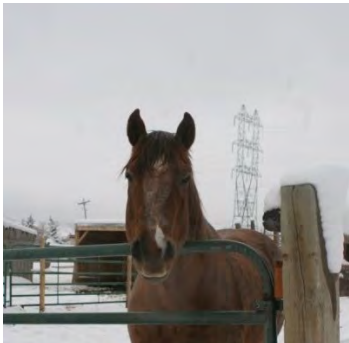


The New Kids on the Block!

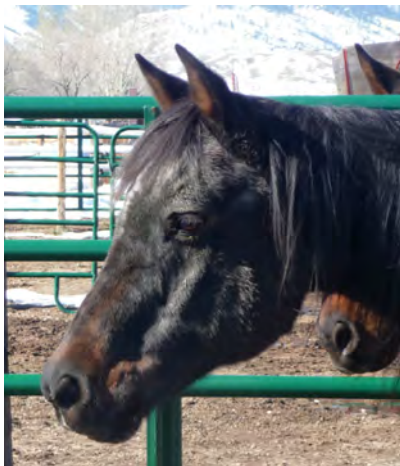
DRIFTER—7 year old register QH, gelding. Big and beautiful. Used hard in life as a roping horse in competition. He is a companion horse now. Drifter is under special farrier and vet care. Needs an understanding family.



CHOCOLATTE—Our smallest horse, only 31" at the withers and just 4 years old. Also called "Coco," he came to HPL in a van from the owner because her other horses wouldn't accept him. He's on the right. Our sweet colt Tigger seems to accept him just fine.



CHIP—He is "Grandpa" at HPL because he has no front teeth. We'd say he's 30-something. Needs special care as he has COPD, which is a breathing condition. Gentle, happy and sweet.



DALE—16 year old gelding, Appendix. Was a show horse in his younger years. Rideable, yes, but with limitation.



Board Meetings:

Meetings are held the last Thursday 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.

Newsletter photos submitted by:

Emie O'Neill, Elisa Mathews, Nancy Johnson

A Special Thank You...

We thank a lot of people in our newsletter but there is one person that has been working behind the scenes for a long time. His name is Jeff Copp and for the past five years he has been the creative man behind the artwork for HPL's Casino Night and the Silent Auction.

Since he doesn't want any recognition, don't tell him this is in the newsletter, but

**THANK YOU
JEFF!!**

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Volunteer Coordinator—Jennifer Maramonte (720) 203-6203
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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.



Our Volunteer Spotlight



Gail & Storm

This spotlight is on our volunteer, Gail Mellott. Gail and her husband, Russ, moved to Colorado from Pennsylvania in late 2007. After driving by HPL, she began to collect cans to donate. She called them her “cans of courage” because they gave her a reason to come to the ranch.

Gail started riding when she was 10 and rode on the equestrian team at her college in PA. She keeps coming back to HPL for the horses and the people, and says its good for her soul. Her favorite horse is Storm, who she rode on Thursdays.

It is with much sadness that we say goodbye to Gail and Russ as they move back to PA. We will miss you! “I was living the dream.”—Gail.

Submitted by: Jennifer Maramonte

OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEER FEEDERS

A huge thanks to our dedicated volunteer feeders...through rain, sleet, snow and gloom of night...

Cassie, Yaki, Maddie, Doug T, Connie, Nevae, Andrea, Bobbie, Lindsay, Barb, Linda S, Dawn Renee, Joelle, Spencer, Carol M, Kim A, Merry Judy D, Linda P, Carole G, Vicki C, Craig, Annie, Jory, Doug W, Elisa, Kim, Sarah, Mike, Emie, Jan, Lloyd, Donna, Mary Ann, Amy and Monica.

