

The Horse Protection League

www.coopl.org

Tales from the Ranch

A Wild Update on the Mustangs

August, 2009
Volume 14, No.2



Arrival Date: May 14th

It was the silence that struck me. Some 200 wild horses crowded together in pens; mares with new foals, yearlings, mares penned together, stallions in their own area, and hardly a sound.

It was May 4 and our little team had just arrived at the Morrill County Fairgrounds in Bridgeport, Nebraska; our mission, to pick up two young horses out of the nearly 200 that had been seized from the 3 Strikes Ranch near Alliance in the worst animal abuse case in Nebraska's history. It was my first experience with horse rescue and I was both excited to be a part of the process and afraid of what I would see and how I might react.

It didn't take long to understand the quiet. Most of the horses stood around hay feeders - with enough to eat their fill at last. The need for sustenance far outweighed the need to maintain herd hierarchies, call to one another, or play. Others just stood – too sick or traumatized to do anything else. One had lain down and could not get back up. Three or four men surrounded her. They lifted her by her tail and teased at her mane to rouse her – a horse who would not normally allow such human contact – and she hardly reacted. After a good 15 minutes of pushing and prodding, they were finally successful in getting her to her feet. I hoped it would be enough.

The face of starvation is universal and we all recognize it - the too large eyes, the stomach, bloated yet empty, the ribs the only thing giving shape to the body. Everywhere we looked, we were appalled that these animals could have withstood the kind of deprivation they had experienced. Their bodies were so desperate they were burning the necessary fat surrounding their vital organs to sustain life. Mares were dropping foals almost daily, the foals' survival under such conditions impossible to understand.



Chance & Rascal 12 weeks later

A black and white paint – one eye soft and brown as melted chocolate, the other a hard glacier blue – turned to look directly at us, commanding our full attention. Her skin hung on her body as if it surely had belonged to a much larger animal. As we stood there shaking our heads and fighting tears, one of the volunteers from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) walked by and cheerfully announced "she's doing great – she's gained 150 pounds since she's been here!" We could not imagine that she could have weighed any less. (Continue on Page 13)

Board Meetings:

Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the main house at the HPL ranch. The ranch is located at 17999 W. 60th Avenue, Golden, CO 80403. All meetings are open to the public. You do not have to be a Board Member to be on a committee.

Susan Becker:

HPL has been chosen as her featured rescue for August with a donation of portrait fees of 10%.

www.BeckerPaints.com



Newsletter sponsored by:

The Harris Law Firm (HLF) understands the stress and frustration associated with divorce, child custody, and other issues related to family law. Whether your concerns are trying to find the right attorney, considering legal action, protecting your rights, and/or safeguarding the well-being of your children, and even your pets, HLF is your resource for matters concerning family law.

Since 1993, Richard Harris and The Harris Law Firm have been providing high-quality family law representation in Denver, Colorado. Rich has built The Harris Law Firm based on excellent representation, strict ethics and individual attention. Today, with its team of ten skilled and passionate lawyers, legal assistants, and support staff, HLF steadfastly maintains their commitment to excellence in Colorado Family Law.

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If you have questions about family law in Colorado, please visit the HLF website at www.harrisfamilylaw.com or call Heidi Culbertson, Director of Client Relations, at 303.299.9484.

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Newsletter photos submitted by:

Emie O'Neill, Elisa Mathews, Nancy Johnson

Our Volunteer Spotlight



Honey & Lindsay
Photo: Ann Wilson

SATURDAY VOLUNTEER

Meet Lindsay Laursen. Lindsay has been volunteering here for so long she can't remember how she found us 6 years ago! She recently retired from Qwest and now volunteers for Hospice, Meals on Wheels, Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies and here at HPL. The smell of the ranch, the hay, the horses (and the friendly people) keep her coming back. Currently, Honey is special to Lindsay's heart and they work together on energy and human-equine relationship skills.

With all of Lindsay's volunteering interests, she feels that she has a unique connection with the elderly and the equine.

