	<p><b>The Bluebonnet Bulletin</b></p> <p><b><a href="http://www.bluebonnetequine.org">www.bluebonnetequine.org</a></b></p>	<p>Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society</p> <p>PMB 141 6425 So. IH 35, Ste 105 Austin, Texas 78744-4230</p> <p>(888) 542 5163</p>
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**July/August 2006**

**Volume 2, Issue 7**

**Featured Equine**

**~ Zeus ~**

This gorgeous guy is looking for a good home, and he has a lot to offer. Trained in both English and Western, Zeus has good confirmation and a gentle temperament. He was previously a child's show horse, but is now on the lookout for a home that enjoys a leisurely trail ride now and then. For more information on this handsome gelding, check out our website at [www.bluebonnetequine.org](http://www.bluebonnetequine.org).



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## ***President's Letter***

**Jennifer Williams, PhD  
President**

Hello Bluebonnet Family!

We've had a very busy past several weeks. As most of you have probably read, we recently took in a mammoth donkey and five new horses from a neglect case. All of these poor critters are so underweight that it makes my heart ache to see them. The good news though, is that they're now in the rescue and have already begun putting on the weight they need. We also found out that one of the mares, Cookie, is expecting. That makes me feel like an excited grandparent-to-be!



Thanks to this neglect case, we have gotten a lot of media exposure. Tina and the Arkansas crew were featured on four television news shows and in several newspapers. We've been getting tons of new members. Welcome to all of our new people!

On another great note, a lot of wonderful equines have found their 'forever homes' in the past few months. Happy trails to those animals and thank you to all of their wonderful adopters!

Stay cool - and I'll catch you all in the next newsletter. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need help.

Jenn Williams  
President, BEHS

***Special Thanks To Taylor Lehr of Yawning Horse Photography  
for the use of several of your professional photographs.***

***Thank you to our Supporters – your contributions help needy equines throughout Texas and Arkansas***

Learn more about our donor recognition program on our website – [www.bluebonnetequine.org](http://www.bluebonnetequine.org)

***Thank You To Our Blue Ribbon Supporters***

Charlotte Ables	Administaff	Audrey Angel
Susan Brown Barry	Dee Blinka	Alicia Bye, DVM
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Ottawa Back Country Horsemen	Paula Parr	Ralph and Loretta Pinnell
Leslie Scardaci	Cheryl Sharer	Marianne Skarpa
Donald Standiford	Ralph and Cindy Taylor	Joanne Terry
Maria Todd	Jerry and Sue Wathen	Susan Whiteford
Linda Williams		

***Welcome to Our New Members***

Louise Auclair	Lynn Bliss	Leanne Burgess	Becky Collins
Sheryl Dietrich-Neff	Michael Doebler	Roger Douglas	Granger Durdin
Tanya Feagin	Jodi Fields	Susan Goen	Bonnie Gulas-Wroblewski
Paul Hamby	Judith Harris-Juarez	Katrina Hock	Carol Hollaway
Michael Huff	Susan & John Jones	Sharon Kent	Barbara Kowalski
Dawn Kramer	Axel Martinez	Cheryl Martinez	Sunny Massey
Bonny Miller	Robin Morin	David Odiorne	Frank & Trisha Powell
Jeanette Ratcliff	Virginia Reid	Linda Renoe	Jinna Russell
James S. Smith	Hailey Smith	Sheril Smith	Wendy S. Smith
Dodi Speece	Susan Stann	Colette Tichenor	Allison & Phil Vandagriff
Catherine Walsh	Bernadette Wiley	Sandra Woolstenhulme	

## ***Thank You to Our Renewing Members***

Julie Bradley

Courtney Campbell

Dan & Kimberly Cimino

Kristy Deslatte

Cheryl Martinez

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## ***Thank You to Our Lifetime Member***

Cat Ballew

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## ***New Faces & Not-So-New Faces***

This section will feature a bio on a “not-so-new” BEHS member each month as well as one of our newer members. If you would like to have your bio included, please contact Jodi at [jodi@totalaccess.net](mailto:jodi@totalaccess.net).

### **Bernadette “Bernie” Wiley, New Face**



Bernadette Wiley, aka “Bernie”, was born and raised in the Chicagoland area, Bernie moved to Texas in '94 and currently resides in Dripping Springs with her husband and her beloved Airedale dogs.

