

Hoofbeats is the official newsletter of Care For The Horses (CFH), 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' of horses in times of need.

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Advertise in Hoofbeats for as little as \$10 per issue. Print readership 500. Web site readership 650 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 11/20/05.**



HOOFBEATS

From Our President

CFH is Now 3 Years Old!

How time flies! It is hard to believe that it has been 3 years. since I found 11 horses starving down the road from my house. From what started as many friends pulling together to help horses in need has turned out to be a widely successful program, providing feed and veterinary assistance to families so their horses will not end up as those horses did.

Our board of directors consists of 12 individuals from various horse related backgrounds, each bringing to the table a different viewpoint and opinion on the many topics and decisions that need to be made during the course of conducting our program. We do all have one common goal and that is to make sure that every horse we have in our program finds a wonderful new home and to ensure that horses in the surrounding area that may need help get it, and if we cannot help them we find someone who can.

I remember our first event or two where the turnout from horse owners and non – horse owners was overwhelming and the much needed funds were raised to care for the horses. In the past year or so it seems our events have become less of a priority for people and attendance has been down.

From the first year we started - where 23 horses were helped - to the 67 that have been through our program to date, the need for your support is still great. Please do not forget about the horses we continue to help and attend our fundraisers.

Over the past 3 years we have been able to purchase a used truck to haul the 4 -horse stock trailer that was partially donated to us. In addition, we have put up a shelter for some horses at one of our foster homes, where shelter was not available before. One individual enabled us to purchase a shed in which to store our supplies and feed by selling us a shed at a much-reduced cost. These fixtures are portable so they can be moved eventually if we ever get our own facility.

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Our volunteer base has grown to include massage therapists, trainers, drivers for trailering and volunteers who come on a regular basis to clean stalls, brush and play with the horses until their new homes can be found.

We now work closely with rescue groups from Tucson and Green Valley when they are full and cannot house anymore horses, if we have room we take them in.

Our upcoming goals for our 4th year will be to open up membership to the general public and to get a newer, more reliable truck (our 78' truck will require more maintenance as the year progresses).

Because we there isn't a program similar to ours to model ourselves after, there have been times when people question our policies and procedures. To that I want to say that this program is still new and we learn from each thing we do what works and what doesn't - and from our experiences we will build an even stronger and more successful program throughout the coming years. As always I want to extend an invitation to anyone who wants to join our board to please attend our meetings. If you decide that you would like to become a part of the board it is approved at the 4th meeting you attend.

We do ask each person to attend 3 of our meetings and to work at some of our fund raisers during that time and to participate in the many aspects of interviewing families for a perspective adoption, go on calls to check out possible cases of neglect.

Our meetings are held once a month generally on the 3rd or 4th Sunday of the month. If you would like more information about becoming a possible board member please call Ann Jost at (520) 378-0896 or (520) 559-2224 or email us at careforthehorses@juno.com.



Faye Conner First Annual Memorial Fun Show

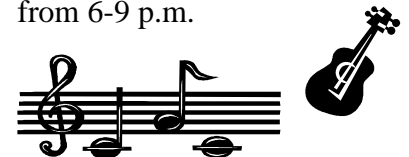
CFH has been holding fun shows at the Sierra Vista Riding Club for the past several years in November, and this year will hold the show in memory of Faye. As you may recall Faye and her husband Chuck were very active with the youth who wanted to ride in the events scheduled for our fun day. Many of the kids did not have a horse of their own, and Faye would volunteer her horse to

young riders. She was also a great lover of horses and was very supportive of Care For The Horses along with many other animal rescue organizations, not just locally but also from the many places she lived.

While this show is being held as a fun day, we want to remember Faye and in her memory a Troxel Sport riding helmet that has been donated by Jem's Feed located on Moson Rd. in Hereford, Arizona will be drawn from the day's participants. Faye was critically injured when her horse fell on her, causing a head injury that may not have been as severe had she been wearing a helmet. We highly recommend that everyone riding horses either for pleasure or show wear a helmet as accidents do happen even to the best of riders.

Benefit Dance October 8, 2005

A dance and dinner will be held at the Apache Pointe Ranch located 2528 E. Apache Pointe Rd., Sierra Vista, AZ. All proceeds will directly benefit the horses awaiting adoption in the program. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and dinner will be served from 5-6 p.m. Music will be from 6-9 p.m.



Does your horse have navicular disease?

We are seeing more and more horses that are showing signs of navicular disease. This particular disease is caused from having too high of a heel on your horse over long periods of time, thus causing the navicular bone in the hoof to rotate and point downward into the sole of the hoof.

Your horse may appear to be more tender walking on rough terrain, it may not be as willing to ride as it used to be, or you may notice your horse standing with its front feet extended and putting its weight on the hindquarters. Some farriers may tell you that you need to shoe your horse to make the foot more comfortable and may also suggest the use of pads. This may only cause temporary comfort for your horse and when the hoof gets too long, your horse is going to come up lame again.



This horse was improperly shod and the shoes were not changed every 6 weeks, causing major pain and lameness.

