



# OVERHERD

Volume 11 Issue 9 September 2009

Only 18 Months Old *By Joanie Benson*

## ~ HPS on FaceBook

Visit us on FaceBook to interact with other HPS members and keep in touch with happenings at the sanctuary!

~ Join us for New Member Orientation on **Saturday, September 12th at 10 a.m.** Orientation offers an overview of HPS including its history, mission, policies, and facilities along with tips on handling the horses at the sanctuary.

~ Thank you to those that have allowed us to email the newsletter. If there is anyone else that would enjoy receiving Over Herd via email, please let us know. This saves HPS precious pennies!

It is not uncommon for these poor creatures to be handed off from person to person. First the breeder gave him away. The breeder told him the colt would grow large enough for him to ride. I did not meet this man, but there are very few Paso Fino horses that are large enough to carry a normal size man.



HPS received a phone call from the next person in line. They read an ad for a giveaway little Paso Fino. The folks were so appalled by the condition of this little creature. He was in a tiny enclosure because when he was turned out with the other horses, they beat him up. Well, yes, he is a little stud colt. What did he expect! (*He still has a good many marks on his body and face that we are doctoring*). The couple could not leave him there. They have other horses so knew to call a vet right away. The news was not good from the vet! He had pneumonia, was double chryptorchid (Neither testicle had descended) and has a part of intestine that come down through into the sheath area. The cost of his care and the needed surgery was more than they could afford. He was treated with antibiotics for the week they had him.

One of our veterinarians, Dr. Kristi Shupe does not feel that it is a piece of intestine in the sheath area, *(cont pg 3)*

## Will This Be the End of Equine Slaughter? *By Joanie Benson*

The European Union and Canada has finally realized that American horsemeat is full of harmful chemicals. Some of the prohibited chemicals for human consumption such as wormers, Phenylbutazone (Bute), steroids, and a host of other deadly medications that can cause serious medical issues when ingested by humans. Studies have indicated medical issues such as birth defects, anemia, and cancer are brought on when humans consume these chemicals.

As early as 1976 there was an epidemic of trichinellosis caused by the consumption of infected horsemeat. Twelve additional outbreaks have accorded in Europe. These outbreaks were blamed on horsemeat from the U. S.

Presently there is no testing for dangerous chemicals in American horses being sold for food. The European Union responsible for health safety realized the danger of imported horsemeat being sold for food. *(cont pg 3)*

“Psssst. Hey, Blackfoot – you got any clear nail polish?”

“If I did, Treasure, I wouldn’t give you any. You have been nothing but ugly to me since I came to this barn.”

“Whatever, that’s because you will not pull yourself away from Firelight long enough to socialize with any of us! Anyone? Anyone have any clear nail polish?”

“Don’t ask me Treasure, that kind of stuff is for you ladies of the barn – what do you need it for anyway?”

“Well, Padre, I have a run in my stocking and it is driving me crazy, and no, it is not just for us ladies – there are a couple of crazy geldings running around here with some knee highs on pretending they don’t know what they are, but they sure do.” “You see, some of us have an awful problem with flies biting our legs. They get some of us so bad we bleed!” “So, our great caretakers came up with a wonderful idea...instead of just using the fly spray that works fine for most of you all, they put some of these knee highs over our lower legs too – this helps keep those darn flies off and it is hard for them to bite through the nylon.” “There are only a couple of problems us girls have talked about, we were hoping that maybe they can get us something a little more fashionable – nude color? Really? When was the last time you saw a nude horse? Also, the darn things tend to roll down by the end of the day, we equine haven’t figured out a way to get them back up by ourselves. When we were talking about it the other day, Wind Star whispered to me something about garter belts. Don’t know what they are – but it sounds like they would do the trick!”

“Psssst. Hey, Blackfoot - you got any garter belts?”

By Treasure with clerical assistance from Katie Simmons

In Memory of Queenie. A short time with me --  
Remembered Forever. From Dottie Rebhan

In Love and Memory of my horse, Bobby Lee.  
From Candy Woody

In Memory of Sam, beloved thoroughbred  
partner of Kris Arey. From Janet & Lou Elmo

In Memory of Judy Tucker, kind-hearted  
soul...with a soft spot for all four-leggers!  
From Kathy and Circle of Friends

In Loving Memory of Wooly, HPS house dog.  
From Roberta McCardle

In Memory of Linda Ann Braund of Wake  
County who loved and cared about all ani-  
mals. By HPS

**In Honor of Daphne Martin. By Ashley Martin**  
**In celebration of Daphne Martin's Birthday.**  
**By J. Morgan Wright**

(18 months cont) but a hard knot from an injury. We also had a blood panel done.

We have started Chico on some good feed and will increase the amounts slowly. Of course, the soaked alfalfa cubes are a must along with a long list of supplements. We have to get him built up some before it will be safe for him to have the surgery. He desperately needs to be gelded, and we need to figure out what the lump is. It is difficult to tell how extensive the surgery is going to be until the surgeon can get in to see what is really going on. Dr. Meeker in Mocksville does many chryptorchid surgeries and feels both repairs should be done at the same time.