Bernie works as a medical sales rep in the central Texas area, selling medication that helps people detox from opioid addictions.

As a child, Bernie took horseback riding lessons and caught the fever. She is now fulfilling some of her childhood dreams—including taking riding lessons in preparation for adopting her own horse.

In the meantime, Bernie has jumped into Bluebonnet with both feet. She started inspecting foster and adoptive homes as well as volunteering to work in future fundraising efforts.

The active Austinite has other interests as well, such as throwing pottery and gardening. However, many BEHS members know Bernie for her friendly, outgoing personality and her scrumptious, made-from-scratch carrot cake topped with a delicious cream cheese frosting. Welcome to Bluebonnet, Bernie!

## **Marianne and Steven Skarpa, Not-So-New Faces**

Steven and Marianne Skarpa have been around since the first days of Bluebonnet, and their contribution to the growth of the organization is highly valued. Steven is a native Texan, but Marianne moved to Texas shortly after graduating from high school in rural New York. They have two sons—Alex, 19 and Christopher, 17. Other members of the Skarpa household include five horses, five dogs, two cats and a Macaw—most of which were rescues.

Steven owns an insurance agency in Dayton, while Marianne is a business analyst for Administaff in Kingwood.

Marianne was raised around horses, and at a very young age, owned a little gray pony named Pepper. She continued to ride throughout her teen years, and as an adult, has dedicated a significant part of her life to owning and caring for horses. Some of these horses include two PMU



**Marianne showing BEHS foster Dusty**

draft cross colts and a grade mare rescued from a feedlot. In their search for a companion mare, Steven and Marianne discovered Texas equine rescue and have since dedicated a considerable amount of their time to fostering, adopting, trailering and tirelessly volunteering in a multitude of other capacities. In their fostering tasks, Steven and Marianne have gained considerable experience in rehabilitating emaciated horses, working with untouchable and difficult to load horses, and handling horses with many other issues needing expert attention. Marianne has also attended the Level I Animal Cruelty Investigator's Course as well as the Level I Equine Cruelty Investigator's Course.

In regard to horses, Marianne feels her greatest accomplishment was achieved when working with an untouchable yearling that they fostered. She taught the young horse to trust people enough to be handled, halter broke and led, loaded into a trailer, and the other important skills and manners that a young horse needs to know.

When they're able to find someone to take care of their large menagerie of animals, Marianne and Steven enjoy traveling.

### ***Contest Time!***

For those of you with that serious competitive streak, here's a couple of fun and rewarding opportunities to strive to win. The following contests are a win-win situation for everyone involved—the people with the most points win accolades and great prizes. The members of Bluebonnet win because they're an important part of a strong, growing and successful organization. And best of all—the horses of Texas and Arkansas win!

## **2006 Member/Foster/Adopter Drive Contest**

More members, more foster homes and more equine adoptions—let's get going! It's only mid-year and there's plenty of time to get going on the 2006 Member/Foster/Adopter Drive Contest. The rules are as follows:

Points will be awarded for the following:

- Each new member recruited: 1 point
- Each new foster home recruited: 2 points per horse they can foster at one time. (If they are able to foster 3 horses, you receive 6 points.)
- Each new adoptive home recruited: 2 points per horse/equine the home adopts.
- Each booth organized: 5 points
- Each newspaper ad run: 5 points

The person with the most points each month will receive a BEHS prize—a t-shirt, ball cap or other BEHS merchandise. You can win multiple months.

The year-end award winner will receive a gift certificate worth at least \$50 to a tack store. (The actual store has not yet been determined, but it will be a great place to shop—guaranteed!)

So get busy recruiting members, foster homes and adopters, as well as running booths or publishing newspaper ads. When you have an activity to report and want to claim your points for your efforts, e-mail Jennifer Williams at [jenn@bluebonnetequine.org](mailto:jenn@bluebonnetequine.org).

## **2006 Fundraising Contest**

Fundraising is a big issue we're facing in BEHS—we already have several horses who are needing our help, and we need to get the funds in to pay vet bills, seizure costs and other expenses. Raising money can be a lot of hard work, but the payoff—a feeling of accomplishment and the knowledge you've helped more horses—will make you want to take this challenge.