Submitted by: Jennifer Maramonte

WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEER

If you need to speak with Vickie Ferguson, just follow the hose on Wednesdays and you'll find her. Vickie has been volunteering at HPL for 2 years now, since she heard about us through a friend who has horses. Helping the horses, grooming and working with other volunteers is what keeps her coming back. She has always wanted a horse and calls them Mother Nature's Masterpieces. Her favorite horse is Isis. Vickie is a great artist and sketched the barn (prior to restoration) which is featured on the front cover of our HPL recipe book.

Prints are available for purchase and all proceeds go to the horses, of course.

Submitted by: Jennifer Maramonte



Vicki's favorite horse, Isis
Photo: Elisa Mathews

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL
OF OUR VOLUNTEERS
THAT SHOW UP—YOU
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WE REALLY APPRECIATE
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A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR---GREEN!



PLEASE HELP HPL GO GREEN

We would like to make our quarterly newsletter available to you online. With the cost of printing and mailing increasing regularly, reducing the number of newsletters we print will mean more money will be available for our horses and HPL will be responsible for fewer trees being used for paper. If you would like to receive *Tales From the Ranch* via email, please contact us through our website: www.coehpl.org.

Thank you from HPL and the Horses
(and Mother Earth!)

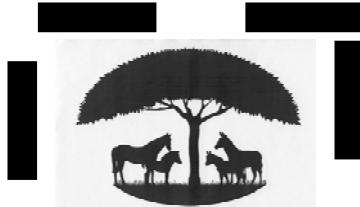
Do something great this summer— sponsor a silly horse!



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Meet Glory & Baby Tigger!

Fremont County Seizure—July 9 & 10

As if things weren't exciting enough with the two young mustangs, we were contacted by Scot Ditcher, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Protection. This state agency was assisting the Fremont County Sheriff, Jim Beicker, in finding rescue facilities to take the 17 impounded horses. Many were thin, some pregnant, one with foal, several with infected injuries, two with severely deformed and neglected hooves, two 5-year-old stallions and one 21-year-old who was severely emaciated.

Needs included hoof care, deworming, floats, vaccinations, food, training and veterinarian assessment. None had been halter trained. Thanks to Front Range Equine Rescue and Ruby Ranch Horse Rescue for giving HPL Glory and Tigger.

HPL is very honored to be a part of these rescues and to be helping the horses. Check out their websites: RRHR.net and www.frontrangeequinerescue.org



WINSTON--Adopted



Our big, beautiful Winston was adopted July 22nd. Winston is the horse that HPL has been collecting special donations, since he required surgery. Winston is scheduled to have that surgery in early August. Our thanks to all of the wonderful people who donated money to give Winston the best chance at having a good life with his new family. Winston will be missed but we know he is going to a wonderful person who loves him and will care for him. Best of luck Megan and Winston!

New Arrival--Roadie

Roadie is a 9-year-old quarter/arab gelding. This horse was rescued from the side of a road down in the Black Forest area. He wants to be someone's horse. He loves people and is starving for attention. We have a trainer working with him. Why not sponsor Roadie or come out and visit with him?



Meet our horses!

AMIGO



ADOPTION PENDING

18-year-old registered quarter horse, gelding. Rideable, would make a great horse for a family that likes to trail ride.

KAHLUA



ADOPTION PENDING

9-year-old paint, mare. Loves attention, works nicely in the arena and trails. Needs a good intermediate rider.

HOPE



16-year-old arab/quarter, mare. Just arrived and needs extra attention and love!

ROADIE



9-year-old gelding, arab/quarter, 15 hands. Needs ground work and is a "green-broke" horse. A trainer is recommended to continue his training. (On left)

SADIE



16-year-old Missouri fox trotter, mare. Loving, rideable and moves fast. Small and beautiful.

MATTIE



4-year-old registered quarter horse, mare. Saved from killer pen. Good ground manners, works great in round pen. Has not been evaluated for riding yet.

