

# OVER HERD

Volume 22 Issue 9

September 2018



### Remember When

May brought HPS a lovely skinny 15 year old mare. Meeka's jaw had been broken months and months before from a kick by a horse. This is unthinkable, but the jaw was not stabilized. Meeka endured unimaginable pain while the jaw was trying to heal. The digital radiographs we had done still showed that additional healing was needed before Meeka could have any needed dental work done.

Meeka was kept in a dirt lot with several other horses. There was no sign of any hay or for a place for Meeka to be separated while she was fed. This is so important for all horses to have all the time they need to eat without stress.

We checked Meeka, Tusca and several other new horses for sand in their digestive track, since they were fed outside on the ground. All of them needed to be treated with Metamucil. Then they will get checked again and retreated if needed.



Meeka has gained all her weight, gallops across the field and loves feeling good. What a beautiful horse and even her coat color has darkened.



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## **2019 Horse Protection Society Calendar**

Once again we have produce a beautiful calendar for you to enjoy all year long. At times it is inspirational and at times funny to remind you to laugh everyday. This is our only fundraiser for the late summer and fall and we need your support to help with the expenses. This year the calendars are a little bit smaller in size since we have had suggestions to do this. Each page is 9" high by 12" wide. The overall height of the calendar is 6" less than before, 18" high and 12" wide. The calendars make great gifts for your friends and family. If your friends and family don't love horses you may want to disown them.....just kidding. By shrinking the calendar just a little, we have been able to keep the postage the same even with the postal cost increase.

1 calendar = \$19.50 + postage of \$3.50 = \$23.00 Plus donation \$\_\_\_\_\_. 2 calendars = \$39.00 + postage of \$5.70 = \$44.70 Plus donation \$\_\_\_\_\_.





The final proof for the calendar will be going to the printers with in the next few days. Normally the printer will have a turnaround of about 10 days. You can order now.

Horse Protection Society of NC Inc., 2135 Miller Rd, China Grove, NC 28023 ~ 704-855-2978

### **Fighting Tansy Wagwort Weed**

Ragwort is a scourge to livestock owners. Tansy ragwort contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids, which affect primarily the liver. Cells of the liver are slowly killed and prevented from regenerating to replace damaged tissues resulting in gradual scarring and replacement with connective tissue. Whether an animal survives depends upon the amount and rate of damage. Some animals survive for 6 months or longer after they have ingested a lethal amount of the plant. Animals usually eat this after a frost since it changes the taste.

#### Signs and Lesions of Poisoning

- Signs may not appear until 6 or more months after the plant is ingested, and they may vary, depending on the amount of plant eaten and the rate at which it was eaten
- Lethargy and loss of interest in food
- Crustiness around eyes and nose. Eyes may also be red and watery, especially in bright sunlight
- There may be diarrhea or constipation
- Weakness as manifest by wobbling and dragging rear feet
- Animals may wander aimlessly and appear to be blind and may become belligerent
- Cattle may develop a pig-like odor that has a somewhat sweetish quality
- The abdominal cavity may fill with fluid up to several gallons (ascites), and death may occur within a few days after symptoms appear
- Liver cirrhosis (necrosis and fibrosis) and bile duct proliferation
- Gastroenteritis

We have been fighting this dangerous weed for three years. Last year we tried burning the weeds off. This proved to have limited success. The large pond field was so infected that it was necessary to close off the pond field and have it sprayed with 2, 4, D. The United Kingdom has outlawed this weed for years and they have done the best research for killing it off. They have a product named Barrier H that was developed to kill ragwort, and retails for about \$85.00 for 5 liters. I looked up the patent and we have been able to cut the costs by buying the one important ingredient Citricidal oil for about \$122.00 per gallon. The recipe is:

25% Citricidal Oil10% Emulsifier (liquid soap)65% Water2 Blue weed dye pills (Feed stores)

This will often kill grass too. It is important to keep the spray solution well-mixed as you are spraying. Some soap works better than other types. We have done well with Dawn. You need to keep animals off the field for two weeks and then cut the plants and remove the stems. (Pulling or burning them does not work.)