I am not sure Chico has ever been fed correctly and is only 12 hands 2 inches tall. (50 inches) Remember he is 18 months old and the size of most four or five month olds only much skinnier. Most Paso Finos mature to at least 14.2 to over 15 hands. To reach 14.2 hands he will have to grow another eight inches! His poor body shows the ravages of starvation and he is roach backed, cow hocked and so very thin. We are hopeful that most of his problems will straighten out with good nutrition. Due to his horrific poor start in life, he may not be able to be trained until he is five or six years old.

Now would be a wonderful time to become an Angel sponsor for this poor little boy. His expenses are going to be high and we could use all the help we can get to care for him and the other horses.



*Anza ~ Rode off to her new home Aug 5th*

***Quote of the Month:***

A good rider can hear his horse speak to him, a great rider can hear his horse whisper, but a bad rider won't hear his horse even if it screams at him.

***Author Unknown***

(Slaughterhouses cont) The new EU rules could also halt the import of horsemeat from Mexico since they would have to follow the same new rules.

The slaughterhouses would like to do more testing on the kidneys and liver of slaughtered horses to solve the problem of contamination from chemicals. The European Union would like the horse quarantined for 180 days before slaughter for the harmful chemicals to be expelled from the horses' systems. There are inherent problems with keeping the horses up in feedlots for this length of time. Shipping fever is prevalent in the horses transported as horses are to slaughter. The illness does not usually have time to show up since the horses are slaughtered as soon as possible. Strangles would be another very contagious illness that could spread through a feedlot of horses. If antibiotics were given, then the 180 days would start over again after the last treatment. These new rules are due to be enacted April 2010.

The slaughterhouses state that they could not afford to keep the horses in feedlots for that length of time. It would not be cost effective and they would have to close. (Too Bad!)

In most European countries when a horse is sent to slaughter or sold, the horse has a health history with it. That would be impossible with horses in the U.S. and the way horses are bought that end up on the slaughter trucks.

I pray that this will be the end of U.S. horses being slaughtered since our government will not enact laws to stop the slaughter!

## Sanctuary Update ~ by Joanie Benson

It has been a month none of us would like to repeat. Navajo has been our seriously ill horse. We all are praying for him. He was diagnosed with a viral infection in the gut. To complicate things, one of his catheters became infected and he came down with laminitis.

Navajo was on two antibiotics and he didn't respond to them. We put him on a supplement we have used with great success before named MMS, which is mixed with citric acid. He wouldn't eat it mixed with his feed, so we squirted it down his throat. He has been a good boy about taking his medicine. Once we were able to get the MMS into him, he started eating again. First he would only eat soaked alfalfa cubes and did not want any of his feed. Now he does not want the alfalfa, but will eat his feed. His gut started working again, but he got diarrhea, to get it under control, we added a small scoop of dried beet pulp, and a banana that he loves!

Mojave has EPM and the supplements we have been using are no longer keeping it under control. We are desperate to find a cure for this devastating illness. I ordered a bark that comes from South America named Pau D' Arco that the natives use to kill the malaria protozoa. The big problem with the EPM protozoa is that it gets into the horses brain and spinal cord. It is very difficult to get medication to cross the brain blood barrier. I made the bark into a tea and we have been mixing a ¼ cup with a ¼ cup of DMSO that is left to rest before putting it on the back of Mojave. The DMSO will carry the Pau D' Arco into the blood stream and into the spinal column and brain. We are now trying mixing it with his feed to see if he will eat it. So far he seems to be moving better, but it is too early to tell if this treatment will cure EPM.

Researchers are mixing toltrazuril sulfone (Ponazuil) with DMSO and have found better absorption for the treatment of EPM. They have found that the drugs do not get absorbed well. They are mixing this in the horses feed.

All the other horses are doing well. Our starved babies are gaining weight at an incredible rate and we are not seeing any other health issues with them.

The Equine and Members Training Program is going very well. So many of our wonderful babies are going back under saddle and doing great! Several more of our devoted feeders have joined the program. Some of the latest horses started are Corn Flower, Gold Rush, Blackfoot, Renegade, and Drifter. None of them have given us a minute's problem. Others are just getting ground work to start with.

If you have been thinking about becoming more involved at the sanctuary and have time to join the feeders, we could always use more help. We need more light weight riders for the training program and feeding makes you eligible.

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HPS would like to thank the monthly donors for your continued generosity and love for the horse in our care. You are helping us make the world a better place for horses through education, rescue and rehabilitation.

"Fair Winds & following Seas Padre"

May you run free Padre, From Treasure and Windstar

To help Pumpkin and in Memory of my friend, Don Mason, who died while hiking in NM. From Stanley Lathrop

For Pawnee, the horse rescued on 7/3/09 from Hapmtonville, NC. From Angela Reaves

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It is the mission of the Horse Protection Society of North Carolina Inc. to make the world a better place for horses through education, rescue and rehabilitation.

Founded by Joan Benson and incorporated in 1999, we continue to reach out and to grow. We are always seeking new members.

HPS is a fully incorporated 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. Your donations are the main source of income to support the sanctuary and are eligible for tax deduction.

**Check out our Website:**  
[www.horseprotection.org](http://www.horseprotection.org)