

# OVER HERD

## Rowan Animal Control Calls!

By Joanie Benson

A Rowan County Animal Control officer called to ask if there was anything we could do about two horses he had checked on that really needed to be taken out of the owners care. He had already talked to them about releasing the horses to the Horse Protection Society.

Deborah and I headed over to the same road that last month's two horses had been found abandoned. This time the location was off the road back in a small trailer park. No one was at home and we checked the field behind the trailer for the horses. We found them in a small narrow wooded area that was fenced in with barbed wire. The area was only about as wide as the aisle way of our barn and no more than 35 to 40 feet long with trees and junk in it. The water looked like it had not been changed in a long time and there was no sign of any hay having been fed to them. We left a note on the front door and walked away from horses that looked so sad with their heads hanging over the barbed wire begging for food and to be let out of their small prison. Before we could remove the horses we needed a signed release from the owner. We also wanted to get as much history on the horses as possible.

When we arrived back at HPS the owner called and arrangements were made to pick up the horses that afternoon. When picking up horses there is always the challenge of turning around our 40 foot rig, but we leave the driving to our great driver, Tom McCardle.

The owner had married into a family 20 years ago that owned the horses. She told us that they had been handed down to the different daughters. When one of the daughters left home or lost interest in the horses, it was handed down to the next daughter. The last one was her 16 year old daughter who had the horses turned over to her when she was eight years old. The mother, of



course, blamed the daughter for the terrible condition of the horses. She had left her husband and moved to the trailer in April of 2012 and the horses had been in the small area since they had moved. She said that she had no idea how to take care of them or what to feed them. Her daughter had left town for weeks at the beach and she could not afford to take care of the horses. (I can only hope the horses had better care when the woman was still with her husband.)

*(continued on page 2)*

## Rowan Animal Control Calls! *(continued from page 1)*

An older man arrived in his pickup truck and parked so we could not turn the truck and trailer around. He yelled to Deborah and me, "Give me the halters and I will get the horses." We had to say three times, "No thank you! We will bring the horses out," before he got the message that we were not going to let him touch the horses. He did indicate that he was the renter of the trailer and I would bet he was the person responsible for the horses being in such a tiny area. (We meet the most interesting people!) The trailer was on about an acre of land that could have been fenced in for the horses. Because the man's truck was in the way, Tom had to back the truck and trailer all the way out to the main road.

Deborah feels about black Standardbred Horses as I do about black Tennessee Walkers. Her first horse was a black Standardbred. There is something very special about your very first horse! Deborah was instantly drawn to the skinny black mare. The tattoo on the lip confirmed she is a Standardbred. The mare has some challenging health issues. Her back legs are swollen and she has the worst case of scratches I have ever seen. Scratches is also known as mud fever or mud rash, rain scald, greasy heel, dew poisoning or dew fever. The scientific name of the condition is Pruritus, but I don't think I have ever heard anyone use the term, including veterinarians. It can consist of a line that looks like a gray scar or odd color raised welts. It can be anywhere on a horse's body, but is usually seen on the pastern area (near the hoof area). This condition can be very serious if let go and not correctly cared for.

The second horse is a Saddlebred with a body score of a one. He is a sweet boy and his new name is Mingo. He is not displaying any health issues at the present time that good food will not cure. He is very weak now but that will change when he gets all of his weight back. He is going to be a really good looking boy.

Both horses needed their hooves trimmed and have large worm bellies.

*These two horses took HPS up to 50 horses under our care. The expenses have been horrific. Please help to provide for the rescued horses if at all possible.*





## News from the Herd

**HPS** has never had to close the barn doors to horses in need. Currently though, we have 50 horses at the sanctuary and I do not see where we can squeeze in another horse.

**Phoenix** is still having issues and we are trying acupuncture for the damaged area right in front of his hips. He still has a swollen hind leg and issues with both back legs. He will have his third treatment before the month ends.

**Moon Flower** has been on Albuterol and Dex for very severe breathing issues. Nothing was helping until we put her on a concoction we mix that may cure a fungal or virus infection in horses. The good news is she is improving. The bad news is she now has a serious tendon/ligament issue in her back legs and we are keeping her up in one of the hospital stalls. An ultra sound has been scheduled to see what is transpiring in her back legs. We are praying it is not DSLD.