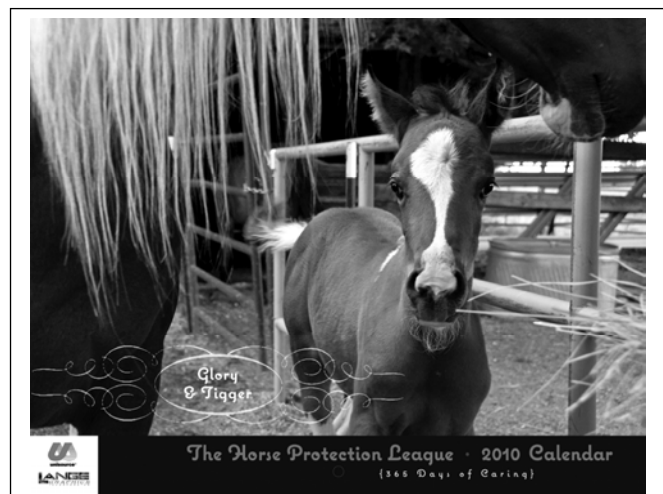
It takes a village...

Submitted by: Jennifer Maramonte



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for Three
Months!**

Name of Sponsor	Horse
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Susan Powers	Mattie
Ellen Fitzgerald	HPL
Patricia Doss	Honey
Victoria & Jeanne Price	Drifter
Angie Spiegel	Storm
OCTOBER	
Heidi Culbertson	Drifter
Susan Powers	Mattie
Ellen Fitzgerald	HPL
David Rountree	Drifter
Genevie Hernor	Roadie
Ann McFarlane	Drifter
Robert & Karen O'Connor	Honey
Linda Wiese	Drifter
Wendy Lien	Drifter
Anne Mills	Sadie
Karla Holt	Drifter
SEPTEMBER	
Ellen Fitzgerald	HPL
Letha Potter	Drifter
Linda Pierrel	Bella
Sylvia De Jesus for Jan Bednar	Billy & Badger
The Billings Family	Billy, Badger & Chip
Ellen Zachary	Drifter
Wendy Lien	Drifter
Susan Powers	Mattie
Heidi Culbertson	Drifter
AUGUST	
Ellen Fitzgerald	HPL
Dawn Renee Neff	Isis
Sandy Right	Bella
Susan Powers	Mattie
Heidi Culbertson	Jack

HPL's Wish List

Triple Crown Senior
Grass hay
Gauze pads
Aspirin powder
Surgical gloves
Rolls of cotton wrap
Floor cleaner
Ajax
Tall kitchen bags
Kitchen trash basket
Avon Skin So Soft
White vinegar
Windex
And more...call Emie
at 303-216-0141
to find out how you
can help.

Memorials from our friends...

Genevieve Stones for Allen Loewen

In honor of Barbara Bond (Merry Bond's Mother): Sharon Ruth Gayley, Patrick & Marilyn Norton, Douglas & Karen Harris, Bernice Schurr, Robbyn & Jeremy Stober, Darrell & Carolyn Wallisch, Blanche Greenberg, Loren & Cindy Foote, Lisa Lloyd, Orson & Eva Davis, Frederick & Judith Eldson

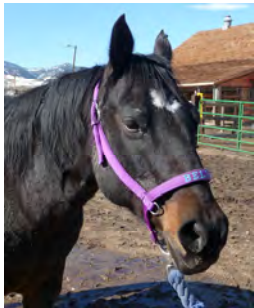
Memorials for our horses...

Debbie Pirnock donated to HPL in memory of HARLEY owned by Pam Lavery.



Sadly, on September 12, 2009 our Jack of Hearts had to be euthanized. Jack had a rough life before he came to the Horse Protection League. Thanks to the patience and caring of our volunteers, Jack was able to experience the love he so desperately deserved.

On August 15, 2009 our matriarch mare Codi passed away. She was out in the pasture on a beautiful day with her longtime best friend, Isis. She went peacefully and is missed by many.