### What is Happening in the Horse Industry

An Oregon horse is suing his former owner for damages. If successful, the case will be the first to establish that animals have the legal right to sue their alleged abuses in court. Last year, an 8-year-old Quarter Horse, now called Justice, was surrendered to a rescue by his owner. At the time of the surrender, he was allegedly emaciated, infested with lice, suffering from rain rot, and had swollen genitalia due to frost bite. Gwendolyn Vercher, the horse's owner at the time of the surrender, later pleaded guilty to animal cruelty. The suit seeks \$100,000 to be used for the horse's past and ongoing care. The ALDF said the Oregon Supreme Court has already recognized that animals should be considered individual victims in criminal cruelty cases. If successful, this case would expand remedies available to animal victims under the law. (Taken from Pat Raia's article in the August issue of 'The Horse') continue to page #3

Horse Protection Society of North Carolina, Inc.

hps@horseprotection.org

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A huge Thank You for all the donations and the sweet notes that often come with the contributions. This is the picture that was on last months Thank You note.

This is a note I received: "About that great photo of Tusca & Austin last month, What a shot! -Which says it all (what HPS is all about).

This one should be framed and designated as HPS's signature portrait. Anyway, that's my opinion, and it's very true. Brenda"

Thank you for the suggestion Brenda. What happened behind the seen was so fun. Tusca was giving Austin a big kiss and then walk away. We said, "Wait Tusca, we didn't get your picture!" Tusca turned and came back for another KISS.



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In memory of my sister, Carol Kirsh's horse, Stetson, who recently passed from cancer. By Sandy Boaz

Happy Birthday to Doug Stacker. From Mom.

In memory of my dear friend Marty Frech. By Cathy Burton

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### **Horse Racing**

Dramatic whip use in Standardbred racing might make for a thrilling finish for some spectators, but it's probably not going to make the horses trot any faster. Recent study results suggest that modifications in whip rules over the years, aimed toward more ethical use, had no negative effect on racing performance or race times. Their data analysis suggested there might have even been a slight trend toward improved performance after whip use in Standardbred racing was regulated to allow for "flicking actions of the wrist or elbow" as opposed to a "swinging arm action," Harness Racing Australia changed whip use rules in Thoroughbred and harness racing, starting in January 2010, toward more "welfare-friendly" rules, he said. Those progressive changes were met with criticism that less whipping would make the horses run slower. But results from McGreevy's study contradict that criticism, he said: He and his fellow researchers found that since the rules were introduced, horses haven't raced any slower—on the contrary, they've become slightly faster. (Taken from Christa Lesté-Lasserre, MA's article in the August issue of 'The Horse') Similar research studies have also shown that race horses will run faster if the whip is not used.

### German Bans

"We would like to draw your attention to the fact that according to paragraph 6 of the German Animal Welfare Law, trimming the vibrissae around eyes and muzzle as well as clipping or cutting the hairs inside the ears of horses are prohibited. Adherence to this rule at horse shows in Germany is being supervised by German authorities. Competitors can be fined if their horses are found unlawfully trimmed or clipped."

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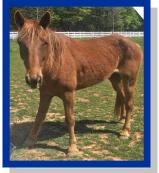
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Tusca was featured in the June newsletter. He is only 5 years old, was so thin, and a Tennessee Walking Horse. According to the owner, he had been very skinny for the several years they had owned him. He was being fed outside with other horses. He was kept at a family members stable. The person told our folks that he needed to be ridden every day. They had someone who had been riding him. I can only pray this did not do any long-term damage to Tusca.

Tusca has been one of the most difficult horses to put all of the needed weight on. Normally once the horse's inside organs heal, the horse can often gain 10 pounds a day. We have had blood panels done, checked his stool, increased

his feed, added additional supplements, deworming-twice, and still he needs to gain more

weight. It is frustrating! But we never give up!



Tusca's chest is still too thin and I would like to see another 50 pounds on him. It is great to see him running with the other horses. Tusca's coat color has also darkened. So beautiful!!!