**Breeze** had to have emergency surgery to remove her blind eye. Shortly before she came in for the morning feed she poked a hole in it. Dr. Bob Gochnauer did a great job and Breeze did not even have to be kept up after the surgery. Within a few hours she was back with the herd sporting a new fly mask.

**Zuni**, the new paint mare with one eye, will have to have her surgery put off due to the cost of Breeze's surgery. She is comfortable and doing very well.

**Tex, Waco, Kodak and Commodore** had a chiropractic adjustment. They are ready to go back under saddle and this is the last step to make sure they will be comfortable. Dr. Lisa Busko does a great job of helping the horses.

**Teton** has a large lump on his jaw and it could be from a kick. The chiropractic veterinarian was unable to determine what was going on or adjust him, even his neck is sore. He is scheduled for digital radiographs.

**The Herd** is enjoying the cooler weather and running around and being silly. All the horses were dewormed this month for parasites. The horses that need to gain weight are all doing great in their recovery from starvation.

*The veterinarian bills will be very high again this month. Please help with a contribution if possible. Thank you!*



## News from the Herd – Left out of August Newsletter

**For** many months now we have been using Mobile Large Animal Veterinary Service. The practice is owned by Dr. Bob Gochnauer and he is in practice with his daughter Dr. Mary Gochnauer and a new veterinarian to the practice, Dr. Olivia Inoue. HPS has been very pleased with the veterinarians because of their exceptional competence and the working relationship. If you are looking for wonderful vets call: 704-528-1717

**49 horses** are presently at the sanctuary. During hot weather we normally do not receive applications for placement. Our costs have risen to unbelievable amounts! If you have not helped to support the horses in a while we need your aid now! Thank you!

**Cloud** needed some blood work to determine if she had metabolic syndrome. Her insulin is too high and she will need special supplements for her thyroid and to help lower the insulin to prevent foundering.

**Phoenix** has had hindquarter issues since he came back to the sanctuary. He had several chiropractic visits and then his right quarter swelled. Dr. Olivia did an ultra sound on the area that showed the infected area. It had to be surgically opened and flushed. Poor guy is not happy about staying up in the hospital stall. The flushing has to be done twice a day and he should heal up fine.

**Baby's** court date was put off once again. Now it is scheduled for **September 5<sup>th</sup>**, Shelby Courthouse. Anyone is welcome to attend. She developed an abscess on her shoulder and it also had to be surgically opened and flushed twice a day. It has healed wonderfully. Her immune system is still lower than it should be. Baby's veterinarian bills now total \$1,844.50. It has taken a horrific amount to save her life, but it has been well worth every cent. She is turning into a wonderful horse. I wish every one of you could meet her and you would fall in love with Baby. Such courage to survive against such high odds!

**Flint, Kit Carson and Anasazi** had EPM (Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis) tests and all three tested positive. Dr. Mary has been wonderful in helping with the EPM horses. The treatment cost is \$150 for each horse. Then each horse has to be retested in five weeks at a cost of \$38 each or an additional \$114.00 plus a veterinarian visit. If at all possible, please help with the cost of this medication. This is their only chance for a new, loving home and a cure for EPM! Just mark your contribution for the Three EPM Horses.

**Sheath cleaning** for each of the 28 geldings makes for an interesting morning. A group of good natured volunteers donned surgical gloves and assembled all the needed supplies for cleaning the geldings' personal parts. Dr. Olivia gave a demonstration and then gave each horse a small dose of "Happy Juice" as the volunteers worked cleaning each horse's private parts. A horse can get what is called a "Bean" embedded next to the urethra tube which has to be removed. The largest one was the size of a quarter. Some horses produce more smegma in the sheath area than other horses and this crusty substance has to be removed. Some of our newer geldings looked as if they may never have been cleaned. There are several ways to tell if a horse needs a sheath cleaning: a strong odor, swollen sheath area, tail rubbing, straining to urinate, peeing in spurts, croaked stream of urine and not dropping to urinate. Mares build up a crud between their teats that may cause them to rub their tail and this area needs to be kept clean for their comfort.

*No one is looking forward to this month's vet bills. Please help if you can.*

## Health Tips

By Joanie Benson

Thyroid hormones regulate other hormones, including the adrenal glands adrenaline production. The hormones also influence the cellular metabolism, digestion, libido and overall energy. It is estimated that 90 percent of Americans are iodine deficient and the thyroid will not work correctly without the needed iodine to keep it healthy. It takes about three months to absorb enough iodine while taking 50 mg daily and a whole year taking 12.5 mg.