More recently, on December 29, 2009 our sweet Bella had laid down and could not get up. She was surrounded by some of her favorite people, Emie, Dawn, Rob, Mac, Val, Rachael, Cassie, Amy, Adrea, but most of all Linda who loved her so very much.



Thank you Murray & Rob!

Everybody at the Horse Protection League would like to thank Murray Martinez, owner of the Buffalo Rose, and his staff for a VERY successful 2009 Silent Auction and for all of the donations to the horses from the pig roasts that he hosted over the summer for us. Murray is a very generous friend of HPL!

Rob Ferguson is HPL's "official" farrier and we feel very fortunate to have such a patient and caring person to take care of our horses' feet. Rob takes on all of the special needs of our horses and helps them feel better and sometimes heal. Rob often donates his time and services. We at HPL thank him VERY much and appreciate him!

Meanwhile, back at the ranch

Things have been hoppin' folks! Where did the year go? Well, let's see...

Our herd underwent a big transformation. We took in Amigo, Mattie, Sadie, Roadie, Chip, Dale, Hope, Chocolate (if you haven't seen him, you can't imagine what you're missing), Glory and her baby Tigger (another "don't miss"), Kahlua, Drifter, and, of course, our amazing mustangs, Apache and Chance (read more about their continuing story inside).

And there were tears – tears of happiness for horses that went to “forever” homes - Slim, Winston, Kahlua and Amigo; (Kahlua and Amigo didn't go far; they were the first residents of our Horses Helping Horses Continuing Care Program and tears of sorrow as we said a final goodbye to our dear old Codi, Banjo, and little Jack. Their “forever” home will be in our hearts and memories.

The ranch is changing, too. We joined in the City of Arvada's dedication of the renovated barn. Members of the Churches family attended and it was another historical moment in the life of the ranch. With the renovation of the barn, we gained a hay loft we can actually use and our new hay elevator makes getting the hay up to the loft a whole lot easier. Our amazing volunteers completed our new feed room, which makes feeding 20 plus hungry horses a much simpler task.

As part of our community outreach, we hosted groups from the Harris Law Firm (our fabulous newsletter sponsors), Coors, Flat Irons mall, Colorado School of Mines, and the Girl Scouts. Our Devereux program was expanded to two sessions, one for boys and one for girls. And of course, our Princess made a number of personal appearances.

We had some fun and successful fund raisers: Casino night, Celebration Days Tack and Garage Sale, a new Hal-Raiser event to raise money for a new truck, and our Silent Auction. Over the summer, the Buffalo Rose in Golden supported us with their pig roast on the first Sunday of each month – all food donations went to HPL. Next on the calendar will be the National Western Stock Show. Mark your calendars: in February we'll be hosting our first Fine Arts Show, Art for Horses, featuring artists working in a variety of media, all with a theme of horses and the west. And speaking of calendars, our 2010 calendars are now available. The calendar features wonderful pictures of our horses and life at the ranch. They make great stocking stuffers.

And these are just the high points! Can't wait to see what 2010 brings – hope to see you at the ranch, at Stock Show, at the art show. Wishing you all the best in the coming year! Submitted by Jan D.

Pennies add up

Gifts come in many forms and the greatest are those that come from the heart. HPL was recently the recipient of such a gift and we were once again witness to the difference one person can make. Alexa Brown, one of our youngest members, clipped the Pennies for Ponies jar sign out of our newsletter and started a collection jar. She got mostly change – from The Broce Ranch and the Hopsin Cleaners (both in Evergreen) – but was also surprised to find a \$20 bill in her jar. On December 19, she proudly presented HPL with over \$91 and a “Merry Christmas” note to the horses. She was thrilled to learn that \$91 will provide hay for all of our horses for about 4 days! Alexa demonstrated for us all the power of a simple gesture of kindness. We thank her for her willingness to put herself out there for the benefit of others. This is the true spirit of the holidays. Thank you, Alexa!



