

Hoofbeats is the official  
newsletter of Care for the  
Horses

Editor – Diana Crandall

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# HOOFBEATS

## Final Judgement Reached in Debra Davis Abuse Case

*Ann Jost, CFH President*

Debra Davis was finally sentenced on November 11, 2003 for abuse and neglect of the 11 horses seized at her property in Sierra Vista in August 2002.

It was this seizure that was the impetus making concerned local citizens step up to the plate and form an organization to help stop the passive violence against animals. Care for the Horses resulted from that initial incident.

Ms. Davis was allowed to plea bargain and despite public pressure, the court did not enforce an order to deny her right to ever own animals again. Instead, she received a three-year probation for the two felonies that stuck, which prohibits her from owning horses during that time.

We commend the Judge who sentenced her for making it very clear that what she forced those poor animals to endure was intolerable and unforgivable.

The word is that Ms. Davis has moved out of the area. She could be anywhere that there are horses.

## Report of Abuse Results in CFH's First Seizure

An anonymous call came in late one evening reporting that four horses were in a serious state of emaciation. The following morning, a CFH board member who is specially certified to assess the condition of animals, visited the site of the alleged neglect. Two of the horses were determined to be graded at 1.5 on a scale from 1-9; 1 being as seriously underweight as possible and still alive. Of the other two horses mentioned in the complaint, one was extremely thin while the other, a pony, had hooves so badly in need of trimming that the toes turned upward like elf shoes.

It was reported to us that a fifth horse that had been there before had already expired.

As terrible as the situation was, the owner did not want to give the animals up. Gentle persuasion and the fear of prosecution finally resulted in the owner's agreement to turn over a gelding and filly in exchange for feeding assistance and hoof care on the two that would stay behind.

The CFH member continued to monitor the two horses that remained with the owner, and  
*continued on page 2*

*Seizure, continued from page 1*

frequently had to fill water containers to do the feeding when the owner would not comply. In the meantime, the two removed from the property were immediately placed in foster care where they required around the clock care until they were stabilized. They have since recovered from their ordeal and have been placed in adoptive homes.

Their former owner left the state and is now living in New Mexico.

### **It's Official: First Horse Placed Receives Final Adoption Approval!**

December 6, 2003 was the anniversary of the placement of Silver, a beautiful gray quarter horse mare. Site visits were made throughout the waiting period to ensure the horse was doing well and was content with her adoptive family. All conditions were met or exceeded and she is now a permanent member of her new adoptive family who loves her very much.



She is the poster child for aged horses that are beyond their physical capabilities for hard work, but make excellent companion animals for the right family. She spends her days as a pasture mate for another older horse the

family owns when she's not enjoying a ride with the family's teenagers.

### **Healing Hands Work Miracles for Lame Horse**

Catherine Webb, a Certified Equine Massage Therapist, read an article in the last issue of Hoofbeats and offered her help. Lucky, a rescued horse from Tombstone, was the perfect candidate for Catherine's brand of magic. The mare's legs had become crooked and stiff in the absence of regular care over the years and the general condition of the horse was poor. She was nervous and had a poor appetite despite the excellent care of her new foster family.

On her first visit with the horse, two handlers were needed to subdue the horse so that Catherine could begin the massage using essential oils.

Each subsequent visit was met with more enthusiasm by Lucky, and she began to look forward to the relaxing massages. Her appetite improved, and she gained weight. She became more and more calm over the next six weeks.

At the beginning of 2004, Lucky's future changed permanently when a local resident contacted CFH. Her elderly horse (38 years old, she said) passed away, the other horse had become severely depressed. She wanted another older horse to serve as its companion. Lucky to the rescue. She and the other horse bonded immediately. She has a home for her remaining years with a person who understands her needs and appreciates her just as she is.

In the meantime, Catherine Webb is to be commended for her valuable skills in equine massage therapy. If you, or someone you know, has a horse that

might benefit from Catherine's healing touch, please contact CFH for a referral.

### **More Foster Homes Certified**

Two new foster homes were certified during the months of November and December 2003. More offers have come in to foster equines as far away as Elfrida and Elgin, AZ.

Our apologies to you if you have contacted us with room for fostering horses and have not been contacted yet. We all have outside jobs, and most of the time we have available for our CFH work is spent caring for the horses we have in the program. We ask for your patience in getting our site visits and phone calls made. We have not forgotten you.

### **Adoption Tip**

If you are still interested in becoming a foster care giver for the horses, or would like to be considered as a permanent adoptive family for one of the program horses, visit our website at <http://www.careforthehorses.com>. You can send us an e-mail and photos of your facilities using the application forms on the website. This will help to expedite the process.

