



OVER HERD

2012

Pathetically Starved Sick Horse

By Joanie Benson

She is an older mare from Cleveland County; we drove several hours to pick her up. The owner was not willing to cooperate with Animal Control, so there may be a court case and charges brought against the owner. Because of this possibility, we cannot give much information at this time until it is settled in court.

All I can say is that she is one of the sickest horses we have had to deal with here at the sanctuary in a long time. Starvation and heavy parasite load are bad enough, but when a horse has multiple other health issues, saving the horse becomes much more difficult. Her veterinarian costs were almost \$500 in the first couple of days at the sanctuary just so we could determine the extent of all her problems. She has multiple life-threatening issues! Without treatment, she was going downhill fast and surely would have died shortly.



At the present time, it is important to keep her up in the hospital stall to make sure she is eating all of her many needed medications. She has free access to high quality hay day and night. Also, she is missing the hair over most of her body and it would be too cold for her most nights to be outside even if she could be. She may have spent years without the company of other horses and is overjoyed to have others close by. (Horses are herd animals, relying on others for grooming, companionship and safety.)

Sometimes abuse cases like this can go on for close to a year. Look at her picture – it tells a good bit of the story. Please help to offset her care which is very expensive! We are fighting for this mare's life; will you be part of the herd of people who join us?

Shaman Returns - Starved!

By Joanie Benson

Shaman came to the sanctuary in January of 2008 with a body score (BCS) of one-and-a-half. Upon his return from his caregiver, he now has a BCS of **ONE!** When one of our horses leaves the sanctuary, we send feeding instructions, deworming information, farrier care that is needed, vaccination information, dental and chiropractic records, and supplement information. How anyone could let this happen to this wonderful horse is beyond my understanding!

Why would anyone feed an older horse OATS? There is NO nutritional value in them. The caregivers said they were giving him other feed too and alfalfa hay. I saw the hay and it was so bad, I wouldn't feed it to a goat! All they had to do was follow instructions!

They had Shaman on a daily dewormer. Most parasites built a resistance to this dewormer years ago. Even the manufacturer stopped paying for colic surgeries years ago because they knew it did not work any longer. The horses still needed two to three additional paste dewormings each year to kill tapeworms, the many stages of parasites that the daily dewormer does not kill, and bots. Of course, this was



not being done either. Nor was his dental being done! Our farrier felt he had not been trimmed in maybe as long as a year. Why do people find basic maintenance on horses so hard to do?

It is like Coyote when he returned (*April Over Herd*). I was told they changed him to a low carbohydrate, low starch feed instead of what we told them to give him to keep him healthy. The feed they were using is for horses that may founder or have IR or Cushing's and/or are overweight. It is not for an active healthy horse that needs more calories—or he wasn't getting enough hay or a good enough quality hay. I was told by his caregiver, "You're flippin' crazy!" when she called to complain about last month's article concerning Coyote's return. Ask me if I care what people think when they cannot follow simple instructions and provide the care needed for these wonderful horses. We spend thousands and thousands of dollars bringing the babies back to health plus the time putting them under saddle and getting them ready for new homes.

Shaman is now at least 30 years old and will stay with HPS for the rest of his life! I am praying we can bring this wonderful horse back to full health. We will have to deworm him slowly to get rid of the worm belly. Amazingly the folks here could see a difference in just the first four days of providing what Shaman needs in food and supplements! Even his attitude is turning back around to the sweet horse we knew before. He is so thin that, for the first week, we had to keep him up in the hospital stall overnight, giving him turnout during the day when the weather was clear. Now he has full turnout in the small front field and a stall to escape from the elements.

Everyone who knew Shaman before is so appalled! These people had the unmitigated gall to say to me, "Shaman was thin when we got him and he is about the same now." HPS never sends out a thin horse! We have pictures to prove this is not true. It is very difficult for me to maintain my temper when we pick a horse up that has not been cared for when we worked so hard previously to return him to health.

Please become an Angel Sponsor to help offset some of Shaman's expenses.

Monthly Donations & Contributors

Thank you to all donors for helping us get the horses through the winter. You have enabled us to take in those who were not so fortunate to have regular feedings these last few months. Because of your dedication, we have several horses who are ready to move to great new homes and provide love and fun for their caregivers. Full details and photos may be found on the following page here in our website: <http://www.horseprotection.org/id15.html>

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Does your horse have EPM or Acute Disseminated Encephalitis (ADEM)?

By Joanie Benson

EPM is Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis, a devastating illness than until last year was difficult to diagnose and treat. HPS has been working with Dr. Ellison of Pathogenes Inc. using their new titer tests and treatment. Time to celebrate! Cherub's titer test that was done after her treatment shows that she is cleared of the protozoa! Everyone at the sanctuary can see a marked difference in her movement and how she is feeling.



