



Neigh & Bray

Quarterly newsletter of HHT—the voice for those who cannot speak for themselves



July 2010

HHT Mission Statement:

To advocate for, rescue, protect, and defend our God-given equine from abuse and neglect in Tennessee.

Equine Programs

- **Adoption** - Finding a home for a horse in need.
- **STERN** - State of TN Equine Rescue Network
- **Helping Hoof** - Help equine owners feed their horses during a financial crisis.
- **Ultimate Act of Compassion** - Helping equine owners with humane euthanasia

It is through your generous support for HHT that we can continue to give a voice to those that cannot speak for themselves.

Wish List

- 16' Cattle Panels
- Fuel Cards
- Fencing Supplies
- Salt Bricks
- Hay
- Breakaway Halters
- Lead Ropes
- Towels
- 20+ acre farm of our own to call home and use for a rescue and retirement facility

How I Spent My Summer Vacation!

What tales will your children have to tell classmates when they return to school? If they have attended one of **Horse Haven's new Summer Youth Camps**, the "tails" will be many. . .and exciting! Beginning in June and extending through the week of August 9-13, HHT is offering young people a chance to learn about horses and horse ownership in an "up close and personal" way—with an emphasis on safety, responsibility and compassion.

Morning sessions from 9 a.m. to noon are reserved for children ages six through nine. Afternoons (1 to 4 p.m.) are for the older kids—ages 10 to 12. All groups are limited to six campers apiece so that each child gets a lot of time with the horses. Your son or daughter will learn basic horse behavior; how to handle a horse—including haltering and leading; the essentials of horse care and grooming; equine anatomy; and an introduction to both Western and English tack. There may be limited riding instruction, depending on the weather and the confidence/skill level of each camper. And all this will be accomplished in a fun and safe atmosphere that incorporates games and crafts.

These Summer Youth Camps are great not only for the kids, but also for HHT's educational mission of teaching responsible horse ownership. It starts with young people. Many kids have a natural love of horses but limited opportunities to be around them. So many of the equine abuse and neglect cases we face have their roots in this lack of knowledge and understanding.



These week-long camp sessions also use horses as a means of teaching life skills. When kids learn to respect horses, they gain new respect for themselves. When they develop compassion for a pony that has had a tough life, they begin to see that some people have a pretty rough road, too. And they're exposed to the concept of second chances. **All that for \$150 per child per week? It's a pretty good deal—for the kids, for their parents, and for our rescued horses who relish the attention and tender loving care.** If you have or know of a child who'd love this camp, please see our website www.horsehaven.net for more details about signing up.

And what would summer be without a Yard Sale? A huge shout-out of thanks to all the HHT volunteers who made our June 12th "Good Stuff" Yard Sale such a great success—especially **Leila Hungerford** who gathered up so many sale items for us. Hot weather and scattered showers??—they can't stop HHT! A good time was had by all and we **raised nearly \$3,000 for our horses. Well done, everyone!**

The cold and mud of winter have given way to the heat and dust of long summer days. Ice is gone, flies are back. Seasons change, temperatures move up and down, but still the work continues—**thanks to ALL OF YOU.**

Nena L. Margetson

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Sue Dempsey

Contact info:

HHT

P.O. Box 22841

Knoxville, TN 37933

(865) 609-4030

hht@horsehavenoftn.com

Website:

www.horsehaven.net

Directions to facility:

Visits by appointment only.

Take I-40 to exit #376 (162 north); go 2 1/2 miles to the Hardin Valley exit. Turn right off the exit. Half a mile down on the left is Reagan Rd. We are immediately on your left once you turn onto Reagan Rd.

To help insure the safety of our volunteers and horses we request you do not visit without an appointment.

Horse Slaughter. . . In Tennessee???

The answer to that question is. . .maybe. In the last legislative session, State Rep. Frank Nicely introduced **HB 1428** that would have allowed businesses slaughtering horses for human consumption to set up shop in Tennessee. Although the Farm Bureau supported it, the bill met with other opposition (including from HHT) so Rep. Nicely decided to temporarily withdraw the measure "for more study over the summer." While the legislature studies the issue, we thought you'd like more information, too. The problem of too many "unwanted" horses is complex. It has many dimensions including legal, ethical, economic, and emotional. So in Part I of our series we look at the current state of U.S. law regarding the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

Some Perspective. Over 1 billion people in the world eat horsemeat—primarily Asians and Europeans. It is an expensive delicacy. During the past 20 years the number of U.S. horses slaughtered for foreign dinner plates has been declining from a high water mark of 339,000 in 1989. In the most recent decade, the number of U.S. horses slaughtered has varied from a low of less than 100,000 in 2002 to a high of approximately 141,000 in 2007. The number of horse slaughterhouses located in the U.S. also dropped from 12 to three in 2007, all of which were owned by foreign corporations.