Any benefits, fundraisers, donations and sponsorships will count toward the fundraising contest.

The person who raises the most funds throughout the year will receive a \$100 gift certificate to a tack store. Suggestions are welcome for the provision of monthly prizes.

If you solicit donations or sponsorships for BEHS, please ensure that you receive credit for your efforts by e-mailing Jennifer Williams at [jenn@bluebonnetequine.org](mailto:jenn@bluebonnetequine.org).

## ***Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society Out and About***

### **Party Celebrating 4<sup>th</sup> of July a Hit with BEHS Members**

Everyone had a great time meeting new members and socializing with old friends celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July party hosted at Windy Hill Farm in Neiderwald, Texas.

Guests brought delectable dishes including Pam Archung's colorful fruit bowl and Bernie Wiley's made-from-scratch carrot cake.

Special thanks to Vice-President Regina Anderson for her hospitality and her grilling expertise.



### **Member Michelle Stockton Runs Booth in Melissa**

Michelle Stockton worked hard to make this booth a success, and that's exactly what it was! The Expo in Melissa was designed to provide free resources to the public and Michelle provided plenty of information on Bluebonnet. She purchased candy to distribute, which drew the kids—who had their parents in tow.

Michelle shared Bluebonnet with a number of people, passing out flyers and business cards. She met several people interested in fostering or adopting, as well as gaining many a sympathetic supporter when sharing the plights of various horses who had found refuge in Bluebonnet. Ready with her materials, she provided them with the applications and forms to begin the process.

Thank you Michelle and your daughters Ashley and Nicole for your hard work and dedication. And thank you neighbor, who gave the BEHS booth a prime location near the entrance.

## **Bluebonnet Members Man Booth at Southwest Equine Expo**

BEHS was invited to share a booth with the Greater Houston Horse Council at the Southwest Texas Equine Expo at the Sam Houston Race Park in Houston. The Expo was being held in conjunction with a yearling Quarter Horse race-horse prospect sale.

BEHS President Jennifer Williams prepared the booth materials, and she and Julie Bradley manned the booth on Friday. Member Rose Westover graciously manned the booth on Saturday. Three new members joined, donations were given to BEHS, and plenty of interest was sparked in rescue and horses!

Thank you Julie Bradley, Rose Westover and Jennifer Williams for your hard work and dedication.

## **BEHS Booth at Texas A&M Equine Market Days a Success**

Thank you to all who made this booth a success, donating items to sell as well as your time. This high-exposure booth grabbed the attention of a multitude of shoppers, gaining more exposure for Bluebonnet and possibly several new members and foster/adoptive homes.

A special thank you to Laura Senseman, Susan Hale Jones, Nancy Coyle and Michael, Sharon, Denise Crothwait, Melissa Morrow, and Kathy Fraser for all the work they put into this. A very special thank you to Jessica Frank who was in charge of this booth. Thanks to her efficient organization, more funds were raised to help the horses.

## **Bluebonnet Adopted Horse “Jasmine” Goes to Daycare**

Kenna Graves took her daughter Kami’s adopted horse Jasmine to Hannah’s Playhouse Daycare, where the gentle horse proved to be the “Show and Tell” winner of the day. The children enjoyed seeing a “real” horse and Jasmine loved the attention.



## ***Upcoming Events 2006***

Spread the word about Bluebonnet! The following events are ideal opportunities to represent BEHS—recruiting members, foster homes and donations. If you are interested in participating in a booth at one (or all) of the following events, please contact Jennifer Williams at [cowgirljenn@gmail.com](mailto:cowgirljenn@gmail.com) .

**September 7-10, National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration, American Cowboy Culture Association, Lubbock, TX**

**September 9, Mansfield, TX** - Benefit team roping event for the All Star Equestrian Equi-Therapy Center. Stephanie Taylor has offered to head up this event, but we need volunteers to lend her a hand.

**September 16-17, Columbus, TX** - Colorado County Fair. Thank you to member Bonnie Gulas-Wroblewski and her husband Anton discovered this opportunity. Please contact us if you can help with this.

