

Hoofbeats is the official newsletter of Care For The Horses (CFH).

CFH is a 501 (c) 3 Non Profit organization formed to prevent abuse and neglect to horses in Southeast Arizona. This program offers feed and/or medical assistance to owners' horses in times of need.

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**Advertise in Hoofbeats** for as little as \$10 per issue. Print readership: 300. Web site readership: 500 hits per month. For more information, call 520-378-0896, send us an e-mail, or send in the form on page five of this newsletter. **Submission deadline for next issue: 2/15/05.**



## Remembering Faye Conner, Horse Lover and Animal Enthusiast

*Ann Jost, CFH President*

On October 24, 2004, a very special lady, Faye Conner, passed away due to an accident while riding her beloved horse Yank, with whom she had spent 25 years.

Faye was someone who loved all animals, not just horses. She and her husband Chuck were strong supporters of the CFH program. You could find them in attendance at all our fundraisers, including auctions, concerts and our well-known Fun Benefit Horse Shows. They also helped us pick up a stock trailer east of Wilcox last fall. Faye supported many others rescue organizations in addition to CFH, and started a rescue program in Nevada.

I will cherish the memories I have of Faye helping area children learn to ride during classes at our Fun Shows. Faye and Yank spent hours giving lessons to those kids and enriching their lives with the self-confidence that comes from caring about and riding a horse.

Many of the students were too young or did not have enough experience to ride on their own, so Faye led Yank during the many classes. Poor Yank and Faye sometimes had five or more riders in the same class, and of course the kids wanted to enter every class we had. There were times when they were in the arena as many as 48 times with different combinations of riders. I can just picture her out there leading Yank, her tall cowboy boots coming just below her knees and her cowboy hat covering her head from the heat and sun.

She never tired, but took so much pleasure in watching and helping the kids. Chuck was always nearby, offering his support, re-adjusting the tack for the different size riders, being a walker if needed and cheering the riders on.

While warming up for another day of riding with the kids, Yank somehow fell on top of Faye. She hit her head on the ground and was crushed below Yank's massive weight. He tried to get up, but was unable to and continued to struggle on top of her.

Since she was not yet in the riding arena, Faye was not wearing her safety helmet at the time. A helmet

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might have prevented some of her head injuries. It is possible that had she been wearing it, she might still be here with us today.

Faye's family is encouraging riders who do not have a helmet to buy one. It could protect you from a serious head injury and could even save your life.

Helmets can be purchased at local feed stores and from the many horse catalogs available. Be certain the helmet you purchase is safety approved by the national safety code. If not, it might not provide adequate protection.

Accidents can happen to even the best of riders: Faye had been riding and training horses for most of her life.

If you would like to remember Faye with a donation, her family is requesting that it be sent in Faye's name to Care For The Horses, P.O. Box 884, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635.

Faye is truly missed by all of those who knew her. A Benefit Fun Show in her memory is being planned for November of 2005.

## Tucson Girl Scouts Lend a Hand

Lynn Jager and her Junior Girl Scout Troop from Tucson, Ariz., contacted CFH recently after reading an article about our program in the *Tucson Daily Star*. The troop wanted to come and assist our volunteers with a work day, which was to include picking rocks at foster homes, putting up corrals, painting some sheds and repairing fences.

On December 4, ten girl scouts and their parents arrived at our chosen foster home. The day was dreary, rainy and cold, but spirits were great and a lot of work was accomplished.

The girls picked an entire arena free of rocks, making it more comfortable for horses received into the program with sore feet from ringbone or navicular disease.

Other volunteers worked to clear an area for a new holding pen that will soon be erected with panels that were donated to our program.

The girl scouts enjoyed meeting many of the horses that were in for adoption at the time of their visit.

They got to see "before" pictures of rescued and abused horses we have helped and "after" pictures showing their progress in becoming happy, healthy horses.

During the lunch break, the girl scouts decided they would like to come again in February to do a work weekend with us. We will all be hoping for better weather for that visit.

The troop is also raising funds for CFH by asking for donations while caroling for Tucson area residents this Christmas.

We are touched that Lynn and her girl scout troop have chosen our program for one of their service projects.

Thank you so very much, girls, for taking the time to work with us. We enjoyed meeting all of you and look forward to your next visit in February.



Members of Lynn Jager's Junior Girl Scout Troop from Tucson, Ariz., donated their time during a CFH work day December 4.

## Truck Needed to Rescue Horses from Distant Sites

CFH volunteers were very busy this past year: many fundraising events took place; 23 horses were placed into new homes; two families received feed assistance; and we were able to obtain a four-horse stock trailer.

As the program becomes more well known, we are having to go further than just our local area to remove and deliver horses. Therefore, we anticipate that even more horses will come into the program in 2005.

Our dilemma is that the only trucks currently available with our immediate volunteers are 1/2-ton pickups, which can't adequately pull the stock trailer from distant sites like Wilcox or Dragoon.

Making arrangements to use a larger truck can take a few days, which means animals must suffer longer. We have been lucky so far that we have not lost a horse during those few days, but it would be a real blessing if we could have our own 3/4-ton truck. For a starving or abused horse, it could mean the difference between life and death.