We are exposed to small amounts of radiation every day from various sources. Iodine protects the thyroid, breast, prostate and ovary glands as well as other tissues in the body from radiation, if iodine is present in the body in sufficient quantities. However, iodine will not protect a person from radioactive uranium, cesium or plutonium.

## We Are What We Eat (and So Are Our Horses)

By Janet G. Elmo

Although we may not practice it, most of us know that we should be eating a healthy diet - fruits and vegetables, lean protein and limited carbohydrates. Likewise, our horses should be eating in a healthy manner – lots of forage (pasture and hay), added nutrients like protein, vitamins and trace minerals, and limited carbohydrates. In fact, if we had to choose between limiting our carbs or our horses', it's probably more important that we limit the carbohydrates our horses eat. That's because there are so many possibilities for bad outcomes with a high carbohydrate equine diet: overweight, metabolic syndrome, laminitis, colic, just to name a few. Behavior can also be affected by diet!

Horses can do fine on a low-carb diet. If they need more weight, a very safe way to add it is with fat rather than grain. But the foundation of all equine diets should be forage for they are designed to chew 16-18 hours each day. Chewing produces saliva (they make on average 35 pounds of saliva each day!) which acts as a buffer against the acids that constantly course through their digestive tract. Our big, strong horses are actually pretty delicate creatures – as any horse owner soon learns - and they may be prone to ulcers for a wide variety of reasons, including inadequate chewing time.

But back to carbohydrates: how do we identify how much of the diet is starch and sugar? Since forage is the largest part of the diet (should be about 90%), we should start by analyzing their hay and grass. If the hay analysis comes back with high numbers in these areas, we don't have to toss it out, but there is something we can do. Soaking hay for at least 20 minutes will remove a large amount of the carbs – just look at the water that you pour out. It went ON the hay nice and clear but comes OFF the hay brown and murky. Watch those carbs go down the drain or soak into the soil – better than being taken into your horse's body!

We can't soak the carbs out of the pasture, but it is helpful to know that the sugars are produced when the sun is out, producing an energy source that is used overnight to grow the grass. Keeping your horse off the grass during the sunny part of the day AND keeping your grass about six inches tall can go a long way to helping you manage the carbs in grass. The sugar is stored in the lowest 1/3 of the grass, so the shorter the grass, the more likely your horse will be eating the sugary part.

Finally, check out your feed tags. If you see molasses or corn, you can be pretty sure you've got a higher carbohydrate food than feed whose tags state soybeans and wheat middlings. Then call the feed company and ask them.

Do yourself – and your horses – a favor by lowering their carbohydrate load. Their health (and your enjoyment of your horses) may depend on it.

## HONORS and MEMORIALS

**A Big Thank You** to the wonderful young ladies from the Diamond B Saddle 4-H Club who came to the sanctuary to help out. They honored HPS with a kind donation.

Chief says, "Thanks HPS for your prayers and the amazing work you do!"  
By Gena Haviland

In honor of my son's birthday,  
Doug Stacker, August 8, Love Mom  
**In honor of my mom's birthday,**  
**Doris Dorebski, August 31**  
**Love always, Sandy**

**In memory of Jan Eutsler Smith**  
By Anne H. Kenny  
**In memory of Mom Ruth's 79th birthday**  
this July 19th. By the Messers

*In honor of the volunteers and staff of HPS*  
*Thank you for all you do! By Robin Crosswhite*

In honor of Alice Bischoff  
By Scott Bischoff

### Monthly Donations & Contributors

Thank you to all donors for helping us to continue to provide a sanctuary for all the horses that need a new home. You have enabled us to take in those who were not so fortunate to have regular feedings and to provide care to those that need it. Full details and photos of the horses may be found on our website:

[horseprotection.org](http://horseprotection.org)

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#### Message for the newsletter.....

I had so much to live for, so much yet to do.  
It seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.  
I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad.  
I thought of all the love we shared at HPS and all the fun we had.  
So even though we're far apart, every time you think of me, remember I'm right there in your heart.  
Love, "Queenie"

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**Editor's correction:** Membership fee of \$35.00 is an **annual fee**, not a one time fee as stated in the August Newsletter on page 1.