For those who are looking for the right horse to adopt, keep checking out our website. We change the information as horses come in and out of the program. Again, because of time constraints, it is impossible for us to continually review each application when a new horse comes into the program. We urge you to go to the website to see what we have at any given time.

## We Love a Parade

Everybody loves watching a parade, but there is nothing like being in it. Care for the Horses members and volunteers participated in its first two parades during the fall and winter of 2003.

The first event was the famous Helldorado Days parade in Tombstone, AZ. We were surprised at all the cheering and clapping we received as we rode by the massive crowds along the parade route. We were unaware that so many people even knew we existed as a group or felt so strongly about our mission. Of course, the horses were the stars of our group with a few of the rescues or donated horses carrying riders in the parade.

The Famous Buffalo Soldiers preceded us in the parade and offered to put on a performance at one of our future events. Stay tuned, it could be very soon.

In December, CFH once again participated in a small local parade in Palominas, AZ. (part of Hereford, which you probably have never heard of, either). As usual, the horses behaved well and people interested in learning more about CFH approached us.

It was pretty exciting stuff and we fully intend to do more parades in the future. It is a wonderful opportunity to show the public that although some of the horses coming into the program may be older or have some health issues, they still enjoy having fun. They provide much more of that to their owners.

## New Arrivals

Meet our newest arrivals to the CFH program. All are ready and waiting for loving families to adopt them.

- Introducing Spirit, a 24-year-old Anglo-Arab gelding standing 15.2 hands. He is sweet tempered with lots of energy. Anyone can ride him, but he cannot lope due to a stiff foreleg. Walking and trotting do not bother him.



- Pie is a 12-year-old Mustang mare. At 14.3 hands, she is a compact little horse. She is very friendly to people, but tends to kick at other horses so she needs her own living quarters. If you will ride fairly often and are looking for a smaller mount, she is a fine choice. Pie has not been used for the past year.



- Retired buckskin show pony, Penny, is 22 years old and 13.3 hands. She suffered a back injury that limits her from cantering, but she walks and trots just fine. She has a nice disposition and will make a wonderful first horse for a child not exceeding 70 pounds.



### Care for the Horses Fall 2003 Benefit

#### Sponsor and Donor List

Thank you, Apache Pointe Ranch, for hosting this wonderful event, CC Karaoke for providing the entertainment and Elmer our Auctioneer

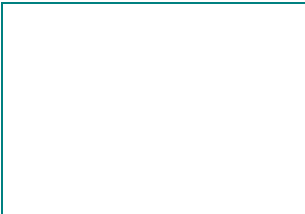
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**Individual Donors:** Jody Acosta, Shelley Scriven, Lori Cooley, Diana Crandall and Christine Livengood

Care for the Horses would like to thank all those donors who made this event possible. Please support them with your business and personal needs.

**Thanks to all the folks who continue to support our events. Without you this program would not be able to function and service those individuals who need our help.**

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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## "I'm Glad They Don't Hold Grudges Against Humans!"

A note received from Dr. Tom Teskey about the horses he has been working with on behalf of the Care For The Horses Program:

Here's something on conditions of horses...

...the last few horses I have attended that have entered the Care For The Horses Program have been in desperate need of some very basic care, feeding being at the top of the list.

Many of the horses have been beyond "thin," their bodies covered with sores where bones protrude from within. Their hooves are generally quite neglected and untrimmed, and their haircoats rough from malnutrition, parasitism and lack of grooming. All of the horses I have attended have made positive strides, and I'm always impressed how willing and kind these horses are given their previous mishandling—I'm glad they don't hold grudges against humans!

We haven't had to do any extravagant or intensive medical care for these horses...they simply need their basic life-needs taken care of. Food, water, basic medical care, grooming, and lots of human interaction have turned them around and made them whole again.

I'm also continually impressed with the folks that have offered their time and resources to these horses, and it's been

a positive experience for me to see these horses come back to life.

Tomas Teskey D.V.M.  
Hereford, AZ

## WEST NILE SHOT CLINIC: Mark your calendar now!!!

With spring coming soon, it is not too early to think about giving your horses a shot for prevention of the West Nile Virus. We have had a lot of moisture so far this year, and there were some cases reported last year in Cochise County.

There will be a West Nile Virus Shot Clinic held at Jem's Feed Store on Moson Road, Hereford, AZ by a local 4-H club next month. The cost for the shots is \$22 for the West Nile alone, or if you prefer you can get the East/West Influenza with it for only \$28.00. Remember that the West Nile shot is initially one shot followed by a booster two weeks later. If your horse had the shots last year, you will only need the booster this year. It does take six weeks for the shot to become effective.

You can bring your horse in from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Dates are as follows:

- March 20<sup>th</sup>
- April 10<sup>th</sup>
- May 1<sup>st</sup>
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>