CFH did approach Lawley Motors in hopes of having a used truck donated from one of their many used car lots, but our request was denied.

We are writing for grants and planning future fundraisers in hopes of securing funds to purchase an older 3/4-ton pickup. However, if you or someone you know has one and

would like to donate it to our program, it would be greatly appreciated.

If the grants and fundraisers work out, we may even be in a position at some point to offset part of your donation by up to \$1000.

## DJ and Raffle Night Planned for January 29

**4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**  
**American Legion Post,  
Sierra Vista**

Like to eat? Like to dance? Like winning cool prizes? Then you don't want to miss our next fundraiser to be held January 29 at the American Legion Post, located at the corner of Canyon Drive and Theater Drive in Sierra Vista.

Lorenzo Matas, a well-known DJ, will play your favorite songs from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Volunteers will serve delicious homemade sloppy joes, ham sandwiches, coleslaw, beans and dessert. The cost for the meal is \$4 for adults and \$2 for ages 12 and under.

The bar will be open for purchasing refreshments of your choice.

We will hold our famous 50/50 raffle at 6:00 p.m. and again at 8:00 p.m.

Items that will be raffled off throughout the evening include a \$250 gift certificate for Wal-mart, a \$150 gift certificate for Safeway Food, a \$100 gift certificate for Gas City, and a 20" TV with a DVD

player. Items will be raffled off on the hour from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased in advance from CFH volunteers at a price of \$5 each or 4 for \$15. They will also be available the night of the event. Remember: The purchase of raffle tickets is considered a donation and can be used as a deduction on your taxes, as can all of the donations you make to CFH.

The door charge is \$5 per adult and \$1 per child age 12-17.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone have a great time, which benefits those in need of our assistance. For more information, or to volunteer to serve food, please call Ann at 520-378-0896.

## Horses Get Sad When They Lose a Pasture Mate

Not too long ago I lost my 22-year-old gelding. He had a history of neurological damage to his hind legs. When the cold weather came this year, his front legs were unable to support him. He was in much pain and could no longer enjoy the life he had come to know. I made the difficult decision to have him put to rest.

Within a few days of his absence my other gelding, Jake, stopped eating and appeared to be distressed and lethargic. My second horse, Te, appeared to be fine, so I knew that food was not causing Jake's problems.

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After a number of days I was sure he was starting to colic. The vet checked him over and treated him for sand colic.

I exercised Jake every night and when I was not able to, I hired someone to come and ride him during the day to make sure that he kept everything moving.

The following week showed no improvement. Jake would be down more than he was up and literally ate and drank only enough to keep himself alive. Again the vet was called out, but he could not find anything physically wrong.

Jake appeared to be in a deep depression and in a lot of pain. I called in equine massage therapist Catherine Webb to work out his cramps and muscle spasms for the next week. He improved immediately after each session, but by the next day would regress again.

By week three, I was not sure what else to do. I called the vet again. This time he said he was very sure that Jake was just too depressed over the loss of his pasture mate and suggested that I move him to new surroundings with other horses to get his mind off of the loss. One night Jake was so bad that it seemed he had just given up on life.

The next morning I moved him to a home a few miles away where he could be worked into a large herd of horses. During that week, Jake's eating and drinking improved daily and you could almost see a sparkle in his eye.

While he was gone I decided that I needed to change my pasture/corral setup if I was ever to bring him home again. Each night I went out

and took down the fences that divided my pastures into different pens.

I was able to find someone kind enough to lend me their horse to come over and keep my other horse company while Jake was gone, so he would not get depressed too.

Arrangements were made to keep the visiting horse here for a few months in hope that he would give my depressed horse a new buddy to play with.

The following weekend I brought my horse home. I am glad to say that he is enjoying his new friend and the "new" look to his old home. He is settling in and finally getting back to his old self.

*Ann Jost*

**For Sale by CFH**

2-horse trailer.

Needs some work.

\$600

Call Ann Jost at 520-378-0896



**Have you read your feed tag lately?**

We're not talking about the color glossy bold print on the bag, but the small magnifying glass print on the tag.

You might be surprised. In many cases what you find are mids, screens and grain by-products. What is a grain by-product? Try calling the "800" number and the nice person on the other end can't tell you either. Might be this, could be that, "but it's nothing bad" is the usual response.

As hobby farmers and livestock showmen over the years the things folks are looking for in feed is quality and consistency, especially for rescue horses. People should know what they are feeding.

Star Milling offers feed for everything from goats, dogs, and hogs to showing and rescue equines. The results over the years have been phenomenal. Plus their label tells you what is in the bag!

**- Special Offer -**

Friends of Care For The Horses who bring in this ad will get a \$2 discount off their first bag of our Senior Horse Feed and a \$3 discount off their first bag of Enhance Equine supplement.

Available only at Jem's Feed, 5373 S. Moson Road, Sierra Vista, AZ. Ph. (520) 378-0057.



Care For The Horses  
P.O. Box 884  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

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