If you look at the picture of this particular horse that was diagnosed with navicular and having been treated with shoes to make it more comfortable you will see that the legs have grown crooked and look stiff. That is due to the fact that too high of a heel caused the horse to lose its normal flexibility. If you feel your horse must have shoes as some horses do, please do not go to the extreme of having too much heel. Lowering the heel over a period of a few months will allow the bone and tendons to grow back to a more natural position and in the long run, your horses foot will heal and you will find your horse will be lame less often. If you lower the heels continuously you will be very pleased to know that your horse will not only feel better, but look better and will be a much happier horse.

Please be sure to choose your farrier wisely. Speak with his or her clients who have horses with navicular to see if the work performed by the farrier was long lasting for a period of 6 months to a year, or if the horse went lame on a regular basis. This will help you choose a farrier who is experienced in dealing with this type of problem and will not take short cuts by adding pads, etc. to make your horse usable. After all, you want to use your horse for years to come, not just for the next few weeks or so.

CFH busy checking on reports of neglect

During the past few months we have received many calls from concerned individuals about horses that do not appear to be receiving adequate feed and water. The calls we checked out were from Double Adobe, St. David, Tombstone, Whetstone and Sierra Vista. Members of our program investigated 6 cases. Our job is to respond to your calls and find out if there is cause for concern for the horse's welfare. While everyone has their idea as to what a "skinny" horse is, we do go on-site and verify if there is a problem and if so find out what we can do to help.

We have found in some instances that the owner was just not aware that his/her horse was being seen as skinny from onlookers and were not aware that the horse(s) were dropping weight due to the fact that they see the horses every day.

In one instance it was just a matter of adjusting which horse to feed first, as the larger horse would eat the smaller horse's grain while the owner went back to the barn to get hay for the other horse. Now the owner feeds the horse with hay first and then brings out the grain for the other and waits to make sure the smaller horse eats its grain.

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One place thought that just because they had an older horse it was okay for him to be thin. Well after seeing Sparky and many others in our program who are near or over 30, we know that does not need to be the case. Making sure that older horses have their teeth checked at least once a year will sometimes fix the problem and allow them to digest their food better. Some older horses may not do well with just hay, and you may need to supplement their daily feeding with a good quality senior feed from the local feed store. Adding just a few pounds a day will help them add weight and maintain it.

We have also noted that many horses were dropping weight just due to the severe heat wave. Not all horses are shaded from the hot sun, and even horses that are not working will sweat and lose weight. Giving them extra water and feed during this stressful weather will help keep them at a healthy weight.

Members of our group are working on instructing one owner about Arizona statutes for a stallion at large and what the statutes state stallion fencing should be. Thus some of the calls will require us to go back and visit owners to make sure that the horses are improving.

As always let us know of your concerns.

Community Support is Appreciated

During the month of July we found ourselves facing a true dilemma. There were 9 horses in the program that were being cared for at our foster homes. With the price of hay ranging from \$10-\$12 a bale and the cost of farrier work increasing due to gas prices going up and all the traveling that they do to get to the horses, we noted that we could only sustain our program for about another 1-2 months. A plea went out via the local newspapers for anyone who wanted to help purchase feed at our local feed stores or for anyone who wanted to sponsor a horse awaiting adoption. We were overwhelmed at how wonderful and caring many of you were. Individuals purchased the much-needed hay and pellet food required to feed the horses and also visited the horses to meet them personally. Due to the wonderful support we received we were able to assist a local family by providing the necessary veterinary care for a severe injury the horse incurred. So far this year our program has assisted 3 families with feed and 3 others with veterinary care enabling those horses not to lose any quality of care or life.

A BIG THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR HELPING US HELP THEM!!



For Sale: Big Horn Pony Saddle, fiberglass tree, excellent condition. Call Janet at 378-3386 or Star at 378-3675.

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Advertise here like these sponsors do!!



Your business card can be read by almost 1,000 people for a donation of \$100 annually, or we can run it once for \$35. Remember, your donation is tax deductible.



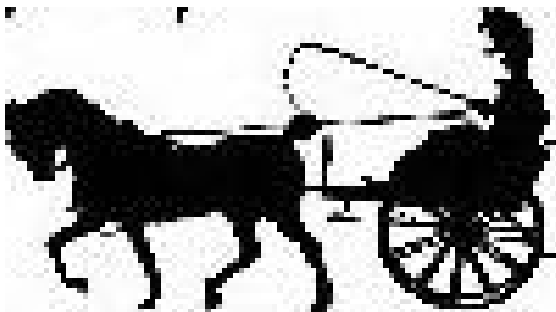
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Address Correction Requested

TO:

Are you interested in adopting a horse that can drive?

Bonnie Coerper, a winner of many driving events both locally and statewide, has offered to train some of the horses in our program that cannot ride, but which could still be used and enjoyed as a driving horse, thus making them more adoptable. She will work with anyone adopting a horse and help teach you how to drive him or her. You may see Bonnie in action at her driving clinic, which will be held on September 17, 2005, and at a driving show on October 1st at the SVRC. For more information on these events or to inquire about learning to drive, please contact her at buggyladydriver@yahoo.com or at (520) 366-0056.



JUNE RAFFLE WINNERS

- 1ST prize – Rifle, Scott Tatro from Schofield, WI
- 2nd prize – DVD Player, Richard Radwick from Sierra Vista
- 3rd prizes – 10 each bracelets from Bills Beads

Thanks to everyone for buying the raffle tickets and to Bill and Pamela Singer for donating all the prizes.