

## Curiosity Killed the Cat

By Melanie Ruscoe

Everyone knows that cats are curious and often get themselves into trouble with their curiosity. What if that cat weighed over a thousand pounds? All of us horse lovers would be in a heap of trouble, that's for sure! I often compare a horse and their curiosity to that of a cat, as well as their cat-like reflexes when scared. It can be absolutely hilarious...as long as you're not too close, that is!

The first time I experienced their curiosity was not too long after starting to help at the sanctuary. My husband had just purchased a new weed-whacker and there was a definite need at HPS for weed-whacking, so I loaded it up and took it to work with me, thinking I could have it home before he even noticed it was gone. I wasn't too far into the job before I realized I would need pruners to help cut some of the larger, overgrown weeds. I set the new weed-whacker on the ground, up close to the fence, and left it there while I went to get the tool. There may have been a small nagging in my brain but no one or nothing was around so I was confident it would still be there when I returned. Well, it was...as well as half the herd! I couldn't believe it! And at the very front was Bandolero, pawing in the air at it! My heart dropped. I knew enough by this time that I could not go running, yelling at them as that might create panic, especially since there was already snorting and sideways shuffling going on. But I couldn't just stand there, as Bandolero was making it clear he was going to save the herd from this sleeping monster. I ended up talking softly, walking slowly, and gradually coaxed most of them away. You can bet as soon as I picked it up, Bandolero backed off quickly! Funny how all these years later, the "newer" horses to the herd still find my weed-whacker to be a curiosity. Here's a picture of Ginger and Honey cautiously exploring it.



**The Dreaded Weed-eater.  
"Careful! It might bite!"**

My favorite story of the herd and their curiosity is when I am working in the field on a very hot, sunny day. During days like that, I use my umbrella for shade. Without fail, they come to stare at me, not twitching a muscle. The first time, I was spraying weeds in the backfield while holding my umbrella and I glanced over and saw the entire herd standing at the fence, staring at me. I looked around, trying to figure out what was bothering them. I didn't see anything, so I walked towards them to try to get their perspective. Some of the horses took a few steps back but otherwise, all ears forward, nostrils flared, not a muscle moved. My alarm bells were on high alert by then so I went to close my umbrella so I could have a broad view of everything. Well, let me tell you, the pandemonium that broke loose! I don't know how they didn't fall over each other running away! After a split second of panic, I realized what they were so intently watching. I felt bad, really I did, although I'm not sure they could tell through my laughing. You can bet I am more careful when opening and closing umbrellas around them!

If you've ever seen a horse spook at something and spring sideways, you know exactly what I mean about their cat-like reflexes. Some of you have been unfortunate enough to be on their backs when this has happened but thankfully, I have not experienced that! They do not care what is around them or what damage they may cause when their thousand-pound bodies suddenly shift from one spot to another. Sometimes it can be funny... just don't be too close when it happens!



**Zack is repairing one of the condos.  
"What is going on? Why all the noise?  
What is the 2-legger doing?"**



**"What is this? Who put it here?  
Why is it here?"**

## Nonprofit's Articles of Incorporation

Over the years, the Horse Protection Society has been asked many times to sign petitions, post-political information, and put information on our Facebook page concerning pending legislation.

All 501(c)3 nonprofits are required to add the following statement to their Articles of Incorporation agreement to receive IRS approval.

"No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on....."

As you can see, we are gagged by the government to voice our concerns or try to get the laws improved for Animal Welfare. North Carolina is a low 36th for poor welfare laws out of all the states. North Carolina is among the worst in America at protecting animals. The Animal Legal Defense Fund has ranked every state for animal protection laws. Here are the top five states:

1. Illinois, 2. Oregon, 3. Maine, 4. Colorado, & 5. Massachusetts.

Maybe it is your mission to help improve the laws in North Carolina.

### Nonprofits That Can Engage Politically 501(c)(4)

However, the 501(c)(4) may engage in a variety of political activities, some of which are unrestricted and others that are restricted to some degree. Lobbying for legislative change is treated liberally while advocating for a particular political candidate is more restricted.

According to the IRS, " Seeking legislation relevant to the organization's programs is a permissible means of attaining social welfare purposes. Thus, a section 501(c)(4) social welfare organization may further its exempt purposes through lobbying as its primary activity without jeopardizing its exempt status."

## Heavenly's Ears



Heavenly 7 yrs. old

Heavenly's lovely ears are so unusual! She is the only horse that I have ever seen with ears like hers. What a wonderful horse and we all enjoy her personality. The only two breeds of horses that I have seen in The New Encyclopedia of the Horses are both from India. One breed is Marwari and the other is Kathiawar Horse. Selective breeding may go back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. If anyone has a picture of a horse they have or had with ears like the breed from India or like Heavenly, we would love to hear about your horse and see a picture.



## Aslan may be on the Mend

Aslan came to HPS with severe arthritis. We put him on vitamin E, MSM, and applied DMSO to his joints, and we were not seeing any improvement. It has been several years since we had a horse that was as damaged as Aslan. He is a cutie and only 23 years old. Watching him walk was painful to see. We knew there were more things we could try to help him.