**September 16-17, Navarro County Expo Center** - American Indian Horse Registry (AIHR) National Show. Help members Michelle Stockton and Sharon Martin-Holm work this booth with BEHS' own Mustang guest of honor—Braveheart.

**October 14, White Rock Lake** - Mystics, Mutts and Moonpies Festival

**October 21, San Marcos** - Pet Fest

*For a list of county fairs which are excellent BEHS booth opportunities, contact [cowgirljenn@gmail.com](mailto:cowgirljenn@gmail.com) .*

## ***Training Safety***

*“Training Safety” is the first of a series of articles addressing safety issues when working with your foster horse.*

**Sharon Martin-Holm  
Director**

### ***Safely Working With Your Foster Horse - Part 1***

#### **What to Wear?**

This is the first in a series of articles about safety that will be published in the BEHS newsletter. The idea is to make your time with your new (or not so new!) foster horse productive and safe so that you are able to keep fostering with us! Anyone who has spent much time at all around horses knows that this activity carries an inherent risk of personal injury. Horses are large, flighty animals whose ideas of what to do may not always mesh

with our own. Horse-related injuries are very common and can range from bruises to broken bones, concussions and even death. We want you to be as safe as possible, and we hope that this series will help you not only with your rescue activities, but with your personal horses as well.

It is prudent to take extra precautions when working with a new horse. To get a good idea of your new foster horse's personality and behaviors can take several days or even weeks. During this "get to know you" phase, please be extra careful.

What you wear while working with your new horse is very important. Let's start at the ground and work our way up:

**Footwear** - Open toed shoes (sandals, flip-flops, etc.) really have no place around horses unless you consider your toes optional appendages. At some point in your horse-handling career, you will get your foot stepped on. It's truly inevitable, so please have your toes protected. Even if they manage to stay attached to your feet, broken toes really hurt, very badly and will sideline you for quite some time. The best type of footwear is a leather or synthetic boot with a low heel and some degree of ankle support. The heel protects your foot from slipping through the stirrup while you are riding (a truly dangerous occurrence on a run-away or bucking horse). The ankle support helps prevent sprains and also protects against snake bites. Tennis shoes/athletic shoes are only a little better than sandals around horses since they usually aren't very thick, they don't have a heel, and they offer no ankle support. I hope this goes without saying, but please do not ever wear spurs (of any kind) on a new or very green horse. This is an excellent way to cause a wreck that could seriously hurt both you and the horse.

**Pants** - Obviously in Texas in the summer, shorts are the preferred item in this category. However, if you plan to ride, please either change into long pants or wear chaps over your shorts. A recent, very painful mistake in my own experience has led me to adopt this rule myself. You can get blisters in places you didn't know you had if you ride too long or too fast (or both) in only shorts. And with a new or green horse, you don't always know ahead of time if you will be riding very long or very fast.

**Tops** - This is the one item that is completely at your discretion. The only suggestion I have is that, for women, I don't recommend going without—at least not unless you are completely isolated from your neighbors while riding. Even then, Murphy's Law dictates that the day you ride without a top will be the day you get bucked off, someone will find you unconscious and call an ambulance—and God forbid you happen to live in a small town because you will never live it down.

**Hands** - A good pair of soft, leather gloves is indispensable when working with a new horse. Rope burns are nasty and entirely preventable if you remember to glove-up before starting your ground-training or trailering lessons or while riding.

**Skin** - Please use sunscreen! Although this isn't directly related to horse safety, it is related to your personal health and safety, and getting skin cancer is incredibly inconvenient. Somewhat related to skin and horse safety is whether or not to wear jewelry.

I would say "not" is the more prudent answer. Rings are obviously in a potentially dangerous area—dangerous for your fingers and for the ring itself. Piercings—in any area not covered by clothing—are just asking to be ripped out if you leave the ear/eyebrow/nose/navel ring in while you work with your foster horse. Ouch! Functional jewelry like watches and health alert bracelets may of course be worn at your discretion, but a good rule of thumb is: if you don't need it, take it off before you walk out of the house.

