



Volume 15 Issue 10

NEWSLETTER OF HORSE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA INC

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

OVER HERD



2012

Unusual New Resident



Deb Eldridge and I were standing near the front of Barn 1, when Deb pointed out a furry creature running towards the entrance of the training arena. Deb said she had seen the little critter before down near a large old wood pile. It was moving rapidly away from us and it was impossible to identify. We knew it was not a raccoon, fox, ground hog or skunk.

Later Deb was able to catch a perfect picture of the little fur ball. It was a huge surprise to realize we had a wild mink on the property. The white on the chin is the perfect give away that this is a mink. Good bye chicken eggs and

chickens if our new resident remains. We also did not want Turk, our livestock guard dog, to kill the mink. The little fur ball needed to be captured and moved to a safe environment.

We consulted with Bob Pendergrass at Dan Nicholas Park, who was excited about finding a wild mink in our area. He did not feel the park was the right place for a mink and made suggestions for a much larger nature preserve with better water and hundreds of acres to keep the little critter safe. He stressed how important it was to have a large body of water for the mink since they really like to eat fish, frogs and crayfish. We think he caught and ate one of our expensive grass eating carp we bought this summer to help keep the pond cleaner. The right size fish skeleton was found by the side of the pond. I hope the mink appreciates the expensive dinner it had at our expense!

My next call was to a Wildlife Control Agent who put us in touch with Don. He was very helpful in how to set up and bait a couple of traps. His suggestion was to bait the traps for several days and after the mink got used to coming in and eating the bait to set them. On day three one of the traps was missing it's bait so I kept baiting the traps for several more days before setting them.

It was a nice rainy morning and I went down to check the traps. A small black face with a little white stripe down it peered back out at me, not our mink! Lisa and I developed a plan to turn the little skunk loose. We took a long pole and put a hook on the end, hoping to be able to pull up the door from behind the trap door. A large plastic bag was laid over the trap. Plan A did not work and we just had to reach down and pull up the door and hook it. We ran off a safe distance and the skunk did not come out, so we decided to let the skunk exit when it wanted to.

The traps will be moved to a new location and we will start over. Everyone here was surprised to hear of a wild mink and wants to see it when it is caught. We will keep you updated on the adventure of the mink.

Over many years we have had different critters make their home here. There was the mama fox that raised her babies here dining on 27 of our chickens. Then there was the pot belly pig that had to be caught and sent to a pig rescue. One morning there was a full size female peacock down by the old buildings. Another time a full size male farm goose appeared. We had the summer of kittens that members took and had vetted and found homes for, over twenty kitties in total. We had no idea where they were coming from. There have been ground hogs that the horses love to chase and of course our 5 and 6 feet rat snake couples. Our snakes have lived here for many years and were not happy when we took down the old buildings. Each of the critters has great stories attached to them.

Free Grocery Coupons and Help Feed the Rescued Horses

This is so easy and you get to feed your family for less and help to feed the starved horses too. Just go to :

<http://www.commonkindness.com/> To the right is a "Find" block for nonprofits. Type in *Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc.* A page will come up for you to sign in under our name. Then, when you print coupons and use them at your local grocery store, a small percentage comes to HPS. Why spend more for groceries when you can save using coupons and donate at the same time? Thank you for helping.



News from the Herd

The start of a new month always brings plans for things that need to be done. Funding is at the top of the list! It has been a difficult summer to meet all our bills. The past months have brought us an abnormal amount of horrendously starved horses. It takes so many months to bring them back to full health! Now it is time to have dental work done on 8 horses and we need your help to pay the bill, approximately \$1,000.00 plus.

