I said, *"NO, that would not be funny and don't you put that out to the universe. If it is the same horse, God does have a sense of humor!"*

So later in the week, when the big old girl steps off the trailer, both Deborah and I knew it was the horse that was at Tamara's! The front hooves were at least 3 plus inches too long and I doubt that she had been trimmed since last September when she left Tamara's. She is about 150 to 175 pounds underweight. We had radiographs done of the front hooves and the rotation is 23 and 10 degree. She may have been in with the Jack and we had her checked..... inconclusive at this point. Say a prayer that she is not bred!

This is a horse that would have bounced around from person to person, getting worse behavior and founder, and eventually she would have ended up on a killer truck headed to slaughter. God had a plan for this poor horse though; the gal (who didn't have the means to properly care for her) stepped in and took the TWH off that slaughter truck. When she could no longer provide for her, she called me. This horse NEEDS US! And God gave her to us!

(Our poor new baby needs time to settle in before she picks her new name.)

Quote of the Month:

Care, and not fine stables, makes a good horse.

-Danish Proverb

In memory of my cat, Phoebe, who crossed the Rainbow Bridge: 1996 - Feb. 14, 2009. By Barbara Moore

In memory of my much loved dog, Cherokee. She was just a pound puppy but for almost 16 years, she was my best friend. By Elaine Towner

In honor of the memory of my beloved mare: "Foxy". By Meg Leidinger

Keep Those Aluminum Beverage Cans Rolling! *By Roberta McCardle*

Many thanks to our wonderful members who continue to collect and transport aluminum beverage cans to the ranch to the Can City holding area. This is one of our ongoing fundraisers. Every bit helps and is put to good use on the horses' behalf. Your efforts matter and are appreciated! Let's maximize our opportunities to collect cans.....put a bag in your break-room at work....ask your family, friends, and neighbors for help. I pick up cans from a local business every couple of months and they are glad to do some good in a couple of ways – help a charity and help the earth by recycling. **Please note that this is ONLY for aluminum beverage cans.** We are still finding wadded up pieces of foil, vegetable cans, soup cans, plastic water bottles etc. in the bags. The salvage yard mentioned this to us so now Tom and I try to check the bags better before loading. Thus far in CY 2009, the ranch has made \$ 174 on the cans. Another run is pending so this total will soon be going up. Again, thank you for your kindness is taking the time and going to the trouble to do this for the horses. If our four-footed friends could speak, they would say, “Thank you for caring about us enough to help!”

Every Time You Volunteer, You Keep Hope Alive.

(2 Ponies cont pg 2) which will cause abnormal hoof growth. The hooves are not growing in smooth, but are rough and distorted. I think this was caused by large quantities of poor quality supplements fed to the horses. We have seen this in horses with very poor nutrition. It is so important to balance a horses' diet with quality feed.

The foster family was given instructions for the special care of each horse. The farrier that HPS had used to restore and correct hoof balance was recommended – after a time the foster home stopped using the farrier so the hooves were not trimmed as often as they should have been. No treats was emphasized because (all three horses are known to beg for treats) we had worked so hard to get Crackerjack's weight off and discussed how important it was to keep the weight down. He is once again huge and much worse than when he came to us the first time.

The horses went to the foster home because the family was volunteers at the sanctuary at that time and knew how we were caring for the horses. They also knew that when there is a problem, HPS will go get our horses back!

The officers and volunteers here at the sanctuary are sick that these people would do so much damage to these equine in 20 short months! We can use your help to walk Crackerjack and Popcorn. Continual farrier care every other week and more digital radiographs will be needed. Crackerjack is going to need insulin testing. Please help us once again return these poor babies to health.

In memory of Marie Harmann who loved and cared for all horses. We will miss her and her funny sense of humor around our barn. Please accept this gift knowing that this sweet soul would be smiling at you. By Elaine & Charles Walters

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Monthly Donations & Contributors

May the Lord bless you for your generous and devoted giving to His beautiful creatures.

In memory of the lovely Willow. By Roberta & Tom McCardle

In memory of Miracle. By Rachel Brown

In memory of Shenandoah, a beautiful creature both in and out. He will be missed. By Pat & Alan Berkebile

We'll miss you Shenandoah. From your pasture pal, Padre.

"Fair winds and following seas Shenandoah." By Sara Kobs

In memory of Shenandoah. By Michael & Judith Legrett

In honor of Betty Lentz's anniversary. By Floyd.

Speedy recovery to "Summer" and good riding days ahead. Love, Great Aunt Linda



Your newsletter always thrills and saddens us. It is wonderful to know people can be so nice. Ronald & Barbara Comito

In memory of a dear horse lover, Marie Harfmann, who passed away on March 20, 2009. By Denise and Mary McMillan

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It is the mission of the Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc. to make the world a better place for horses through education, rescue and rehabilitation.

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

HPS is a fully incorporated 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. Your donations are the main source of income to support the sanctuary and are eligible for tax deduction.

Check out our Website:
www.horseprotection.org