**Head** - This is the most important paragraph of this article. Your brain is a delicate and easily injured part of your body; the most devastating injuries are head injuries, and many can be prevented by wearing a protective helmet. These are the helmets most commonly seen on children and English riders, but there is no shame in an adult Western-style rider using one as well. The greater shame is if you get kicked in the head and we lose you. If you are working with a new or green horse, and plan to handle his legs/feet, do ground work or ground-drive him, or start him under saddle—please wear your protective helmet until you are thoroughly confident in his abilities and in your ability to gauge his actions/reactions. The helmets are readily available in tack stores and through catalogues (both paper and on-line). There is even one made by Troxel that looks more Western. Children should always, without exception, wear their helmets while working around your foster horse.



*Young rider Kaye understands the importance of helmet safety when riding her BEHS adopted horse Moonshine.*

## ***Non-Movers...Easy-Going or Dangerous?***

**by Laura Daley**

*Laura lives in Oakdale California with her husband, two boys and a menagerie of animals. She is a NARHA Registered Riding Instructor, a 4H Leader, and works as the groom and head trainer for the Ben Ali Mounted Patrol. Laura has been using and teaching the John Lyons training methods for over 17 years.*

Do you have or know of a horse that just kind of goes along to get along—slow, and lethargic? Never really engaging with its rider or handlers? This type of horse usually is classified as a “born broke”, kid gentle horse. They are usually fairly compliant, slow to respond and easy-going in appearance. Their responses hold no energy and they would prefer to just kind of stand around. They never really react to much of anything.

When you do get a response out of them, it is similar to pushing a big rock—it can be done, but it is not the easiest thing to do—or the most fun. They may even be grumpy when pushed for speed or performance.

Non-movers can be mistaken for an easy-going horse, but an easy-going horse will never be mistaken for a non-mover. Too often, you hear of someone who is hurt or seriously injured from a “kid gentle” horse “who has never taken a wrong step” until one day the horse exploded.

I would like to give you the tools to evaluate your horse so that you are never in a position of having your “easy-going horse” explode “all of the sudden”. I am not talking about the occasional accident that everyone is faced with when dealing with any kind of large animal, but a pattern of behavior that can be addressed long before it becomes something worse.

If you have a horse who appears to be easy going but does not engage with you the handler, you may be dealing with a non-mover. Non-movers have a sullen and/or dull way about them. When they have finally had enough, they will explode in any number of unexpected ways. (Disgruntled postal worker comes to mind. After the fact, neighbors always talk about how nice, quiet and friendly their neighbor was!)

Let’s think about this for a minute... Most people mistake a non-mover for easy-going because they never push the horse for a response. When you work with a horse and continually gain even small improvements, you are dealing with an easy-going horse. On the other hand, non-movers can become heavier, slower, sullen, grumpy and more resistant to change the longer you work with them. If you realize this behavior is resistance and deal with it accordingly, you will never find yourself in an “all of the sudden” type of situation where you, people around you, or your horse winds up hurt. Horses are always learning. If you do not improve on their performance when dealing with them, they will then become resentful or refuse to perform, and a non-mover does so in a big way. This refusal or resentment may take days, but usually takes years with such a slow and “easy-going horse”. The following is a true story:

How I found myself in a bit of a “Pickle” and how I got out of it...

Pickle was born at a relative’s horse ranch. She grew up to be just under 14 hands. I have known and loved Pickle her whole life. She got started by the typical western sacking out process, stood saddled daily, was broke to ride with traditional training methods, and was then used as a “kids pony” on the ranch. She was so easy going that nothing fazed her. She was “born broke” and kid gentle, as my relative would say. For the typical kid, she mostly did just what she wanted to do, as the kids at the ranch could never quite get her to mind in a timely manner. Pickle reminded me of a surly teenager when asked to take out the garbage. The task is done but with attitude and resentment. She never reacted to any antics the kids would pull—crawling all over her, climbing under her, etc. She never bit, kicked, bucked or reared. Pickle was not dangerous in the typical sense, but was rather

passively resistant to change. When asked to do anything, the response was always at her timing and at her speed.

