



# OVER HERD

## Sierra Returns to the Sanctuary

HPS rescued Sierra in November of 2007. She was the worst starved horse to ever come to the sanctuary. The veterinarian just shook his head and exclaimed, “Joanie, you can’t save them all.” We had never seen a



horse in such degraded condition before or since. Even the muscles around the rectum had been reabsorbed. There was just a four inch hole for a rectum and the diarrhea poured out. A side tooth in the jaw was three inches long. I don’t think she had ever had any dental care. She looked as if she had not shed out in years and Sierra’s poor body was covered with rain rot. Today, the only sign that still exists is crooked white lines up on her back caused by the severe infected rain rot.

Once again our safety net brings a placed horse back to the sanctuary. Her family never thought Sierra would live so long to make it to 30 years old since most horses don’t live that long. The family was happy to take in an older horse and felt her end time would come about when their daughter had out grown her or was getting ready for college. They

were very aware of the horrific condition Sierra was in when she arrived at the sanctuary. This can be a factor in a horse’s life expectance or not since we have seen so many of the rescues reach ages into their forties. Often when we place a horse for a young person, we expect to get them back. Kids lose interest, outgrow the horse, and get involved with other things. Sierra was placed with a wonderful family for seven years who took great care of her for all those years.

Some of our volunteers have been here and remember how we were all concerned whether Sierra could possibly live. The loving care, good feed and special supplements returned her to perfect health. Everyone was delighted with the family she was placed with. They built her muscles to where she could happily take long trail rides and not tire.



*(Cont. on Page 2)*

## News from the Herd

**All the rescued horses** are doing great! The cooler weather has caused them to be friskier and they are spending more time eating hay and less time standing around in the barns sleeping. When we get some rain and the fields turn green again, we may not be able to get the horses out of the fields.

**The pond field** was so peaceful this Sunday morning. Just sitting, watching nature, and listen to the birds in the woods. On the dam side of the pond is full of turtles sunning themselves. There were over 100 geese, at least 35 ducks, a white egret and a green heron. Isn't this too early for the geese to be gathering to fly south? The geese are a problem! They are grazers and eat the horses grass. Our neighbor shots over their heads when the geese come to his pond.

**New Thoroughbred Mare** has been difficult to help her find just the right name. We always try to pick name that we feel will fit the horse. One of the gals had a dream about the name Saragon and this is the name that she picked. This is a name from ancient times.

Even though she has not gained all her weight yet, everyone who meets Saragon thinks she is wonderful and beautiful.

## Honors and Memorials

*"In loving memory of Dakota who left us too soon on October 2, 2007." By Roberta*

*In celebration of the life of Tim Upchurch. Tim and Lucy spent many weekends riding together. By Sally and James Ott*

*In memory of Padre, Anza and Baby. By Jodi Douthit*

*In honor of Robin and Jimmy Clark 40th anniversary. From the Horses*

*In memory of Sandra Dermer a true caring friend who loved the horses. Sandra will be solely missed. Joanie Benson*

## ***Sierra Returns to the Sanctuary (Cont. from Page 1)***

Of course, Sierra remembered the sanctuary. We opened the back field and all the horses headed into it to graze. Then we turned Sierra out and she headed directly to the pond field. It didn't take long and she was happily running and exploring. Several of the horses were still in the field, but she didn't seem the least bit interested in them.

Without our safety net for families to be able to returning the horses to HPS, I hazarded to think what would happen to Sierra at 30 years old. Who would want her or know how to care for an older horse? The next family might be fine.... But then what?

HPS welcomes Sierra back to the sanctuary and because of all you kind folks who help to support the horses; Sierra can live out her life here with good care and love.

