



Equine Sanctuary for Healing and Learning

News Notes for *January 2012*

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Susan's Message

Happy New Year to you all! We at HCW truly hope that 2012 will be a year that brings everyone some relief from the stress of past years. I know no other way to say it—2012 just has to be better for everyone!

As we launch into a new year, I cannot express enough gratitude for all of your donations and your participation at our many fundraisers. Your contributions have helped us keep our gates open, hay in the barn, and full tummies in the stalls! Your donations make up more than half of our income. We are very grateful. With your help, and some grants, we can feed all the equines for the first three months of 2012. **BUT—APRIL WILL BE UPON US SOON, SO PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR GOOD WORK WITH HEAVEN CAN WAIT!**

Please consider volunteering to help with the equines or volunteering your valuable skill a few hours a month to help us with publicity, event planning, office work, writing a regular column for the newsletter, whatever you are willing to contribute, we'll be grateful.

Volunteering is such an important part of any nonprofit's success. Our time is stretched pretty thin sometimes and it is the volunteers who have helped save the day so many times. Even though I often hear so many terrible stories and know of so many horses and donkeys needing homes, Heaven Can Wait still has one open stall that we cannot fill. In all consciousness, I simply cannot take in another equine without more volunteers to work with them, and a stable and predictable budget. When the time is right, some lucky horse or donkey will enter our gates.

I ended 2011 with a root canal (Yep! That was loads of fun!), and the loss of one of my beloved goats, Betsy a Nigerian Dwarf. We have no idea why she passed as there was no sign of blood or a struggle. I guess it was her time to go over the Rainbow Bridge. I love my goats and it hurts me to lose one of them as much as losing one of the equines. I only wish I had more time to spend with all of them.

Missy, the sweetest donkey in the world, is still showing the signs of her strong will to survive. She got cast a few weeks back and I honestly believe it might have rearranged her a bit. Is that possible? She has certainly

changed a bit to the positive since that mishap. She has even ventured out of her stall under the watchful eye of Legend, a big Thoroughbred who protects her and makes sure no one else gets near Missy.

Also, for those of you who have been following the progress of our three minis, they received their last x-rays last Thursday. Yes, their last. They have all been given their freedom back....slowly of course. It must have been very difficult for Snickers to have been in his stall for a year and Ortega and Chili for nine months or so. Ortega I am sure has missed bossing the Thoroughbreds and keeping the herd in line.

Rolo has been doing rather well with his acrylic foot since last reported in the November newsletter; but he is in trouble again. Please all say prayers for him. He is loved by all and he needs all the love and support we can all give him now more than ever.

Medicine Horse Warrior Horse, our newest program, is scheduled for a pilot run in the spring. Much time has been spent by some wonderful and experienced people, especially veterans, to fine tune this program to be the best it can be. We are always open to more volunteers to work on this very exciting project. The veterans on the committee are the driving force behind how the program operates. We are looking for people who would like to be volunteer facilitators, volunteer on a focus group to help us evaluate the program as we move forward. We envision a Medicine Horse Warrior Horse program for veterans, and a slightly different program for their families.

Starting with this issue, we are adding some regular columns and features to the newsletter. A regular monthly column, *Horse or Donkey of the Month*, will honor each of our equines individually, every month. We want to share the important work they do in our programs. This column is one way of keeping you up to date on what our equines are doing to pay back the community that helps support them. Starting in February we are adding a short column on horse care tips from Dr. David Eckstein, our veterinarian. And, we'll be publishing another new column that features our volunteers, and other people who do so much hard work for Heaven Can Wait. Finally – a bulletin board in the newsletter – check the *Bulletin Board* every month for equines available for adoption from private parties or other rescue efforts, items for sale by our supporters, and important announcements.

~ Susan

Hello Stranger

My husband, Mark, and I had the good fortune of attending the sold out screening of the movie "HELLO STRANGER" produced by and starring the wonderful and amazing members of the Adventure Club SLO. The movie was directed by Johnee Gange, an autism specialist who runs the Adventure Club. Timothy Bottoms, an actor known for doing over 100 movies was the Special Guest Star.

The Schwartz Critique: "Mission Possible" for challenged individuals to act, adlib and create a riveting and humorous story. We enjoyed the movie immensely and are very grateful for the opportunity to watch this awesome movie.
KUDOS ADVENTURE CLUB! A JOB WELL DONE!



Here's a photo of the cast from the Adventure Club website.

Check out the website (adventureclubslo.com) for more information about all of their film productions and activities.

For those who may not know of them, they come to Heaven Can Wait regularly and have been mentioned in our newsletter and website many times. They spend quite a bit of time taking care of the equines when they

are here. The Adventure Club offers an alternative to the traditional Day Programs for people with special needs, such as autism, head injuries, ADD and many others. We are very proud of the partnership between Heaven Can Wait and the Adventure Club.

Mr. Zimmerman—Horse of the Month!



Most of you are familiar with Mr. Z's story – about how he survived starvation to become an ambassador for rescue and sanctuary, and our Equine Assisted Literacy and HoPE Project. Mr. Z is a key member of the Someone to Smile For team and for the Paso Robles Parks and Recreation program that operates at Heaven Can Wait.

Kind and easy-going, Mr. Z patiently follows his handler through the Tuesday Someone to Smile For obstacle course and stands quietly while being groomed. He's even been seen sneaking in a little nuzzle to the kids (or a visitor) every now and then. Always the gentleman, he does not crowd his handler. He is not aggressive towards the other horses or donkeys. Mr. Z is one of the regular

favorites of both visitors and program participants.