In later years, she was sold to another relative for their two young kids to learn to ride. Now, it had been a few years since Pickle had been ridden, but she was just as passive and easy-going as before. The relative's kids joined my 4H club and they really started to bond. Anyway, Pickle started to learn other things like spook in place (way easy with her, or so I thought at the time), 20 steps to round pen reasoning, etc. She did not learn to lope in the round pen, but since the girls were doing walk/jog classes, they did not practice loping. Pickle also learned to stop if you jumped off at the walk or trot, and the kids could climb all over her, slide off her butt and also sleep on her backwards. The two young kids (7 and 10) worked with Pickle several days a week and developed a partnership with her. The kids did all the work with adult guidance but without trainers. Pickle would stand on a stump, walk a bridge that tips and was great on the trails. Those girls did over 2000 repetitions of "give to the bit". She learned how to carry herself in frame for schooling shows, had a great slow jog and was quiet in new situations. They placed well in walk/jog classes at the local 4H and schooling shows—especially in the Gymkhana walk/jog, as Pickle never broke stride no matter how fast she went. Campouts, trail rides and road or canal riding was fun as long as you did it in "Pickle Time".

But the following year, the oldest kid was ready for classes that included a lope. Now Pickle did not want to lope, she would trot all day long as fast as you could get her to go but she would not lope. So back to the round pen we went. The first two weeks, I ran more than she did—I tried everything. Sometimes if you can raise a horse's emotions, then they will add speed more easily than if they are calm and quiet. Pickle would just spook in place. No reaction at all most of the time. So I was becoming more and more "fit" from running around the round pen, and she was no closer to loping. I was beginning to think this horse would never just lope. This horse would hardly—if ever—lope even in the pasture. The other horses would be running around kicking up their heels and she would either stand in the middle of the herd or trot wherever she wanted to go. I was focusing on outside "reasons" or excuses for her lack of a response. If I could excuse her because of her breeding, training, or history, then I could "explain away" her lack of responses.

During this time, I also needed to re-teach her to load in a trailer as she'd had an accident and would no longer calmly load. So I started with the "go forward cue". This was the middle of July and the flies were just awful—even with fly spray. So Pickle is let me tap her all day long even when I "upped the volume". The ONLY sign of resistance was an occasional rapid tail swish. She wasn't stiff, she did not raise her head, she did not pin her ears – she did nothing! She almost appeared to be asleep. But once again she refused to move. I got a few steps if I cued her with my body or the lead but nothing from the tap of the whip.

Finally, after spending a few hours a day working on this for several days in a row, I decided that the tail swishing was actually a sign of resistance. So I really started working her every time her tail swished. It took her about 2 minutes to realize that I made her work for resisting my cues and "all the sudden" the fight is on. She was so emotional that there

was no thought—just reaction. She was all over the round pen; trying to kick and bite and really telling me off. I have never seen this kind of reaction from Pickle. When she tried to bite she got the 3 second; I tried to make her feel like I was going to kill her. Otherwise, she was worked and taught to control her emotions.

I finally found a way to get her to react and was able to show her how to control herself. In all her years she had never had to respond to a cue while emotional. Can you imagine if one of the kids had been handling her when she had finally reached her limit of “going along to get along”? It would have been a real big “all the sudden” moment and someone would have gotten hurt.

I took the time to work her through her emotions and also teach her how to calm down. She became angry when asked to work for her tail swish and resented the tap of the whip. By then I had her number, and with the John Lyons methods, I was soon able to get her to do what I asked regardless of whether or not she wanted to. I had my hands full for two whole weeks. There were several times she could have seriously injured me if I had not been prepared for her.

She really put me through my paces, but finally she learned to respond to my cues while emotional and things settled down again. If her responses were dull and slow she got worked. It took less than two hours after fixing her resistance to get her loading into and out of my slant load, a two-horse and also a stock trailer. The next day, it was time to go back to teaching her to lope in the round pen. The first time I asked for movement, she trotted off with energy. I added a little speed to the cue and off she loped like she had been doing it her whole life. Finally this “passive” little horse was responding to everything with a brighter outlook and quicker response. So I added a saddle and asked again for the lope. She was perfect, even from a stand still.

Now it was time for the real test – would she lope with a rider on her back? The first time I asked from her back, she loped off. Using the John Lyons conditioned response methods, she became a pleasant and fun riding safe horse.

Still to this day, Pickle will occasionally respond with a sluggish and dull response to a cue. When this happens Pickle is immediately put to work for her resistance. In short order she is back to a good **responsive** “easy going” horse again. I will never mistake passive resistance for easy-going again. If a horse gives me a sluggish or dull response, they immediately are pushed for something bigger or faster—they are called out for their resistance. Open communication must exist for a true partnership to work. Horses are so adaptable and changeable. If you show them a better way to respond, they quickly adapt to that request once they find an easier way.