Baby's court date was put off again due to issues about the investigation on the property, the warrant and anything else the defendant's lawyer could come up with to complain about. The judge asked for arguments and case law from both the Assistant District Attorney and the defendant's lawyer to be presented by September 17th. I have no idea how long the judge will take to make a decision. I mailed the equine cases to the ADA that I knew pertained to this case. One of the things the judge was concerned about was the statement in the warrant "Deprived of necessary sustenance." This comes right out of the cruelty to animals state law! This phrase is the same under child welfare laws and is easily defined: Deprived of necessary sustenance – legal meaning found often under child welfare - 'Sustenance is "that which supports life; food; victuals; provisions [.]" . Statute, in the use of the word "sustenance," means that necessary food and drink which is sufficient to support life and maintain health.' I thought the judge would have overruled that complaint. Who knows when the case may go to court.

Baby had a gas colic and required two visits from her vet, but recovered quickly. The change from such hot weather to cooler nights can cause issues with some horses. Baby is still very vulnerable and has to be watched closely.

Zuni needed eye removal which was finally able to be done thanks to Deb D'Amato making sure we had some of the funds towards the surgery. The eye ball was hugely compromised by a large sarcoma that should have been removed years ago. Dr. Mary Gochnauer took her time and tried to get every tiny piece of the cancer removed. The success of this type of eye enucleation normally has a 90 to 95% cure rate. We are very hopeful for Zuni and her on-going health. She is on heavy anti-oxidants to help her remain cancer free. Dr. Bob Gochnauer told us we should know about the return of the cancer, or not, in the next 9 to 10 months. A huge thank you to the other folks who contributed towards Zuni's surgery, which cost over \$1,000.00. Her stitches have been removed and everything looks great!

Tacoma went off to a new home this month. We feel it is going to be just the right place for him. It is always a happy day when a rescued horse finds a quality home.

Phoenix was still having issues so we had digital radiographs done of his back. It looks as if he went over backwards, before he came back to HPS, damaged the vertebra and broke his back. One vertebra is laying over on the one next to it. A piece may have broken off and this may be the cause of a continual infection track that is coming out on the side of his leg. He is in continual pain and unfortunately there is no hope for a recovery.

Taiga's greasy heel is doing much better and is about 50% cured. The swelling in her back legs has been somewhat reduced. She is our new black Standardbred.

Mingo, the Saddlebred that came in with Taiga, is gaining weight very slowly and we had to put him on a round of Dexamethasone to help aid his breathing along with the Albuterol he is on daily.

Cree, the horse that was dumped in Chatom County, should be gaining his weight a little faster. We think he is about 30 years old and have increased his feed again. We are also hoping dental work will help him have an easier time eating hay.

Five of our recovering horses got their rabies vaccination.

Overall the herd is doing great but there are always horses we are watching closely.

HONORS and MEMORIALS

In honor of Mary Lou Kicinski's birthday
By Dottie Rebham

In memory of Bill Strain of Granby, CT
on what would have been his birthday.
By Tara & Tim Boyce

**Happy Birthday, Pam Currie,
olde friend.
By Carolyn J. Tice**

*In honor of Thelma Patterson Houch
By Rebecca Pless*

In honor of Emma Joy Munday's
12th birthday 9/23/2012
By Bonnie & Jack Munday

In memory of Sandra Clark Humphrey
By Rebecca Pless

Monthly Donations & Contributors

Thank you to all our donors. You have enabled us to take in those who were not so fortunate to have regular feedings and the proper care they needed. 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.

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Venting!!

Today we have so many choices of high quality feed that will provide good nutrition for our horses that I will never understand why someone would choose All Stock or Sweet feed. I think these same people buy the cheapest dog and cat food too. And when they run out they do not feel compelled to replenish the food right away...it may be days and days. Like the woman who told me she could only buy one bale of hay per week for two horses and when it was gone there was nothing she could do about it.

One of the other things that drives me crazy is the rough handling of these gentle creatures. The minute there is a small issue with a horse, the horse is always blamed. 99% of the time it is the person causing the problem. Many of these people change horses more often than their cars. No one is willing to delve into the issues of what is really taking place, friends make sympathetic noises when it is announced they have another new horse. Nothing is ever mentioned about what happened to the past horse. Why do people have such a difficult time looking at themselves and figuring out what they are doing wrong? Too many people do not realize that riding when a horse is stiff or sitting wrong can hurt the horse every time they ride.