HPS had four vials of Adequan left over and we started using this. Dr. Mary provided two more packs of seven vials each and we will continue giving this to Aslan that cost \$310 each pack. He was also started on Immubiome's Strength and Stamina. This product was donated to HPS to try for Aslan and is about a month's supply. I had a chance to speak with Chris, the product developer. He cured himself of MS by developing the supplements he offers for sale.

Aslan is racing around the field like a young horse and this is the first for him. He was cranky before and seems much happier now. It is hard to believe, but here is a picture of Aslan racing Freedom. Remember, he is a Quarter Horse off the race track in Oklahoma.



**Freedom racing with Aslan**



**Aslan running for the fun of it.**

## Shinook – Possible Genetic Eye Issues

Different breeds may have genetic issues and it is wise to search a breed you may be interested in having for your horse or a breed you already own. Shinook is an example of the Rocky Mountain Horse or Kentucky Mountain Horse, which was his registration paper. Only one side was filled out... so the papers don't mean much.

Cysts of the eyes and MCOA (Multiple Congenital Ocular Anomalies) have been found in horse breeds that have the silver dapple, known as "chocolate," coat color. Specifically, Rocky Mountain Horses, Kentucky Mountain Horses, American Miniature Horses, and Icelandics have been reported to be affected with MCOA.

"Two types of ocular changes occur in association with the MCOA disease complex: 1) fluid-filled cysts that are present on the posterior iris, peripheral retina, or ciliary body, which is a structure within the eye that is located just behind the iris, and 2) cysts in combination with other ocular defects affecting the cornea, iris, lens, and/or retina (for details of the ocular defects, see Ramsey et al, 1999a)." The presence of MCOA-related cysts in affected horses is minimally detrimental, as cysts are not painful and do not affect vision. In contrast, MCOA-related defects in the cornea or lens may decrease visual acuity, but like cysts are not painful. *(Cont. on Page 4)*

## Shinook – Possible Genetic Eye Issues (Cont. from Page 3)

The changes associated with MCOA that have the potential to cause problems with vision are corneal abnormalities and cataracts. The extreme dappling may be a clue to the mutant gene.

In addition to a major gene causing MCOA, a small number of horses may have one or a few “minor” genes that modify the disease expression, potentially masking the presence of the mutant major gene. The search for the major gene causing MCOA is ongoing.



I remembered there is a genetic issue with this breed of horse, I needed to look it up again. We have never had this breed of horse here at the sanctuary before. It is a study in learning for all of us.

The breed exhibits a natural ambling gait, called the single-foot, which replaces the trot seen in a majority of horse breeds. Arabians sometimes will be a single-foot. What a nice easy ride!

Shinook is being given Beta Carotene and Lutein with Bilberry twice a day. We hope this will help to keep his eyes strong.

## News from the Herd

At last, we received a wonderful downpour of rain. The fields were so dry the grass had stopped growing and the ground was cracking. The pond field had to be sprayed for weeds that could kill the horses. There were too many to hand spray. We still have to do some hand spraying to catch the weeds that were missed or are too close to the pond. The horses will be allowed to go back in the pond field before the end of August. The horses miss their field and the pond to play in and they are so joyful to be back swimming and playing in the water.

**Nova** is not doing as well as we had hoped. We have started her on Adequan, ImmuBiome Spine & Nerve powder and now \_\_\_\_.

**Ebony Star** has had Pergolide added to her list of things to help stabilize her blood sugar. We are hopeful this will help her. Chris donated a month's supply of ImmuBiome Lean Muscle and felt this product may help her blood sugar.

**Rain** has had issues since she came to the rescue. Many different things have been tried over the years and we are down to putting shoes on her front hooves. If this doesn't work, we have nothing else to do for her.

**Chuckles and Chicklet** have both had a rider on their back and they are off to a great start.

**2021 Calendar**, with any luck, will be printed the first part of September. Because of the slow economy, we are not going to have as many printed. So please order early.



**This is what a herd of happy horses look like! THANK YOU!**

## The Horses Need You

We pray for the millions of people that have been out of work for so long. We know how hard it must be when folks have to stop their Angel Sponsorship. There have been some supporters who realize that the contrived downturn in the economy has affected HPS and have been trying to help.

OUR HEARTFELT LOVE AND GRATITUDE GOES OUT TO EACH  
AND EVERY PERSON!

***Susanne & Harvey Blume are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary .***

Happy Birthday to my son, Doug Stacker. By Mom, Martha Stacker

***In memory of Alice Bischoff, on her birthday, August 7th. Alice passed away on Dec. 2019. Always loved horses. By Robert Bischoff***

In memory of all the HPS horses that were saved and those who crossed the "Rainbow Bridge," especially "Queenie," "Denali," "Dakota," "Montana," and "Angel."  
By Dottie Rebhan

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