HONEY

18-year-old thoroughbred mare, black. Good ground manners and is easy to work with. Not rideable, companion horse only.

BADGER

20-year-old quarter gelding, dark bay. Gets along well with others. Not rideable, companion horse only.

JACK

26-year-old hackney pony, gelding, ebony colored. Trained to pull a cart.

BELLA

20-year-old quarter mare, dark brown. Loving and easy to work around. Not rideable, companion horse only.

BUDDY

14-year-old quarter gelding, chestnut. Not rideable, companion horse only.

ISIS

20-year-old quarter gelding, dark bay. Gets along well with others. Not rideable, companion horse only.

ROMEO



18-year-old Arabian gelding, gray. Rideable, English or Western. He's sweet and gentle.

BILLY



Late 20s, Appendix gelding, black. He's easy-going and a great companion horse.

CODI



34-year-old registered quarter horse mare. An ex-barrel racer, still has plenty of energy. Companion.

Coming Soon for HPL:

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Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.



HPL's Wish List

**Bags of senior feed
Grass hay
Gauze pads
Aspirin powder
Surgical gloves
Rolls of cotton wrap
Floor cleaner
Ajax**

**Triple Crown Senior (Available at West Bros.)
Tall kitchen bags
Kitchen trash basket
Avon Skin So Soft (makes a great fly spray!)
White vinegar
Windex
And more...call Emie at 303-216-0141 to find out how you can help.**

Meanwhile, back at the ranch

Well, folks, it's been a busy year already at HPL. If you were there, you know; if you weren't, here's a quick recap of what you've been missing. Be sure to look for more info on certain horses and events throughout the newsletter.

Of course, the big story is our mustangs. On May 4, we had the great privilege of participating in the rescue of over 200 mustangs from the 3 Strikes Ranch in Nebraska. HPL was able to take two young stallions. (Read more at the main article of this newsletter.) It has been a wonderful experience for us, and Emie even made Channel 9 news. She and the boys were awesome. If you're out at the ranch, be sure to stop in and visit our beautiful Chance and Rascal.

We also took in another beauty: Roadie, so called because a good Samaritan found him on the roadside near Colorado Springs. After 3 months of trying to locate the owner, he was going to sell the horse. HPL, with the help of Ruby Ranch Rescue and the Brand Inspection Office, is giving Roadie another chance and is pleased to have him as our guest. Although he had gained weight in his foster home, he is still very thin. He is a beautiful, younger gelding and just as sweet and well mannered as he can be.

Now, let's talk food and fun. Our Chili's night was such a big success for everyone that Chili's is now having HPL night every Wednesday for the entire month of August. You need to present the flyer to your server, so use the one in this newsletter, make copies for your friends, and go treat yourself and help the horses at the same time. You might even run into some fellow HPL-ers (they'll be the rowdy ones in the back having more fun than anyone).

HPL's Celebration Days and Garage and Tack sale was a great success. This is one of our major fundraisers and we did well. It is also a wonderful opportunity to invite the public out to the ranch. On Saturday, we had a lineup of grillmasters cooking hamburgers and hotdogs, and a big turnout for lunch. The weather cooperated and it was a perfect afternoon of fun and community. If you've never visited our garage sale, it is huge. Mary Ann does an amazing job of organizing it and the last day is chock full of super bargains. We also have a very nice selection of tack, from halters to saddles. And the music, provided by



Cowboy, set a rockin' good rhythm for the day.

We are pleased to announce that HPL will be doing a first ever fine art exhibit and sale in the spring. We're just getting started and invitations to artists will be going out soon. There is a lot to do to make this the gala event we envision, so if you are interested in helping with organizing, setup, or fundraising, please email us at our website.

See y'all soon!

Jan Detrich

AND NOW, A WORD FROM OUR (NEWSLETTER) SPONSOR:

On July 25th, the Horse Protection League welcomed the Harris Law Firm out for their annual work day. After touring the Ranch and meeting the horses (Glory, Tigger, Chance and Rascal were a big hit!), they rolled up their sleeves, not just because it was hot, and got to work.