State Laws. In 2007, the last three horse slaughterhouses on U.S. soil were closed because of legal action brought under state laws. Two in Texas were put out of business using a 1949 state law prohibiting the killing or sale of horsemeat for human consumption. That law had gone unenforced until 2002 when a local prosecutor finally sued. In May, 2007, the Illinois legislature passed a similar law prohibiting slaughter of horses and sale of their meat for humans and the last U.S. horse slaughterhouse was closed using that statute.

Federal Law. By act of Congress, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is required to inspect all types of livestock, including horses, arriving at plants where they are to be slaughtered and their meat sold. But a provision of the USDA appropriation bill in 2006 prohibited the agency from using funds to inspect horses arriving for slaughter for human consumption. That ban was upheld in court, and essentially blocked the slaughter for human consumption of horses at U.S. facilities. Not surprisingly, the federal ban—together with the closing of slaughterhouses under state law—has resulted in more U.S. horses shipped to Mexico and Canada for slaughter. But the question that needs to be asked regarding HB 1428 is **why would Tennessee, a tourist-dependent state, want to even consider allowing facilities that slaughter horses for human consumption when current federal law will not permit such slaughter?** Next up, we'll look at the economics of slaughter and dispel some myths.



Ebony: from slaughter truck to show ring winner

In Memory Of

"Toddy" & "Flicka"

Richard & Karen Smith

"Jim Miller"

Anna Morgan

"Baby" Holt"

Jean Lewis

"Edward D. Black"

Gordon & Nancy Thomas Fund

"Peanut" Crain"

Sandy Crain

"Dottie, Verdick, Tony, Penny & Alex"

Carolyn Brown Capps &

Randy Capps

"My sister, 'Boots,' a true horseperson"

Geraldine Porter

"Prince Taffy"

Viola Cameron

"Myron VanBuren"

Barbara Wiker, Carol Livingston,

Mr. Lewis Boice

"Tic-Tac"

Katherine McDonough

"Gift Girl" & "Hill Top"

Louise Senatore

"Robin Queny"

Gwen Costner

"Magnum" Lawrence"

Teresa Goetsch

"Bart Cann"

Jackie Wilson

"Jerry Boser"

Judy Boser

"Dancer"

Sharron Jones

"Easy" Akers"

Judi Sachs

In Honor Of

"Hannah Rose Libby's Newsletter article"

Robert Cooper

"Anita Dixon"

Alice Lewis

"Fiona" Bolt aka "Ciley"

The Houston Group

"Shannon Looknott"

Charlotte Scalf

"Paige Tilton"

Teresa Goetsch

"Dennis & Kathy Hayward"

Carol & Katie Harold

"Katy & Christopher Bradford"

Glenda Childress

"Cannon County Horses"

Lisa McDowell

T-H-A-N-K Y-O-U!

The “Unwanted Horse”——More Than a Statistic

The “Horse Days of Summer” we call them—these long, hazy afternoons when “Nugget” and I like to nap under the big shade tree and let our tails slowly brush away the flies. It should be a time for peaceful contemplation, but sometimes the heat makes our minds heavy and our thoughts wander—to the way life used to be—before Momma adopted us. That awful memory rouses us from our lethargy, making us restless and afraid.



“Freckles” & Momma

When those dreams come we hear people talk about “The Unwanted Horse,” and throw out lots of numbers and statistics. **We hear people say there are too many of us and that the best thing to do is send us to slaughter.** Well, “Nugget” and I know something about unwanted horses. **And although we don’t like to tell our story, we think you need to hear it.**

Some people call it “breaking” a horse—when they make it accept a saddle and a rider. Well, I was “broke” too soon—before my bones were strong enough to carry that weight. I did my best; tried to do what they asked and respond to their commands. **But after too many years of the strain, my back swayed—so badly that my owners no longer wanted me.** They said I was useless so they took me to the auction. I was so scared I couldn’t even think straight. Thrown together with a bunch of horses I didn’t know—all of whom were as frightened as I was; poked, prodded, led from place to place; and finally marked for slaughter. I got lucky—or thought I did—because a nice man named Mr. Donny bought me from the slaughter truck and said he was going to find me a new and loving home.

