



## Three in Need

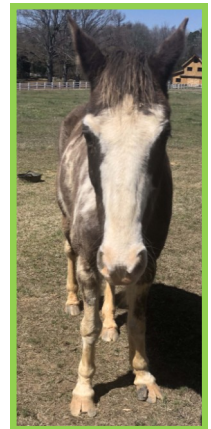
Life can change regardless of where you are in the economic spectrum. There are different degrees of need. We must never become immune to the issues in horses that are not a bag of bones. People get horses for different reasons, and sometimes those reasons disappear. People become busy and they are away from home and the caregiver is not doing their job, or they forgot or think that the horses are okay. One day they look out and realize, "Something needs to be done for them."

I have found that normally these folks are going to do things to benefit the horses before it becomes life-threatening. Tusca's owner had called HPS almost a year ago with a request for us to take him. They had tried everything and couldn't get him to gain weight. Today Tusca is gorgeous!!!

Just because folks have had horses for years, have a beautiful property and mean well, it doesn't mean they are well versed in horse care. Feeding and caring for the three horses just was not at the top of the priority list, and because things in life changed.

**Thunder:** Only one of the horses needed to gain 100 to 150 pounds. Often people don't realize how much weight has been lost on a large horse because of the big frame. From a distance, he looked great. The good news is that it would take a short time to put the weight back on. He is about 10 to 12 years old and is a Tennessee Walking Horse, and has interesting paint markings. We think his hair color is going to darken as he sheds out and gets the correct nutrition. The owner called him a blue roan, but I can't see this color at this time. The problem is with his hooves that had not been trimmed in over a year.

The front hooves had split in the center of the hoof almost to the coronary band. The area had become infected with a fungus, and the infected area had to be carved out. Thunder has to have shoes on the front until his hooves heal and keep them for further splitting. If the fungus is left untreated, it could destroy the hooves, and it may not be possible to save the horse. You meet this big boy and know he is somebody special. Thunder has a new home waiting, and they are willing to wait until HPS feels he is ready to leave. They are well on the road to bonding. The name he picked is "Thunder."



**Heavenly:** The next horse is a Tennessee Walking Horse mare and is only about six to seven years old.



She is champagne color with a darker mane and tail. A stunning beauty with golden eyes and the ears like a Kathiawari Horse from India. She also had fungus and split front hooves. Not as bad as Thunder's, but it wouldn't have taken long for them to be just as bad. She nodded "yes" twice when given the choice of names and she picked the name, "Heavenly."

The third sweet baby is a Rocky Mountain Horse look alike. He is cute, full of himself, and the coat color should darken with good nutrition. The mane and tail are a light golden blonde color, and his body is a light chocolate color. He is in good health with no issues. He is about 13 years old according to the registration paper provided. The association is named *Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse*. The top side of the registration has all the names of past sires and dams as you would expect to see. The bottom half of the lineage showing the dam's lineage is all "unknown." There are examiners in states that come and look at the horse and determine if it meets the standard. This is not a true registration association. It is like registering as half Quarter horses in the Half Quarter Horse association.



## News from the Herd

**Lice:** This is the second time this year that we have had to deal with lice. There are two types, a sucking type, and the chewing type. Two treatments of Ivermectin dewormer will kill the sucking lice. The chewing type is harder to deal with since they eat the dander on the horse. Over the years we have used many different natural treatments and some work better than others. This year we decided to try using 1 oz. of tea tree oil added to 100 oz. of water, and 3 to 4 oz. of Dawn soap.

The first step is to wet the horses ALL over. Next, starting at the horse's head, the whole body is covered with the lice treatment solution. The following day the lice are dead, and the horses are rinsed off from head to toe. This type of louse is not interested in getting on people.

It is paramount to treat all of the areas in the barn where the horses like to rub on their stalls. Their tack needs to be treated along with the grooming tools.

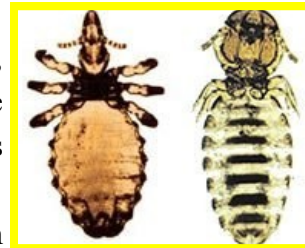
**EPM:** The horses that have been treated for EPM have been retested. Later in the month, all the horses that have not been tested recently will be tested. It will be too late in the month to have the results for this newsletter.

**Bandolero** has a small tumor near the top of his tail. He was positive for EPM, and was treated, but still is not right. More testing needs to be done.

**Silver Bell** has several small tumors under her tail. We check the horses for tumors and sarcoids periodically.

**Ginger** is picking up some bad habits from **Honey**. We are working on finding a place to sending Honey for some gentling training. She has issues when she is in her stall and can be somewhat aggressive. Honey is way too young to think about saddle training.

**Equine Dentist:** We had great help with the horses to get all the dental work done. Dr. Taylor was so patient with the horses and the volunteers and took his time explaining everything. The cost this year was \$3,495 and well worth the expense.



## Fun with the Horses



Everyone loves watching the horses race out into a field full of fresh grass. It is not a good idea to deliberately scare your horses to watch them run. It is fun to slowly expose them to new things and give them a chance to be brave.

One of our young guys at the sanctuary bought a Ghillie suit and wanted to see how the horses would react to him wearing it. He looked like a combination of Bigfoot and a pile of dried grass. (I was afraid the horses would try to eat his suit.) Look closely to see

the yellow arrow pointing to Austin. Brave horses are safer horses!

## For the Love of Horses

The folks here sometimes work long hours. They will stay and help with the farrier, the equine dentist, and the veterinarian. They will patiently help new volunteers learn how to handle the horses gently and treat them with respect. The horses enjoy being together in a herd as nature meant it to be. Rough handling will only upset the horses and cause stress in all the horses.

The horses here will often walk up to you if you call their name. I was just outside with four volunteers and the horses were coming up to enjoy a brushing. We don't want to remove all of their winter hair yet. We are just removing the loose hair that is causing them to feel itchy. The older horses need to retain their winter hair until the their new coats have a chance to grown in more so they don't get cold when the temperature drops at night.

Even Honey came up to be brushed by Joyce. Ginger stood back not sure she was ready for that much handling. It just takes time with horses like these two to allow them to decide when each is ready to accept the attention. You cannot force a horse and expect them to develop a positive relationship with you.

When the horses are put up twice a day for their feed a soft line is used gently over their neck. There is no tugging or pulling. We ask the horse to walk with us.

I want to express my appreciation for your generosity in support of the Horse Protection Society. Your personal commitment was incredibly helpful and allowed us to provide all the needs for the horses this month.

### *In loving memory of our daughter, Kristen. By Barbara & Mark Hinds*

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**The Perfect Horse**



The picture tells the whole story! This depiction brings tears to my eyes because this is what we want for every horse.

Last month you read about Melanie and the family’s adventure in finding their first horse. Melanie told almost everyone that she was not willing to ever repeat the experience. Sugar Daddy is keeping their horse company until they can find another horse.

When the gal called that had Tusca, and wanted us to take in the three other horses, I remembered the horse in the corner of the picture and thought, “This might be the right horse for Melanie.”

Thunder is a stunning horse, and watching him prance around is like poetry put to music. After his bath, the white on his coat glows. As his weight and nutrition improve the dark part of his hair will come in black. He is still off on his top line, but he is gaining as he should. The hooves are going to take months to grow out and be sound. Shoes are necessary for the front hooves to help them to heal and keep the creak from opening again to the coronary band.