What I learned from my Pickle:

Not all Pickles are sweet!

Not all tail swishing is a fly, no matter how infrequent or subtle.

Not reacting since birth is **not emotional control**.

Sluggish, and slow to respond is not easy-going, but rather resistance.

**Passive resistance is the most dangerous** (once they lose control, there is no reasoning with them and it can get you real hurt real fast).

Every horse has a “breaking point or overload”.

Training is a two way street: The horse must engage for a true partnership to exist. Start getting emotional control in a controlled environment and on your terms, ASAP **regardless of the horse’s history, parentage or prior training.**

Hope you have learned from my little Pickle, and never have one of your own!

## ***The Language of Bits***

**by Barbara Connors**

*Hailing from the state of Massachusetts, Barbara has shown huntseat, western pleasure and a myriad of other disciplines. Although her current passions are trail riding and driving, she has trained horses over the years in a variety of disciplines. Barbara is currently working toward becoming an AANHCP certified Natural Hoof Care Practitioner.*

*“The Language of Bits” is a series of articles that Barbara will be writing for BEHS in order to help our members better understand the usage and purpose of various bits.*

Understanding bits and how they work, and eventually choosing the right bit for your horse, is a complex subject. Every aspect of a bit’s design plays a role in how it will affect the horse, but this is only half the picture. The other, more important, half is how the horse responds to that particular bit. Because everything we do with bits relies entirely upon the horse’s responses, we need to start this process with a more thorough understanding of the horse’s face and mouth, and his reactions to pressure. Once we’ve learned some more about these things, we can start to understand bits more fully and understand how to use them on our horses.

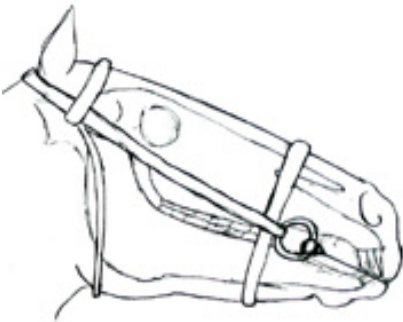
The way every bit (or noseband, in a bitless type of bridle) works is to apply pressure to the horse’s mouth or nose as motivation to do something. These “pressure points” are so named because they are very sensitive spots on the horse’s body, and applying pressure to them motivates the horse to seek a release. This is how horses learn our cues, through the initial discomfort or annoyance (or pain, in the worst of cases) from the bit or noseband. Now, does this mean we need to stop biting our horses because this learning process causes discomfort or annoyance? I don’t think it does, but it *does* mean that as riders, drivers, and handlers, we need to be clear about why bits work the way they do so we don’t ever abuse the bit, especially when the horse is trying to learn this new language.



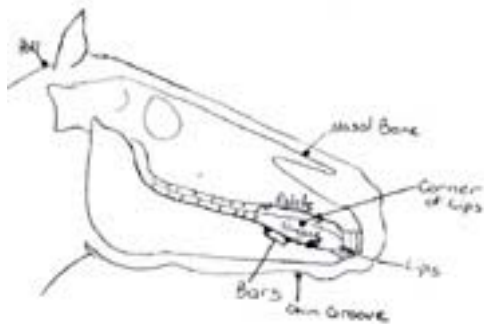
**Photo 1a**

In *Photo 1a* at the left, the young pony is resistant either due of a lack of understanding, or an unwillingness to respond. However, if there was something about his mouth causing him pain, a different bit might have been called for instead of steadily waiting for the proper response. The only way to know is to gain as much information as we can about our horse's facial and oral features. This also helps us to keep those sensitive structures in mind with every tug we make on the reins.

Let's start with the bridge of the horse's nose, where a noseband would sit. Keep a firm, steadying hand on the horse's face to restrain him, and using a fairly flat hand and just the pads of your fingertips, start feeling around the bridge of the nose. You will be able to trace the edges of the "free floating" nasal bone and cartilage all the way to the nostrils (*Photo 2a and b*). Bitless bridle types of nosebands are typically adjusted very low, and are "perched" on this ledge of bone and cartilage which is a very sensitive structure and so offers more "motivation" for the horse to respond (*Photo 3*).