Breeze - May 2011

The first titer tests have been done on Breeze, Commodore and Teton. Breeze displayed symptoms like another EPM horse we had years ago - - difficulty keeping weight on and moodiness. To be on the safe side we wanted her tested; the test came back negative. With Breeze we will wait and watch to see if any other issues arise or if it is just her personality. Lately, she has been eating better, acting better and seems happier without any treatment.

Commodore had the classic hindquarter gait problems and improved when on the two supplements we use for EPM. We have used this in the past as a gauge to judge if a horse has EPM or not. Teton's symptoms were unusual back pain and loss of use of part of the lower facial muscles. Both horses showed classic signs of EPM and yet did not test positive for EPM. Both horses may have Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (sometimes called allergic encephalitis) that can look like EPM.



Commodore - Nov. 2011



Teton - April 2012

This is the first I have ever read or heard of this illness, which is being studied by Dr. Ellison. They are working to develop a test for this illness. It can occur following a bacterial, viral or parasitic infection. There are similarities between EPM and post-vaccine encephalomyelitis.

The good news is that Pathogenes Inc. has developed a treatment for this condition. It is a four-week treatment, and HPS will report on the horses and how they respond to treatment.

You can go to their website (www.pathogenes.com) for more information on the EPM treatment and the allergic encephalomyelitis.

*Thank you to **The Dowd Foundation** and the **Starlight Foundation** for helping to make it possible to test and treat Teton and Commodore.*

HONORS and MEMORIALS

Mollie (age 9) & Madeline (age 6)
McWhorter
decided to have folks donate to HPS
in lieu of gifts at their joint birthday party.
Thank you from the rescued horses.

In honor of Ashley A. Dean by Betsy Dean
In honor of Floyd Lentz's 19th anniversary,
April 16th
by Betty Lentz
Happy 19th Anniversary to Betty Lentz
By Floyd Lentz

In memory of Lou Elmo's father, Augustine Elmo
By Mary & Alun Pritchard
*In memory of Lou Elmo's father, Augustine Elmo
By Marilyn & Harry Swimmer*
In memory of Mardy Frech, a friend & fellow horse lover.
By Leslie Anderson
In memory of the Frechs. By Jennifer Zirt

Given in appreciation for all the
dedicated work you do at HPS.
by Barbara Moore

The People's Corner

Health Tips
from Joanie Benson

Coming to you from Joanie's personal experiences

Whitney Houston, like Heath Ledger, is another casualty of the prescription drug industry. People like to think that these deaths are due to overdosing. In some cases that is true. But consider that the third largest killer of people in this country is pharmaceuticals. Most of the people who died were taking the drugs as prescribed. People need to take great care even in taking over-the-counter drugs.

There are so many natural cures for almost all illnesses. A good example is green tea, which has long been used to lower LDL cholesterol, a huge heart disease risk factor. It promotes brain health because of the active EGCG.

Are you feeling like you are coming down with a cold or flu? My favorite solution is grapefruit seed extract. A few drops three times a day and I don't get sick. Many people take a little every day to prevent illness and it works great. This will also cure shingles by putting a small amount of the grapefruit seed extract on the spots twice a day and also taking it internally twice a day. Good diet and taking the correct vitamins every day will keep you healthy. It is cheaper than getting sick!

If you are having difficulty falling asleep due to anxiety, use a little **natural lavender oil** sprayed on your pillow. A little spritz in your horse's nose will help to relieve the anxiety of the dreaded veterinarian or other stressful events. Do not use the wall plug-ins, room sprays or most candles that have artificial scents. These are very bad for your lungs and your body as they contain too many harmful chemicals!

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Rescued Horses – Update

In the April newsletter last month, we introduced you to five new horses who came to the sanctuary. Here is our update of them:

The two horses from Union County were living in deplorable conditions. Now called **Moon Flower & White Feather**, the mare and gelding are doing wonderfully and gaining weight quickly. Dr. Bob (Gochnauer) had checked Moon Flower for suspected pregnancy when she first arrived due to her huge belly that shifted from the right side of her body to the left side and then back again. When he returned to do the rabies vaccinations, he thought we were playing a joke on him when he saw her. He could not believe the difference in both horses! (We believe they are recovering so quickly because, while they were in a starved condition, it is unlikely that it was a long-term starvation situation. This is why it's so important to catch weight and muscle loss in horses quickly.)



Wyot was the horse "tied on a rope." A much more severe case of starvation, he is not gaining as quickly as Moon Flower and White Feather, but has formed a friendship with them. He has joined them in the large pond field. We are watching him closely for dropped pasterns, a sign of DSLD – a degenerative illness with no full recovery possible.

Kodak (the only survivor of the two horses from Lincoln County) has about only 35 pounds to gain and is so overjoyed to be with the other horses. We are very hopeful about his future.

Talking about the future, we have a number of wonderful horses back under saddle and ready to go to new homes. This is the time of year that people may be looking for a horse. If you know or hear of anyone in NC who is in the market for a riding horse (or pasture mate), please tell them about HPS. And if you would like to help with their continued recovery, please consider a donation or, if you would like to become a regular contributor, perhaps our Angel Sponsor program is right for you.