



September 2017

Volume 21 Issue 9

OVER HERD

Living at the Sanctuary

Everyone who has visited the rescue in the last few years has met Turk. He is our livestock guard dog and weights 90 plus pounds. Turk came from Anatolian Sheepdog rescue a number of years ago. Turk is a great dog that gets along with all the creators here. Last week one of the resident 5 foot rat snakes was slowly cruising across the driveway towards where Turk was sleeping. The big old rat snake couldn't decide whether to go over Turk's belly or go over his tail missing his legs. Turk raised his sleepy head and met his visitor nose to nose. Big snake slowly backed up giving Turk just enough room to get up and move out of his way. Turk watched the snake move across where he had been sleeping and then headed off to the barn.



There have always been rat snakes living on the sanctuary. No one here disturbs or bothers the snakes and the horses are not concerned when one travels through the barn. Our snakes are not aggressive and are unconcerned about our presents, as we are unconcerned about their presents.

There is Luna a small, once feral kitty that adopted HPS. At first we could only hear her extremely loud howling, but it didn't take long after leaving food out for her that she started to show herself. Of course, all vet checks were taken care of and she had even been spayed before she came to us.

One of my favorite little groups started as three half grown ducks last summer. One is a female Mallard and the other two are Indian Runners, one male and one female. We felt like duck rescue since the family that had them should never have any animals. The kids were feeding the duck Cheez-its. The parents thought they could housebreak the ducks and did not feed them or treat the ducks correctly.

Last summer a number of Indian Runner ducks' eggs were hatched by a Wood Duck. The ducklings were very frustrating to momma Wood Duck and wouldn't pay any attention to her. Today there is about a dozen ducks that hang together. They loudly announce their visits to the barns at feeding time.

Two more ducks were brought to the sanctuary today, by a volunteer. The ducks were being kept in a cage.

Last year we also were given several young Sexlink hens. These were nice healthy hens and it didn't make sense why the owner had to get rid of the hens. Late winter the hens started to lay eggs after I put them on organic lay mash. Once the volunteers tried a dozen truly organic, free ranging eggs, they were hooked.

The end of April I ordered 28 day-old Buff Orpingtons chicks. It is normal to loss 10 to 20% of the baby chicks. I used three natural items added to the chicks' water in lieu of antibiotics and we didn't lose one chick. **(Cont. on Page 3)**



A Peaceful Herd

Autumn -18, and **Commodore -21**, have been friends for years. Freedom has tried to woo Autumn away to no avail. Autumn will go off for some mutual grooming with Freedom if Commodore is not paying attention.

Bandolero -10, **Cayenne -14**, **Chicopee -12**, and **Sparrow -7**, float from group of horses to group of horses. They run around and have a great time.

Chuckles -2, **Chiclet -3**, and **Eclipse -28**, haven't had a chance to pick any other friends since they have been together in the rehab field since the beginning. But that is about to change.

Cloud -24, **Frosty -17**, and **Flame -22**, There is a little competition between Cloud and Frosty for Flames attention.

Cree -33, **Natchez -28**, and **Sierra -31**, Sierra joined up with Cree and Natchez when she came back to the sanctuary. At first Natchez was not overly happy about this until Cree insisted. We call them "The Barn Hangers" since they love to stay in as long as there are volunteers around. There is always a huge amount of hay in the barn for them.

Freedom -20, and **Pecos -7**, Freedom and Pecos play the field when it comes to the girls. Freedom is respected by all the other horses.

Ebony Star -21, and **Nova -25**, Ebony Star and Nova like to hang close to the other horses but doesn't have any close friend.

Kit Carson -14, **Memphis -30**, Have been fast friends for years. Memphis picked Kit Carson and won't let other mares come too close to her boyfriend.

Omaha -31, **Topaz -15**, The side field is perfect for these two. Their health issues prevent them from being with the rest of the herd.

Prairie -12, **Strudel -19**, Strudel has wondered from one horse friend to another over the years. She really seems stuck on Prairie. If Prairie's little pony can't be seen, he goes to look for her.

Rain -11, **Rising Sun -23**, **Saragon -16**, Saragon and Rising Sun can often be seen together. Rain is normally on the fringe of the other horse groups.

Salida -23, **Teton -23**, I another odd horse couple. Teton likes strong women that are going to boss him around. Salida is just the mare to do that. The two can often be seen with Prairie and Strudel.

Shasta -17, **Sugar Daddy -20**, When Shasta hurt her neck several years ago, it cost her head mare status. She always had her mare friends, but when Sugar Daddy was returned it was a perfect match for these two.

To have a peaceful herd, you have to have peaceful people caring for the horses. Sometimes after a short time a person will feel they know it all. It can take just one person to create a hostile atmosphere. It is amazing how grown women can act like junior high school mean girls in a time warp. It has been several years since we had people like this. For a long time now we have had the kindest, soft spoken, hardworking folks at the Sanctuary!