Mr. Donny’s heart was in the right place. He told me about an organization called Horse Haven of Tennessee that was just getting started. And he helped me be adopted to a family who had a 12-year old girl. They promised to take care of me, and to return me to Horse Haven if things didn’t work out. Sadly, they broke their promise. **Instead of giving me a home, they gave me away and my life went into another downward spiral.**

But once again I was spared—because Horse Haven came to check on me and make sure my new adoptive home was working out. When they didn’t find me where I was supposed to be, they called and looked everywhere for two whole weeks. **Little did they know that I’d been at five separate auctions in seven days!** I’d almost given up hope—but Horse Haven didn’t give up. Mr. Donny had passed to heaven by then, but his spirit must have been guiding Nina and her volunteers. They came to a horse auction in Cookeville and who did they spot as soon as they walked in the door? Me; Freckles; the unwanted sway-backed horse with the white blaze. The horse bound for slaughter.

It cost Horse Haven \$550 to buy me back from the slaughter dealer, but Nina paid it because after having rescued me once, she couldn’t let me suffer again. **And she just knew that someone would want this “unwanted horse.” She was right. Along came Momma, who had never owned a horse but always dreamed of having one. She didn’t care that she couldn’t ride me—she just wanted to love me and be my friend for life.** And she has been—for eight years now. She adopted “Nugget,” too, so that we could be pasture pals—living out our lives in peace, except for when the bad dreams come back. The dreams of walking up the ramp to the slaughter truck.

“Nugget” and I know how lucky we are; and we understand that maybe not every horse can have a “happy ever after” life. **But we wish that more owners would look at other options besides slaughter—would investigate possible “second chances” for the horses they can no longer use. We got a break—maybe your horse can, too.**

P.S. Nina asked me to give a special “THANKS” to everyone who donated so generously in response to her recent “appeal letter.” Contributions like yours help save horses like me and “Nugget.” If it weren’t for you, HHT wouldn’t have had the money to buy me back, and find Momma to adopt me, and do all the other things necessary to give horses a second chance. If you’re reading this in hard copy format, you can use the enclosed envelope to make a donation. If you’re reading it online, please click the “Support HHT” link. THANK YOU!

Freckles

Horse Haven of Tennessee
P.O. Box 22841
Knoxville, TN 37933

HHT Calendar

Neigh & Bray Adoption Day

Second Sat. of every month 10-2 pm
Volunteer Orientation 10-11:30 am
Horse Owner Clinics 2-3 pm

Monthly HHT Meeting

Second Thurs. of the month 7-9 pm

Trail Challenge

Aug. 28 - Stone Gate Farm

“Dancing for the Horses” at Cotton-Eyed Joes

September 23rd, 7-9PM

Splish-Splash Rainy Day Fund

For more information about
all our upcoming events log
onto www.horsehaven.net

Can You Help?

HHT has some special
needs that we hope the
business community can
help with. Please let us
know if you can provide:

Concrete for manure pad

**Load of gravel and stone
to help with our parking
and paddocks**

**Equipment to solve
drainage problems**

Sand for our arena

Fencing supplies

**And help your business,
too... by advertising on
our horse trailer! Ask us
for details and rates!**

Psst—

**HAVE YOU HELPED
“Eeyore” YET???**

(see website for the scoop!)

Introducing. . .THE MANE COURSE!

Here's a great new way to help Horse Haven and have fun with your friends in the process. We're calling our dining/fundraising series “The Mane Course” and it's ever-so-easy to take part. Just pick a date on which you'd like to host a party at your home or barn. Then invite your friends to enjoy your hospitality. Ask them to bring a donation for HHT and in between the tea and crumpets or beans and BBQ (or whatever you'd like to serve!) they can learn more about the outstanding work that we do at Horse Haven. It's really that simple!



The first “**Mane Course**” party was organized by HHT volunteers Diane & Jim Montgomery and Kathy & Dennis Hayward on June 13th. By all accounts, their guests had a great time and much-needed funds were raised. “It was easy,” Diane commented. “HHT has a great ‘Party Box’ with handout material and a wonderful DVD to show guests. Many of our ‘horse friends’ didn’t know much about HHT so they enjoyed learning more in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. We enjoyed it so much we’d like to do another!”

Beth Cooper-Libby has graciously agreed to coordinate the scheduling of our “**Mane Course**” parties so please contact her at msrabbet@yahoo.com for more information and a step-by-step party planning guide. “**Mane Course**” parties can be done at your own convenience—on any date that works for you. And hosts can tailor parties to their own tastes—casual or fancy; breakfast, lunch or dinner. You decide—and then enjoy your friends and the knowledge that you’ve done A LOT to help Horse Haven!