



Speak Up For Horses

www.speakupforhorses.org

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2008

Spring breezed right by and we are well into summer. Speak Up has been very busy making room for still more equine projects. We can assure you, despite the time between newsletters, your continued support and your donation dollars are being put to very good use.

One of our top stories is of course, Haps Irish Pub: the once magnificent local thoroughbred race horse we rescued from death's door the day after Easter. Haps was retired from racing in August 2007 and placed in a home that was not properly checked out by his racing owners and trainer. We found out about him after his adoptive owner committed suicide. Haps was slowly starving to death in a hog barn, seriously hobbled by a painful leg wound, sore tendons and horribly overgrown feet. He was so debilitated that it was questionable if we could even walk him far enough to get to the trailer and if he would be able to step up into it.

The resolve of this horse was remarkable. He wanted to live and live is what he is doing - AND he gets better and better each day. Now, 3 months later, he is still far from 100% healed, but he is well enough to take walks in the pasture at Shelly's and sun himself over the dutch door of his stall.

Speak Up has many supporters to thank for Haps' steady recovery including his veterinarians Dr. Davis, Dr. Garafolo, his farrier Shula Greatwater; his equine massage therapist Teresa Bossow; those of you who have contributed financially and Cincinnati Fox 19 who not only broadcasted one story about Haps, but continues to update the local community with continuing stories about Haps recovery.

His recovery is long term and very costly, your continued support will help us provide all that Haps needs. Look for his story in the current on-line edition of The Horse magazine.



HAPS WIN PHOTO

HAPS RESCUE DAY

HAPS AT SHELLY'S

Last fall Speak Up worked with the Kentucky State Police on an equine neglect case in Harrison County Kentucky that was finally resolved in March of 2008 with the owners accepting a plea agreement. Both defendants pled guilty to all counts of cruelty, had to pay fines and a 90 day jail sentence was probated to two years without horses. At the start of the case they owned approximately 35 horses. We assisted in the placement of some of the 35 by purchasing them and adopting them out to carefully screened homes.

Thank you to those who helped us along the way to buy hay to keep these horses alive during the legal process and to help us purchase those we could. The last five to leave were wild mustang mares. They went into a terrific foster home where they were lovingly brought back to health.

We are happy to report, three of the five arrived at their new permanent home, a mustang sanctuary in Nebraska where they will be gentled and cared for as long as they live. The other two have been adopted by their foster family. Thank you to their foster angel who gave them a chance at a good life. A huge thank you goes out to all the donors that made the mustangs ride to freedom possible. Lastly, thank you to the Animal Legal Defense Fund for their unwavering support and advice throughout this neglect case.



3 MUSTANGS MARES WENT TO THE SANCTUARY IN NEBRASKA.

2 MUSTANGS ADOPTED BY FOSTER FAMILY.

Paula plans to devote her time to the Saddle Up for Storytime book project beginning in August. This project which is near and dear to her heart donates horse books to under-funded libraries. We have some books ready to go, but we welcome your nearly new horse books, new books, or your dollars to help this project kick off before the new school year starts. And if you have a school you'd like to see receive some horse books, please let us know.

On the legislative front, a coalition of law makers have introduced new legislation to ban the slaughter of American horses for human consumption overseas, as well as the export of American horses to other countries for slaughter. House Judiciary

Committee Chairman John Conyers (D-Mich.) and Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.) introduced the bill, H.R. 6598, known as the Conyers-Burton Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008. Once out of committee please contact your state Senators and Representatives and ask for their support of this bill. Meanwhile horses continue to be cruelly transported hundreds of miles to slaughter in Canada and Mexico. Also on the federal level, there is more movement afoot to cull still more wild mustangs from their homes in the West. We do not agree with this culling and urge you to write to your Senators and Representatives urging them to protect America's wild horses by allowing them to stay on the range in natural herds. On the state level we continue to work for better enforcement of existing cruelty and neglect law. Given the tough economy these days it is even more urgent that animal control officers do everything in their power to make sure horses are being properly cared for and fed.

If you know of someone interested in donating a small used vehicle, please call us. The rising fuel costs are making it difficult to justify using our gas guzzling truck for all we do. Current tax laws allow the donor to take the blue book value for the donation.

We also have a beautiful, nearly new, black, 18 medium tree Courbette dressage saddle for sale. This saddle was donated to us as a fundraiser. Please spread the word. It is a very comfy saddle for just about any kind of riding. Priced to sell. Contact us by email or call Paula at 513-474-0626.

Visit our website and check out our new Speak Up for Horses tee shirts. You can order them through Paypal or mail a check. They have a great logo and come in 4 colors. It's a fun way to buy a nice tee and contribute at the same time!!

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Your continued support gives us the strength and courage to continue to Speak Up for Horses. And remember, we welcome your visits to either Haps at Shelly's or Lucy and Desi at Paula's. Sometimes just hugging a horse is the best way to spend a day.

Paula, Shelly, Ginger, Annie and Terry