UPDATE ON THE MUSTANGS



There is a romance about the mustang. An icon of the American West, they represent a fierce independence that we associate with our own history. So how do you bend that fiery will to another's without diminishing the precious spirit that defines it? Patience, trust and respect.

Last May, HPL had the opportunity to take in two mustang colts from the 3 Strikes Ranch in Nebraska. They have come to be known as Apache and Chance. They came to us ragged, covered with lice, underfed, frightened and absolutely wild. We got them to the HPL ranch, got them settled in, got them on a good diet, and then – now what?

Enter Gary and Lois Smith. These two HPL volunteers told me it “was love at first sight” for them. “We love the wild, independent spirit; they embody everything we love about horses.” The Smiths immediately took out a three month sponsorship for the two. Then they began to visit almost every day, spending countless hours sitting by the pen talking, making eye contact, patiently planting the seeds of trust. According to Gary, “The eye connection was like nothing we've ever encountered.” Then came the “kissing thing.” Lois would put her face up to the fence and say “Give me kisses,” and she was rewarded with a soft nose through the fence and, yes, kisses, lice and all. After that first “kiss,” the human contact escalated quickly. Apache, initially more cautious and less trusting, also proved to be more curious and willing to try new things, while Chance, calmer and more accepting of humans, was the follower. Lois and Gary and their son, Forrest, cleaned the boys' pen, often finding someone snuffing the back of their necks as they stooped down to spread shavings in the pen. As they spent more time in the pen, again talking, feeding and offering treats, their patience was eventually rewarded when the boys allowed them to offer a neck rub.

First steps behind us, we found ourselves once again wondering, now what? Enter Darren Williams. A mutual friend told him about HPL and its mustangs and he came out to visit and offer his expertise. A horse trainer for some 19 years, Darren fell in love with mustangs about 15 years ago, when he helped a friend who had acquired one. “I fell in love with the strength, power and raw wildness... and they are wild; there is no domesticity at all,” he explained.

For Darren, the approach to training any horse is respect. But, according to Darren, “mustangs have a different mentality. They size you up to see if they're going to work with you. The young ones are more malleable while the older ones are more strong willed and bent on not giving up their power. Training takes consistency and mutual trust and respect. It is a long process before you can even think about getting on their back.” However, says Darren, “Once you've earned their respect and trust, they will do anything for you.”

So Darren entered into a collaborative effort with Lois and Gary to take Apache and Chance to the next level. Haltering was job one. Darren warned Emie, the HPL barn manager, that it could be hard – roping them, possibly having to physically restrain them to get a halter on them. “But Emie trusted what I was doing and became a partner and collaborator. She has been a huge force throughout.” The two youngsters were haltered with a long lunge line to give them space. Then they entered into what Darren calls the “dance of trust. You walk to them, they move away, you move away, they move

toward you." They danced this way for 4 to 5 hours a day, every day, for about a week. Then they moved on to actually leading the colts around, through an obstacle course, sharing the path with them, bumping into them a little. This was another week long process, every day, sometimes over a 12-14 hour day.

Finally, Chance and Apache took the next big step and left their enclosure. According to Darren, "They were definitely outside their comfort zone; their ears were flicking in all directions. But we talked them through it with calm reassurance." The basis of trust had been established, and it paid off. Gary and Lois each led one into the west field. They would lead the boys in different directions and then rejoin. They began to teach them to take physical cues to turn and stop. They deliberately tag-teamed the colts, switching off haltering, leading and running, so neither boy would get away with too much and so Lois and Gary would learn the differences in their temperament. Lois and Gary were also a safe haven for the colts when the training became too intimidating or overwhelming for them. "They turned to us like children to parents," says Gary. Darren's role changed and he began to back off, offering only verbal guidance. "I wanted to train Lois and Gary to train Apache and Chance."

