

Remember the veterans that gave their lives in return for our freedom.

**Think of Things to be Thankful For**

*This is still the land of the free, where we have the opportunities to fulfill all of our dreams.*

*What is occurring at the present time is just a bump in the road of life. Staying at home may be the best possible thing for some people. Folks are planting gardens, writing to people they care about, studying something of interest, helping their children with school lessons, finding the kitchen and cooking healthy meals, and some people will be counting rolls of toilet paper and wondering where they are going to store all of them.*

*I hope everyone is taking advantage of the chance for an extended vacation at home. I am proud of the people who took the request seriously to protect themselves, their family, and friends, by remaining at home and taking precautions when they have to leave their home.*

*We pray that people will be able to financially recover quickly.*



## New Arrivals

I was working on starting to set up the May newsletter with the stories we presently had written when the phone rang. It was one of the officers of Rowan County Animal Shelter. He told me they were picking up two horses that had been released by the owner, and I suggested they bring the horses on to HPS rather than stress the horses by moving them twice.

The first one off the stock trailer was maybe a dusty Palomino or a Cremello or a really dirty white/gray. Until he has some good feed and a bath, it is impossible to tell. The belly is too fat and usually that indicates a heavy parasite load.

The mare has some issues that were noticeable right away. Animal control officers were unloading the horses, and she slipped. It cause a small nick on the side of her pastern. She looks like a sorrel with a black mane and tail. Good nutrition may bring out some black on her legs, and then she would be called a bay. The horses colors almost always change once they are being fed correctly and they shed the old coat. One of her front knees is the size of a lemon and she has a strange growth about an inch long and 3/4 inch wide growing out of the front of the right hock. I have never seen anything quite like this before.



Both horses need to gain weight, the mare is thinner at about a low 3 on the Henneke Body scoring. The two horses are reported to be Quarter Horses and 10 to 12 years old.

## Field Rotation

By Melanie Ruscoe

We knew we were going to have a severe problem when our hay guy gave us the count on the bales that were left. You know that feeling, a punch to the gut followed by scrambling of thoughts that lead to nowhere good. Thankfully, Joanie has been through this before and could draw on her previous experience. She is always good at asking others for their thoughts as well, so we came up with a few ideas, some good, some discarded. One idea that we gave serious thought and planning to was field rotation.

So here at HPS, we have several fields that are fenced off that the horses do not have unlimited access. We have the front field, which is where we usually put in our new rescue babies. Then we have the side field, which we typically reserve for our older horses that need their peace and quiet (Peaches is the current resident here). We have the arena field, which we have fenced off so that when we are doing our training program, the horses in training are separated from the other horses while we work with them. Then we have our back field, which is large and grows some splendid looking grass. The pond field is always open to the horses.

When we talked about field rotation, we were doing it with the thought that if the horses had access to a new environment with green grass, they would be less inclined to eat the hay. Never did I imagine the excitement every new day would bring to the horses. When I finish meds on them, and the last one is turned out of their stall, they begin calling back and forth. I love to hear them neigh! They all stand between barn 1 and 2, just watching me intently. Some try to read my mind and run to the back-pasture fence. If I don't head in that direction, then they run-up to the front condos, wondering if I will open them up so they can go in the front field. As the weeks went on, they got pretty good at determining which field it was that I would be opening! The only hitch is when it's raining. We've decided if it's raining, we will keep the fields shut. This is because the horses become so excited when they are open, that they run around like crazy, bucking and kicking and shouting for joy. Not only does this tear the fields up, but it could also cause unnecessary injuries in their excitement. Some of you may have seen the videos posted to Instagram and Facebook of these bursts of energy.

You may be wondering, has this saved us any hay usage? It certainly has! We've accomplished our goal on that end, but what we weren't counting on was the stimulation it has given the herd! I love to see their joy and excitement, and the extra kicker is the horses are getting more exercise as well. We created a schedule that each of the fields has a week's rest so that it can replenish. The hay that had to be purchased and trucked in will last us until the local fields can be cut and stored.



“. . . My wealth is not possessions but enjoyment.”

~Henry David Thoreau ~

## Fun at the Rescue

The gals in the training program are getting extra help from Austin, who is doing super helping with their training. Austin explains things in a different way since he was trained at college for the Equestrian Team. He is also working with Ginger to help put her under saddle.



We welcome Mary and her help here. Mary took one look at the little tool shed behind the house and said, "I'm good at organizing if you want to get this cleaned out." Mary, Melanie, Christina, and I had set up tables, and everything was pulled out and sorted. It was amazing how much trash had collected in the building and the things that belonged in the building we call "Man-world." There were three large trash cans full of junk and two large piles of paint, boxes, and paper.

Joyce backed up her SUV and filled the back-end to haul off some of the stuff. The shed was swept out, and things were put back in an orderly fashion. Some of us had been wearing blinders to avoid seeing and thinking about all the work to clean out what had been dumped in the little building. It took Mary to get us organized to get the job done.

The metal roof on the little shed needs to be repainted. The block the building was constructed of needs some repointing and then we would like to paint the block. The door needs gluing and painting and we will have a good looking little shed.



Stacey took over the vegetable garden this summer. Planting and maintaining a garden is good for the soul. Working in soil is a healthy pass time for everyone, and since so many folks are at home, why not put in a vegetable garden. All our beds are raised, which makes working on them so much easier. Each year we add more compost from our vast pile. The smallest raised bed is for herbs with some of the usual varieties. There are three other raised beds double the size of the small bed. We get free mulch from the tree trimming companies. It is important for us to only get oak mulch. It has proved to cut down on the weeding.

Typically, the gardens get planted, and then I am off to Colorado for three weeks. When I return, the tomato plants have taken over along with the weeds. We get a few tomatoes, and everything else is destroyed. My trip has been postponed indefinitely this year.