The following horses are going to need to be retreated for EPM: Bandolero, Chicopee, Chuckles, Cloud, Commodore, Ebony Star, Eclipse, Flame, Frosty, Natchez, Nova, Pecos, Rain, Saragon, Shasta, Sparrow, and Sugar Daddy. There is 17 horses that need to be retreated. The funds for 2 horses treatment has been donated so far. Please help!

(Cont. from Page 4) The "Slow Pursuit" should not be used with any horse that is frightened. This will only make them more frightened and scare them. The scared horse has to be treated differently. We call it the "Get Acquainted Dance." A small field or a large round pen works well for this. It is all about asking the horse's permission to approach. This starts the building of a partnership between the person and the horse. It may take an hour or more the first time and you have to have true caring in your heart for the horse.

There is so much to take into consideration for each horse you have to work with. The more history you can glean the better. Often we have little to no history on a horse. No two horses can be worked with the same way. All horses have different personalities and past experiences. By watching them they teach us in so many ways.

Our goal is to have happy, healthy, free roaming horses and we do. Just come and visit and meet the horses.

Honors and Memorials

“She showed me love, taught me patience and most of all defined what a gentle soul really is. I remember the enjoyable hours we spent together. Just being around her was a privilege I will always cherish. I will feel forever grateful that such a great horse shared my life and that HPS gave me the chance to know a very special feisty girl named “Queenie,” By Dottie Rehban

To honor the wishes of my wife Alice Bischoff. Best wishes to you for your continued good work.
By Robert Bischoff

Happy Birthday Doug. Love, Mom

In honor of Dottie Rehban. By Charity League of Salisbury

Happy Birthday Dad! Love, Mary

A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful Contributors

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Lynn Bischoff
John Bonk
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Brenda & Charles Hemperley
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Myra Mahoney
Roberta & Tom McCardle
Jill & Charles Messer, Jr.
Debbie O. & Mike Morris
Melissa Pletcher
Cheryl A. & Thomas Powers
Dottie Rehban
Betty & Harold Rhoads
Mary Jo Scarlette
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Mary K. Trost
Michelle & Stephan Ugolini
John Vinal
Dr. Barbara White
Linda Yarrington

(Cont. from Page 1) Once the chicks started to get a few wing feathers they had free run of the hen house and didn't need their heat lamp. The next step was to give them a safe fenced in area for a while and give them a chance to get use to all the creatures and sounds. Now the babies are free ranging and the flock likes to go back in their hen house at night to roost and this keeps them safer. The Orpingtons are easy going, friendly happy chickens and make great back yard hens. This is helping visitors and volunteers' information on why all of us should be eating healthier

Penny is the house dog and is at least 13 years old. She is starting to show her age. Penny is part Shar-Pei. She has some health issues and at her age the treatment could kill her.

The beautiful Barn Swallows returned and we think one family may have hatched several catches of eggs.

Then there are all the lovely creatures that live at the pond: frogs, turtles, fish, and occasionally visitors are geese, ducks, a blue heron and a white egret and now only one Egyptian Goose.

It has been a great year for the salamanders and toads here and they are masters at hiding from the chickens. It is important to keep shallow bowls of water in different spots in your yard for all the little animals that depend on water every day. If you put a few pebbles in the bottom so the bees will have something to land on to get water. Used merchandise stores almost always have nice looking shallow bowls for sale.

We don't feed the wild birds here, but there is plenty for them to eat. Watching their antics is great fun!

The 33 horses happily share the sanctuary with all the other creatures that live here and so do we.

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Do you want to Dominate or be a Partner?

This month I had a person who calls himself a trainer discuss how to gently train horses. What I told him was, "Here we work for a partnership and not dominancy." He really didn't understand the concept or how to achieve a bonding and trust with horses. Most people have a bit of difficulty figuring out how this works with a horse and will never have a chance to have that kind of relationship with a horse. They are too busy trying to tell the horse what THEY want and never listen to the horse. Too much dominancy over the horse. Of course, you do not allow kicking or biting.

If anyone uses techniques that scare the horse time and time again, you will have a difficult time building trust. People think they are acting like a head mare, but it is obvious that they have never seen a good lead mare with a new horse added to the herd. Not every herd has a lead mare. Some herds function fine without one. Then things are decided by each small group of horses. The HPS herd works very well in small groups with each deciding where they want to be on the property and when. The horses feel safe and secure with this type of arrangement.

One of the lead mare horses we had at the sanctuary was a large Belgian mare. She was a benevolent dictator and I have had this type of head mare before...they are wonderful! The other horses trust them and look to them for protection. It was great fun to watch this mare explain how she is in charge to a new horse with no chasing, kicking, scaring or biting. It is what we call "Slow Pursuit." She just pushed the new horse at a walk and did not let him stop to nibble grass or go get a drink of water. She gently herded him in the directions she wanted him to go. After a bit, she moved up in front of him and started eating grass and this gave him permission to also nibble grass...lesson done. *(Cont. on Page 2)*

