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OVER HERD

Choosing a Name

Our horses come to us with history. It is up to them how much of their former identity they want to keep once they come to our sanctuary. We at HPS believe in new beginnings and agree that a different name is an excellent start. We provide all of our horses a chance to choose a name after arrival to HPS.

When we ask a horse to choose their name we must first be sure that we have their full attention. They shouldn't be nibbling grass or be distracted by another horse. We make it clear that it is time to pick their name and wait for their attention.

A list of about five names is provided to a horse. We try to pick names that we feel fit the horse's personality as we have observed so far. Sometimes we get it wrong and have to put together a new list for the horse to pick from.

Horses usually have a preference for what they will be called. Sometimes they bump so hard that they nearly knocked us down to show their preference, others actually bare teeth and pin ears when they don't like a name. We have even had a horse nod "yes" when asked if that was a name they liked. More often, it is more subtle; a horse may lick and chew, or demonstrate a more serene disposition when in approval. Horses do smile. And some of our horses really don't give a lick what you call them at this point, just keep providing what they need to stay alive is their only care.

We only allow experienced and intuitive volunteers the honor of helping our horses chose a name. Thank you Lillian and Jade for helping our new mare choose her name. Of the names listed, she chose Topaz. Topaz is a powerful stone in the way that quartz is. It is a balancing and calming stone that reportedly can balance emotions, releases tension, and bring joy. That is a good description of our new mare. Come met Topaz and you will see what I mean.



Honey Bun has become friends with tall Topaz. Strudel normally is with them, also

Spring is Here

Spring brings so many new challenges. We have a huge assortment of special projects and can use all the additional help we can get right now. Anyone interested in cleaning up the flower beds out front? How about pressure washing our white fences? Or maybe building the hen house we have needed for a long time? We have an old horse trailer that has the potential to be turned into a great hen house. If you have the skills, we have several dead trees in the woods that need to be cut down. Cutting down the trees will allow more grass to grow in the woods for the horses. We also have many donated items which need to be sorted and organized. Whatever your talent, we can put it to use to help make HPS awesome! Contact us at: horseprotection@windstream.net or call: 704-855-2978. Every little bit helps and is greatly appreciated!

With the warmer weather comes the task of mowing the fields. We are busy keeping the fields mowed to help keep the weeds down. The horses will eat the sweet grass and leave only about an inch of stems providing room for the weeds to grow. *(Cont. on Page 2)*

News from the Herd

Autumn had a slight eye issue that was checked by our veterinarian. It cleared up quickly.

Rising Sun had a minor colic and was treated. Dr. Bob Gochnauer came and she recovered quickly.

New Mare chose her new name to be **Topaz**. She is recovering quickly and we are making headway with her tendon issue in her back leg.

EPM positive horses' medication has been ordered. We decided to treat all 10 horses, including those with lower numbers; usually these horses would be rechecked in 6 to 8 weeks before beginning treatment. Despite lower numbers, Black Velvet presents as having neurological symptoms. For more information regarding our source for testing and treatment of the EPM protozoa see: <http://pathogenes.com/w/about-epm/> It is the belief of HPS that all horses should be tested for EPM, even if the horses are not showing clinical signs.

Chicopee, Black Velvet, Shasta and Frosty have had a chiropractic adjustment done by Dr. Mary Gochnauer. This was a different type of adjustment and I felt it was very beneficial to the horses. It was extremely helpful to Shasta, she is moving her neck much more freely now. Chicopee and Frosty are under saddle and very ready for placement.

Eclipse had a choke this month. We were told that this had been an issue for him in the past. Our primary vet was on her way to Waxhaw to care for another choke (Of course these things never happen during normal vet office hours). Chokes need to be dealt with quickly, so we called Dr. Andy Gardner's office. Dr. Andy arrived quickly and resolved the choke. Eclipse is now doing fine. We regularly put three full cups of water on his feed to help prevent him from having a choke with normally good results.

Baby had a recurrence of Immune-mediated polymyositis, one of the same illnesses that she came to the sanctuary with in 2012. This is an autoimmune disease and steroids are the only medication prescribed for saving a horse with this condition. The treatment is dangerous for a horse, but the illness kills horses. This disease has a high incidence of recurring. I check Baby often for atrophied muscles so it was caught very early.

Baby is doing well on the steroids and we are praying for a full recovery. Baby is about 33 years old now. *There are so many horses in North Carolina that need help. We wish we could aid everyone.*

Spring is Here (Cont. from Page 1)

Refencing is taking place to close off some areas to allow for the fields to replenish and allow the grass we sowed last fall to continue to grow. The drought last summer caused a good deal of the grass to die off. This is why we struggled this past fall and winter, and continue to struggle this spring with the high cost of hay from out of state.

Unfortunately, I believe that we are already about four inches behind in the rain we should have received so far this spring. The new grass was growing great until the rain stopped. If we get some rain it will not be long until new hay can be cut. Normally this would occur by the middle of May. Another sure sign of spring is the abundant wildlife at the sanctuary. There are new baby mallards and geese on the pond. We have spotted other birds setting eggs on and around the property. There is a nest of baby rabbits near where we keep aluminum cans for recycling. Our rat snakes have been spotted again. These snakes are very beneficial to the environment and are welcome.

The horses love the cool spring mornings and often are seen running and playing in the fields. Many of them are enjoying playing in the pond. It is time to shed out the last of the winter coats. All the windows in the barns have been opened to let the breezes flow through the barns. There is no longer a need for the water heaters in the water tubs.

The 34 horses are happy and doing great!

Honors and Memorials

In honor of Floyd Lentz on our 23 rd. Wedding Anniversary. Love Betsy

Happy Anniversary to Betty Lentz! By Floyd Lentz

We at HPS would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Diane Alberti for the many donated items from our Amazon wish list. We do not have an address or email for Diane and hope she will see this and get in touch with us.

In honor of Sandra & Jerry Wrightenberry. By Barry & Nancy Allen

In honor of a true animal lover- Angie Piojda - who is a vet tech. She has taken wonderful care of my sweet kitties.
By Rebecca Orr

In memory of my brother, Rick Harrison, who was way too young when he left this earth.
We miss you Rick! Ann Harrison and family.



A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful Contributors

Elaine Addison	Virginia M. Johnson	Gail M. Shinn
Diane Alberti	Gerry Layson	Jane Shoaf
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