The horses have to be cared for, and the gals will often stay or come early since the "Stay at home order" gets boring.

The flower gardens in the front yard are being reworked this year for new planting and compost to be added. Last year we enjoyed the pansies that survived the winter until the chickens ate every one. We replanted the pansies after the chickens were provided a large fenced area.

Lantana is one of the many flowers that does wonderfully planted in the composted manure. The ones we planted last year are coming back and we purchased a few more.

## Reminiscing about 2008

HPS tries to keep our finger on the pulse of the economy in the country. We see the high figures of unemployment and realize that all of the advances made with the economy in the last three years are being eroded away, leaving many people with severe financial issues.

Just like in 2008, some people will not suffer any problems or loss of income, while others may lose their jobs, business, and home. As the economy recovered, so did the contributions for the rescued horses. **(Cont. on Page 4)**



## Reminiscing about 2008 (Cont. from Page 3)

The country is already in a recession with an average of 10% unemployment and as of the first of April, North Carolina has an 8.8% unemployment. It saddens all of us here at the sanctuary to realize that some folks will suffer illness and many financial losses. We pray for all people! Many of you are already generously helping. Donations will be impacted negatively, and we need to ask each person who has not aided the horses this year to donate and for others to increase their yearly contributions. Please help us be able to take in all the horses that need us.

There is nothing else we can do at the present time. All fundraisers had to be postponed. Thank you for caring!

## News from the Herd

**Equine Dental:** Dr. Bryan Taylor has been taking care of the herd's teeth for years. Dr. Bryan is an equine dentist and only does equine dentistry. It can take two to three days, depending on Dr. Bryan's time. The geldings' private parts are easier to clean while they are still slightly sedated. We do the geldings the first day. The mares' udders also need to be cleaned. These cleanings need to be done more often than once a year. It is easier to get the whole herd cleaned when the horses have been sedated.

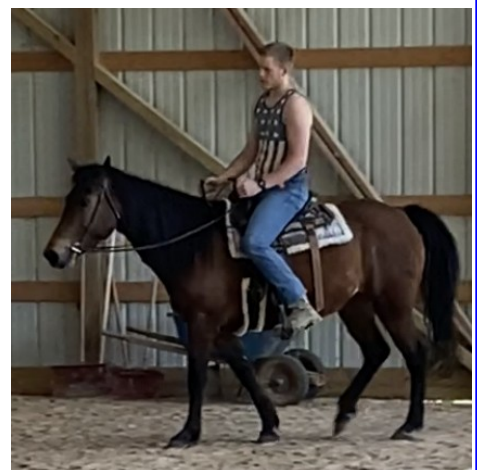
Some horses will rub the hair off their tail if their private parts need cleaning. The other time horses will rub their tails is if they have a high parasite load. This is always a huge expense and is essential for the well-being of the horses.

**Tusca and Lanie** have a great time playing together. The pictures show Tusca running Lanie's zipper up and down. Lanie brings out the silly in so many of the horses.

**Sparrow** is being worked with and is doing great. Lanie has put a saddle on her and had a short ride.

**Natchez** acts like he will attack any horse that comes close when he is in his stall to be fed. Shinnook and Natchez act like arch enemies while Natchez is in his stall. When they are out, the two seem just to avoid each other. Until they both tried to go throw a stall door at the same time. Natchez crashed into the latch on the door and ripped a large hole in his side. It was an emergency visit at the cost of \$470.00. It is one of the deep types of wound that has to be left open so it can be flushed twice a day.

**Ginger** has been started under saddle after nine years of no training! Austin has been doing an excellent job working with Ginger.



*The beautiful cards and messages of encouragement are greatly appreciated. Your caring raises our spirits when a burden may seem difficult. It warms our hearts to know how much you care. We are concerned for the well-being of all of our devoted folks who love the horses, and our prayers are for you. **Thank you, and may every one of you be blessed!***

Missy Anderson	Susan Kotraba	Melanie Ruscoe
Sybil P. Athey	Carolyn & Dr. Gary Lamson	Robert Schantz
Lynn & Paul Baldwin	Kim Lane	Suzanne & Elmer Scott
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Virginia M. Johnson	Beth Rehm	Lisa & Doug Wood
Randi Kinney	Betty & Harold Rhoads	Rhonda Wright
Joellyn Kobler	Jo & Mick Rowell	Linda M. Yarrington

*In honor of Roberta. My dear friend and life long horse lover.  
By Barbara Grigos*

***In loving Memory of Cricket, April, and Melero - the horses who  
blessed my life. By Kim Lane***

*In memory of my husband, Ben Knox White. By Dr. Barbara White*

***In memory of Carl Overcash. By Jo & Mick Rowell***

*In memory of Smoky, Lucky and Nugget. By Missy Anderson*

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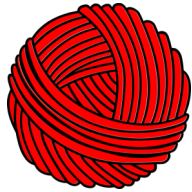
Horse Protection Society  
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[hps@horseprotection.org](mailto:hps@horseprotection.org)  
 This will save money in printing & postage.  
 THANK YOU!

**More Alternatives to Toilet Paper**

- Cotton Balls** not too expensive to buy, and it should be easy to use.
- Bunch yarn or string** together to use as a wipe.
- Sanitary pads, the thin kind** are an expensive alternative.
- Old T-shirts** cut in squares. They can be thrown away or washed and reused.
- None of the above should be flushed down the toilet.



I stepped out the back door and noticed a plastic bulging bag sitting on the porch. Inside was a unique prodigious gift—a six-inch diameter roll of toilet paper with a one-inch diameter cardboard roll in the center.

I later learned who the mysterious person was who dropped off the fun gift that made me laugh.