*Please continue to aid the horses like Sierra so they have a safe haven to retire for whatever time they have left.*

## *A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful Contributors*

Sybil P. Athey  
Tony J. Bell  
Carol & William Bellinghausen  
Joan Benson  
Jane B. & John D. Billingsley  
Teresa M. Bonk  
David Brown  
Diane & T.F. Brown  
Susan Buzza  
Imogene W. Caldwell  
Pam & Steve Carlton  
Judith D Cashwell  
Frances B. Caudle  
K.V. Clancy  
Robin & Jimmy Clark  
William J. Donovan Jr.  
Jodi Douthit  
Mary May Gillespie  
Carlene Gogtolin  
Brenda C. Hemperley  
Dr. Leslie C. Henson  
Cynthia Hever  
Senter & Marie Jackson  
Randi Kinney  
Nancy Kirkner

Norma Laughter  
Judy LeGrett  
Myra Mahoney  
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Robert A. McCardle  
Thomas McGuire  
Jill L. & Charles Messer, Jr.  
Barbara A. Moore  
Debbie O. Morris  
Sally V. Ott  
Linda Painter  
Paula C. Phillips  
Melissa Pletcher  
Cheryl A. & Thomas Powers  
Betsy & Harold Rhoads  
Jo & Mick Rowell  
Dr. Robert H. Schantz  
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Harriet A. Seabrook  
Gail M. Shinn  
Lisa M. Slatt  
Sharon R. & Jerry Smith  
Karen Soyk  
Laura B. & Willard Thompson  
Elaine D. Towner

Rita A. & George Tucker  
Michelle E. Ugolini  
Angel Vannoy  
Verizon Foundation  
John Vinal  
Dr. Barbara G. White  
Ann L. Whitworth  
Linda Yarrington  
Nancy J. Zuilkowski

### **The Colts**

Chicklet and Chuckles are doing great. Lori and her daughter, Lacey have been slowly working with them to help get them ready for future training. They bring things for the colts to get use to like a large ball that Chuckles wanted to eat.

We order our dog food over the Internet from Petco, lower price and free delivery. This time the food came with a free small football shaped rubber squeaky toy. I showed it to Penny (12 year old house dog) and she was not the least bit interested in it. She smelled it and seemed uninterested in the ball or playing with me with the ball. It lay on the floor for a couple of days in the same place.

Lori and Lacey came to brush Eclipse and do a little work with the colts. I picked up the ball and went out to give the ball to Lori for Chuckles to see how he liked it. Penny followed me outside. In a little bit I checked to see how things were going. There was Penny with the ball firmly clamped in her mouth trying to figure out how to get out of the front field and get throw the vinyl fencing. She had never ventured into the front field before! Lori told me Penny followed her closely in the field and obvious want the ball back. Penny brought the ball back into the house and hid it in the office.

You can't be at the sanctuary for long until something takes place to make you laugh out loud!

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## “ Wild and Free

When he stood trembling with fear before the captor, bruised from falls by restrictive rope, made submissive by choking, clogs, cuts and starvation, he had lost what made him so beautiful and free..... One out of every three mustangs captured in south Texas was expected to die before they were tamed. The process often broke the spirit of the other two.”

*J. Frank Dobi from “The Mustang –Wild and Free.”*

It is so important to heal the body of the rescued horses, but the healing of the spirit is also essential. The way we work with the horses is to help prevent stress of any kind. We want the horses to bond and build trust with people once again. Most of the horses are on the road to rebuilding their spirit before they are fully recovered from the wounds on their body they come to us with. Some horses take longer and they are like soldiers returning from war.

If we look at a change of location to the sanctuary after a long trailer ride from the horse’s point of view, confined to a smaller area to start, normally in with a new horse, different kinds of feed, all the hay they want to eat, and supplement they have never had and people they do not know. They can see many horses in the fields and they often can’t make contact with them for a while. Even having fresh water everyday may be novel to them. Some horses act like they have never seen salt and mineral blocks or spent time in a stall. So many things for the horses to get used to!

The gentleness of the folks who care for the horses helps to brings peace to them and their spirit.