One Saturday afternoon at the ranch, I watched this process. I stood by in utter amazement as Gary took off running with Chance. Darren yelled at him "OK, now stop, he won't run over you." I winced as Gary came to an abrupt stop – and Chance skidded to a stop directly behind him. Now that's mutual trust. After the workout, Lois and Gary each held a colt while Darren sprayed them down with a hose. After the initial fear, they settled down and just grazed while the water cooled them down and cleaned them off. For Lois and Gary, this was the best of times. One of Gary's fondest memories is "running nose to nose" with the boys through the pasture. Once, when Lois was working with Apache, the lead rope separated from its clip. Apache stood waiting patiently while Lois fabricated a makeshift lead. Lois and Gary say they "feel so honored that we got to be part of their growing up, maturing and learning. There was never a fear factor for us. When we entered into this experience, it was nothing but pure love and they recognized that in us."

The boys' social life really opened up. They would go out and about on the ranch, meeting everyone, walking by loud equipment and vehicles. Darren would run down the bike path behind the ranch with each of them – bikes whizzing by, dogs barking, kids yelling, and lots of strangers stopping with questions. They took it all in stride. Darren says he has been criticized by other trainers for "being too slow, for taking too much time, for being too gentle." He is not swayed, though. "I want that wild spirit to stay connected with who that horse is. I want to create a horse that doesn't fear, but respects." Lois and Gary believe the mustangs' progress was actually very quick because of the time spent on developing a basis of trust.

As of this writing, the boys have been saddled twice. They were started with just a rope across their backs, then a light saddle pad – on and off multiple times. The first time the saddle went on, Darren said "They looked like bucking broncos, but after about 2 -3 minutes they calmed down." Emie has walked them through the barn, which required major trust, moving from open daylight into a dark enclosed area. Then they tried getting Apache into a horse trailer. Emie stepped up into the trailer and gave just a light tug on the lead. To her surprise, Apache jumped in and walked right up to her! Says Darren, "This is why I'm gentle in my process – they're willing to make the decision; you don't have to force them. The key to everything is respect. Horses are smart. They can't be disrespected."

As for Gary and Lois, their role is changing. They say they have learned a lot from Darren and they have done considerable research on their own, citing such books as The Horse Whisperer and Making, Not Breaking, to help them develop their own philosophy of training based on love and gentleness. They add "We're lost on mustangs and are committed to having our own. Chance and Apache are going to the next level – they need to be able to be who they are – we went into the process with respect for that and that's what we came away with."

The story of our mustangs will continue. Darren continues to donate his time to work with them. They have a long way yet to travel and many new things to learn. At the heart of it all there will always be patience, trust and respect.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH/APRIL
Jan 9—24 th The National Western Stock Show HPL Booth #1914	Feb 19—Mar 6 th Art for Horses @ Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design	Casino Night

Go to www.cohpl.org for details of these events.



Please join us for an exhibit of human creativity to benefit the equine spirit. An eclectic group of artists are contributing equine and western themed art to this show that benefits the Horse Protection League.

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GIRL SCOUTS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN



HPL hosts many groups and one of our favorites is the Girl Scouts. On a recent Wednesday afternoon, we welcomed a troop of 8 -10 year olds out. The girls were very excited about meeting the horses. We spent some time talking about how to greet and behave around horses – there was a lot of knowledge among the girls! We explained how horses see differently from humans and how that affects their behavior. Nancy took the group on a tour of the grounds, visiting the mustangs, Chance and Apache; our new mini, Chocolate; and Tigger, now residing in the back with the other youngsters. We walked them through our renovated barn and talked about how it was originally designed with gun turrets for self defense because it was a stage stop and a gold drop for Wells Fargo. And, finally, we went around and met and talked about every single horse at the ranch. The weather was not very cooperative and the horses were starting to eat their dinner, so we agreed to schedule a second visit to focus entirely on grooming. The troop plans to return after the first of the year, when the weather becomes more predictable. Both they and HPL are looking forward to it! Thanks to Nancy for the great job she always does with our groups.

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