One project awaiting them was to move an 8 cubic foot pile of sand. The sand was for Jack's pen to create soft bedding for his sore feet. Eight people, two wheelbarrows and a well choreographed "barrow" line, reduced the pile to nothing in less than 15 minutes. Jack showed his gratitude by pawing at the deep, soft sand, and letting out a big sigh of relief. In addition to moving sand, the Harris Law Firm volunteers spotlessly cleaned pens for Bella, Honey, Billy and Badger.

After the work was finished, the real fun began. Jory and DawnRenee helped volunteers groom Billy and Badger – while Billy and Badger soaked up the attention and dozed off. Princess also took advantage of the grooming session as Jan showed the kids how to groom.

Meanwhile, back at the picnic tables, Sue and Jennifer were busy setting up lunch and making sure everything was perfect. It was a great opportunity to sit down, chat and thank the Harris Law Firm for their hard work and support for HPL. A great time was had by all! Submitted by: Nancy Johnson



THANKS TO THE "SHED" MAKERS!

A big thanks you to Richard, Doug, Cole, Dean & Pedro for building sheds on Sunday, July 19th. The shed is more than half way up. Great job guys! You are the best.



EXTENDED ADOPTION CARE



Some of the horses that have been adopted from HPL will be able to stay at HPL in a separate area at the ranch. The extended adoption care program will be called Horses Helping Horses. There will be a monthly care fee which will cover a paddock and twice daily grass hay feedings.

The adopter will be responsible for supplying any grain and supplements and all veterinary and farrier care.

The program will be overseen by the Barn Manager of HPL. The HPL volunteers will not be involved with this program. We will start with accommodations for two horses, however the long-term plan is to have eight horses in the program.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FUNDRAISERS @ CHILI'S IN LAKEWOOD (Bring flyer with you—see page 15)

Every Wednesday in August will be a fundraiser @ Chili's in Lakewood. From 11 am to 10 pm. With each flyer for the Horse Protection League presented with your tab, Chili's will donate 10% of their sales to HPL.

FUNDRAISERS @ THE BUFFALO ROSE IN GOLDEN

The Buffalo Rose in Golden will host a monthly pig roast for the Horse Protection League. This fundraiser will be held the first Sunday of every month, starting in May and going through October. Guests are asked to make a donation for the roast and 100% of those donations will be given to HPL. Starts at 2:00 PM on the patio along with live music. Hope to see you there!

2010 HPL CALENDARS

We are looking for sponsors for our calendars. Monthly sponsorships are \$100 and daily sponsorships are \$15 each. Daily sponsorships can be any special day (birthday, anniversary, etc). The deadline is September 10th.

CLEAN UP DAY AT THE HORSE PROTECTION LEAGUE

September 19th will be our annual clean up day. Please come out and help us do a great job! Work starts @ 9:00 AM.

SAVE THE DATE

November 6th—HPL's Silent Auction @ Buffalo Rose in Golden.

November 7 &8—Holiday Gifts for Pets and Their People # Tagawa Gardens.

February 19th thru March 6th—Art for Horses @ Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design.

MEMORIALS

Gary & Constance Fall for Craig Paddock

Veronica & Jeffrey Stuck, Linda Wiese for Dolores Taylor

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Fill it with your loose change.
And don't forget to check under the couch cushions!**

**When your jar is full,
bring it to the Horse Protection League.**

**This will help pay for hay, grain, shoes and medical
care for our horses!**

Thanks from HPL!

Thank you from the Horses of HPL!



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Mustangs...

Maybe she wanted us to understand just what it took for her to have survived. I wonder now where she found a home; if she is growing back into her skin.