I cannot believe the people who think one size saddle fits all horses and because they paid a bunch for the saddle they are not willing to look at the fit, nor understand how to fit a saddle. All you have to do is add another blanket or buy a therapeutic saddle pad is how their thinking goes.... Wrong! Of course, the horse is still suffering every time it is ridden. Sometimes the people will pay for massage therapy, chiropractic adjustments and veterinarian checks to no avail. The horse still misbehaves and/or does not want to be caught and ridden. Some of these horses get sent to trainer after trainer and still no one looks at the owner and how they ride or the tack they are using.

The people who get a totally inappropriate horse for themselves or for a child are doing a terrible disservice for the horse and themselves. My favorite is the family that picks a young stallion for a small child so they can grow up together. Does this make any sense to anyone?

I really dislike the auctions and sales of the wild Mustangs. There are few people who have any idea how to tame one of these poor frightened Mustangs and way too often they end up terribly neglected. One of my favorite phone calls was from a couple who had not been around horse since they were young kids and bought two Mustangs. They brought them home, turned them out into the field and had not been able to catch them in 2 years. Now they wanted HPS to come get their wild horses. I suggested they call one of several trainers that specialize in training Mustangs and wished them luck.

The latest phone call was from a couple that paid 1,000's of dollars for a young horse at an auction only to find out that the horse had health issues. Surprise!!! Buyer beware is the rule when buying a horse. Unless you have an ironclad purchase contract there is little you can do to get your money back and then you may have to go to court. Good luck collecting a judgment when the horse turns out to be different than represented or drugged!

There are all these problem horses I hear about and never does the owner say they made mistakes, it's always the horses' fault. A huge variety of horses come to the sanctuary that have been abused by past owners in so many terrible ways and normally we can quiet them within three days so they can be handled safely. We teach them to trust again and it takes time and patience to put them back under saddle once ready. People get a new horse and want to go riding within a very short window of time. Why should this horse trust their new people when they have done nothing to promote a bonding and trust with the horse first. This takes time and for each horse the time is different. Rush the process and the horse may never trust its new person. These wonderful, quiet creatures will only put up with so much before they will act out. They are trying to tell their people, but no one is listening!

Come to the sanctuary and you will be greeted by the horses coming up to people looking for attention and to see who you are. We don't create this atmosphere with treats, but with the horses once again trusting people. This sets the stage to get them ready to go back under saddle, but the work is not done yet. The correct ground work is needed that is fun for the horse and develops good communication between the horses and soon-to-be riders. *The Indoor Training Arena has proved to be invaluable!*

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Solve your Christmas Shopping Issues

The Horse Protection Society is offering a 2013 calendar featuring pictures of the rescued horses. Place your orders now since we have a limited number available. The cost per calendar is only \$15.00 and we will be happy to mail it to you for only an additional \$1.00 per calendar.

Please remember to add the rescued horses to your Christmas gift list. They are so deserving!



January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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 **For a \$25 or more donation, the named person can receive "Over Herd" for 1 year.
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THANK YOU!

Please help if you shop at Food Lion!

This is the easiest fundraiser of all time! HPS receives a quarterly check from Food Lion that is based upon the number of people we have signed up for the Community Rewards program and what they spend. At the present time we only have **272** people listed on this program. This equates to an average of **\$311.00** a quarter or about **\$1,244.00** a year. Just think what this could mean for income each year if HPS had a thousand folks signed up!

Just fill out the following form and either email it to HPS or drop it in the mail to us. Please sign up a few friends while you are at it and who knows, maybe we will reach two thousand people signed up for the Community Rewards Program.

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Same low prices and you can help to feed the starved horses each time you shop. **Thank you**

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