Mr. Z came to Heaven Can Wait in August 2009 after being recovered from a pasture where he was starving. The situation was grim. He was with two other horses that did not let him eat and no one except the neighbor who saved him cared whether he ate or not. He was a bag of bones, fungus was eating away his coat and skin; we were not even sure at first that we got him in time to save his life. But soon, his energy returned, his coat cleared up and Dr. Eckstein told us to put him on a diet.



Now he is repaying his supporters by his work with the young people who participate in our programs. A three-month sponsorship of Mr. Z was recently purchased as a gift for her grandmother by one of our supporters.

His manners show that he has been very well trained and he may have been shown. We like to think that at one point in his life, someone cared a great deal about Mr. Z and somewhere, that person is wondering whatever became of his valiant and loyal horse. We like to think that someday that person will learn that Mr. Z is safe and flourishing at Heaven Can Wait.

We Need Obstacles!

As if we don't have enough already ...

Seriously! Our programs need ground poles, cavalettis, short jump standards with cups and rails, a very short brush box, traffic cones, plastic barrels, pole-bending poles, something to use as a bridge, a "car wash" obstacle – in short, anything that can be adapted to a modified trail course.

Every week, the groups that attend Someone to Smile For, create a very small obstacle course with our three cracking ground poles and our few battered and trampled traffic cones. They decide among themselves how they want to lead "their" horse or donkey through the obstacle course. It's heartwarming to watch these special young people be so in control of their activities. It's even more heartwarming to watch some of our huge thoroughbreds drop their heads to "kid level" and go over and around the obstacles without a second thought. Even some of our more obstinate smaller equines and the donkeys love their Tuesday games.

If you have any old jump standards that need some paint and a few screws, or some cavalettis that are ready to retire, please consider donating them to us. We'll tighten them up and paint them and give them many more years of good use.

We can use all of the obstacles for many of our other programs as well and having more and a variety of obstacles will allow us to expand the weekly "Smile Equestrian Games" into more exciting activities.

Horse Care Tip of the Month

Beginning in February, his time permitting, this column will be regularly supplied with tips by Dr. David Eckstein, DVM. For this month, we came up with a few tips of our own.

- ✓ If your horse gets a knot in his tail or mane, spray on WD-40 and let it sit for a moment. Work the knot out with your fingers.
- ✓ Use sunscreen if your horse has a pink nose. They do get blistered easily.
- ✓ Instead of paying a high price for a brush box, buy a tool caddy from the hardware store. Same thing, but it might be a lot cheaper.
- ✓ Use white vinegar to cure a yellow tail. Soak the tail in vinegar for about 5 minutes before shampooing.
- ✓ To keep ticks out of your horse's ears, spray inside ears, once monthly with Frontline. We were told this works very well – **but please check with your vet first!** Frontline spray works best and you can get it from your vet.

The Equus Grant Enhancement Program—Call for Entries

This is an exciting opportunity for our supporters to reach more potential customers with their art and merchandise and support Heaven Can Wait at the same time!

All recipients of grants from The EQUUS Foundation are eligible to participate in their Grant Enhancement program. The Grant Enhancement program allows grant recipients to provide auction items for EQUUS Foundation fundraising events. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the auction items are distributed back to the grant recipient that donates the items.

Over \$20,000 was awarded to the organizations that participated in the Grant Enhancement program in 2011.

Equus is having two major fundraising events in 2012 at which there will be silent auctions. The first featured event is the Fete Cheval, which will be held on Friday, March 9, 2012 at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, Florida. The second featured event will be the EQUUS Grand Prix Luncheon, which will be held on Saturday, June 23, 2012, in conjunction with the Fairfield County Hunt Club June Benefit Horse Show in Westport, Connecticut.

Your art or merchandise must arrive at the appropriate locations by the following dates:

Fete Cheval, Wellington, Florida	March 1, 2012
EQUUS Grand Prix Luncheon, Westport, Connecticut	June 12, 2012

The timelines for the Florida event are very tight and we need to hear from you ASAP on this one.

Please contact Heaven Can Wait as soon as possible for details.

We desperately need volunteers to help coordinate and oversee the entries and shipping of the donated items.

The Bulletin Board

Two Shetland Ponies are available for adoption to a good home. Black Bart (the little guy in the photo) is a 9 year old black gelding with 3 white socks and Baby Love is a black/brown 7 year old mare. Both are in good health and are gentle around adults and children. Neither is trained specifically for riding but would be capable of learning new things. For further information, contact Gloria at 805-467-9204.



Random Photos

This is another new and regular section for your pleasure and information. Check here every month for photos of a variety of activities taking place at Heaven Can Wait. Sometimes our equines do such cute and funny things and we like to share those 'candid moments' when our cameras are handy at the time. This section is also another way to share some of the many activities that take place here. Sometimes a photo or two is just better than anything we can say!

Students from the Fascial Equine Techniques class



Missy getting a much needed compression for her hip from Belinda Burton



Snickers receiving some scar release from Megan Hall

Notice both Missy and Snickers are standing for the work without being tied.

YES!

I want to support the rescued equines and their therapy programs.

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500

\$ _____ Other amount Check # _____

Credit Card: To donate with your credit card, click the Donate button to the right.
It takes you to our website: www.heavencanwait.us.



Print Name:

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Mail your donation to: Heaven Can Wait, P.O. Box 5, San Miguel, CA, 93451.

Thank you!