That moment, and the volunteer's optimistic comment about the paint's improvement, turned my perception of that day around. Instead of continuing to dwell on the inconceivable neglect that had left these horses sick and starving, I felt a deep awe at the animals' will to live; a connection to the hope all around me; and a tremendous respect for the volunteers from HSUS and the surrounding community that stepped in to take positive action. The horses are safe and they are cared for. They are on their way to better lives. Individuals and groups have donated a large portion of the 7,000 lbs of oats and hay the horses consume daily. Volunteers work constantly to keep pens clean and water tanks full.

When the HSUS seized the horses, they immediately began to organize and manage the herd. Using BLM squeeze chutes, they worked with two remarkable local vets, James and Tom Furman, a father and son team out of Alliance. Each horse was vaccinated, de-wormed, deloused and micro-chipped. It took only 2 days.

With that same no-nonsense approach, our two horses were quickly pulled out and loaded into our trailer. Two young stallions – we guessed them to be just a few months old – would be coming back to the HPL ranch with us. They were dirty, matted and frightened. Their coats hung in tattered rags on their bodies. One stumbled as he tried to jump into the trailer and his front legs went under the trailer. A volunteer picked him up as if he were an overgrown puppy and helped him in.

On the ride back to the ranch, we offered fresh grass hay at each rest stop. One took the grass, his soft eyes uncertain, but grateful. The other still viewed us with mistrust and avoided our touch, even if it meant refusing the much needed food. Both rode in the trailer quietly and stoically. We were met at the ranch by more HPL volunteers to help unload. The boys exited the trailer without incident and went into the isolation pen that would be their new home for the next two and half months.

Over the next few weeks, our boys began the rehabilitation process. They took on the names of Chance and Rascal. We were told by Dr. Furman and our own vet to feed them only grass hay, as their stomachs couldn't tolerate anything else. It didn't take long for Chance to figure out that if he kicked the hay feeder, someone (usually Emie) would bring hay. Pretty soon, he was kicking it around the clock. Emie didn't get much sleep that first week or two.

Slowly, they began to lose their ragged coats. Volunteers sat and just talked to them, drawing out their natural curiosity and planting the first seeds of trust. As of this writing, both boys have been transformed. Their tattered and patchy hair has been replaced with shiny new coats. Their legs are straighter, their bellies rounder – only this time because of good nutrition, not worm infestation. Their prominent hip bones have receded, although they still have some weight to gain. Chance has accepted a halter and Rascal, well, he's still a little more cautious, but he's not afraid.

It has been a remarkable experience for all of us at HPL to see these young horses grow and change. Rascal, though smaller, seems to be the dominant one of the two. He's also much slower to accept human touch. They both receive a lot of visitors and attention and now make a direct connection between humans and food. While the tragedy at 3 Strikes was shocking and heart breaking, it reminds us that those who cannot speak for themselves depend on us to speak for them and it demonstrates how individuals and organizations can change the future. I know Chance and Rascal would agree.

Submitted by: Jan Detrich

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LET'S GET TOGETHER

Chili's proudly supports The Horse Protection League

For the entire month of August Chili's will host a Give Back Day every Wednesday for the Horse Protection League. With each flyer presented on Horse Protection Day, Chili's will donate 10% of the sales you bring in to your organization. Let us do the cooking and support your Horse Protection League at the same time!

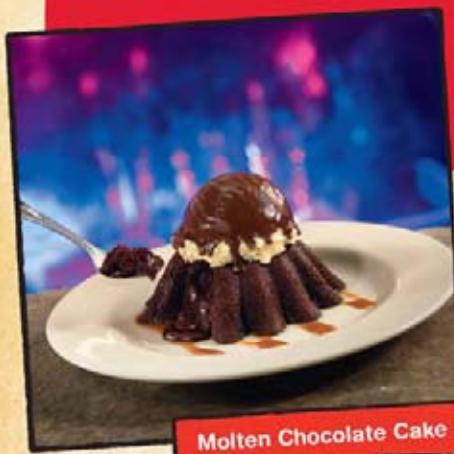
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EVERY Wednesday in the month of August
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from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm

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