**Photo 2a**



**Photo 2b**



**Photo 3**

Next, let's feel around the horse's chin. Just behind the thick, squishy pad of the chin is a small area of thick, sometimes flat, bone called the "chin groove" where the curb chain or strap would sit. Move just a little back from this spot and you will feel the jaws separate into two skinny branches, covered with very fine, thin skin. Since this skin can easily be rubbed raw if a curb chain or strap sits here instead of in the chin groove, make sure that any curb chain or strap is sitting in the right spot, or else remove it entirely.

Now, on the side of the horse's face, start feeling around very gently for the cheek teeth, or molars. You will likely be able to see where these teeth are from the bulges in your horse's cheek. Do be careful when feeling these teeth through the cheek, since the horse can lacerate his mouth if he begins chewing while you're pressing on them. Take a close look at *Photo 5a and b*. The first pony's cheek teeth are significantly closer to where the bit sits than the second horse's teeth. If the first pony's bit was adjusted to make two wrinkles at the corner of his lips, he could easily bang his teeth or pinch his lips. The

second horse would probably be fine with two wrinkles, but adjusting the bit so it only just touches the corners of the lips when the horse's mouth is relaxed allows the horse enough "wobble room" to find the most comfortable position for the bit on their own and still provides plenty of room between the bit and the incisors (*Photo 4*). Of course, if the bit is interfering with any teeth at all, it should be raised or lowered as necessary.



**Photo 4**

The next step is to examine inside your horse's mouth. You'll find that there is actually a fair amount of padding in the mouth from the lips and tongue. The bit will sit on these for the most part, but the bars underneath them can be exposed as the horse licks and chews, so we need to examine all of these structures equally.

Staying far away from the horse's teeth, reach gently into the side of your horse's mouth with a thumb or finger and feel the shape of the bars (*Photo 6*). Do they feel skinny and "sharp", like the edge of a pencil, or thicker and smoother, like a fat marker?



**Photo 5a**

If the horse's bars are skinnier, the bit will make contact with them as the horse licks or chews and will feel much sharper to that horse than the same bit would feel to a horse with thicker, fatter bars.



**Photo 5b**

If a horse is evading or resisting the bit and has skinny bars, I will always try to switch to a gentler bit, maybe a hollow, lightweight bit, and continue from there, since the discomfort or even pain will be a hindrance when trying to teach cues.

The softer lips and tongue can take a lot more pressure than the bars can, much like our calf muscle as opposed to our shin. Notice how thick the lips are (*Photo 4*), and how much room the tongue takes up inside the oral cavity (pretty much all of it). With no extra space inside the mouth, the bit will always be pressing the tongue down out of the way, and will also always be touching the palate, no matter what (*Photo 7*). This becomes important when considering bits with ports, like many curb bits.



**Photo 6**

The lips and tongue are also very mobile and flexible structures (*Photo 4*), and different horses will have different habits about licking, chewing, and holding their lips. So although these softer structures will protect the sensitive bars from the bit, they will move in and out of the way with licking and chewing, alternatively exposing and cushioning those bars.



**Photo 7**

I would like to share a few closing remarks before you head out to examine your own horses' faces and mouths. Remember that the horse's face and mouth are very sensitive, and can easily suffer serious damage from the bit or noseband. Because in many cases a bad experience, a lack of understanding, or even physical pain will cause a horse to be resistant, we have even more reason to be gentle and careful with the reins and bit. Our job is to find the right bit to teach our horses the language we want them to know. Now that we've explored the horse's face and

mouth, we have a good start to understanding bits ourselves and using them more effectively.

## ***The Color Corner***

*The Color Corner discusses interesting color patterns and coat color genetics. If you have suggestions or submissions, please contact Sharon at [leosharon@earthlink.net](mailto:leosharon@earthlink.net).*

**Sharon Martin-Holm  
Director**

### White Patterns -- Roan

Many of the attractive color patterns that we see are formed by patterns of white superimposed over a base color. These include gray, roan, paint/pinto/spotted, and appaloosa/leopard complex. Last month we reviewed gray; this month we'll discuss roan. Paint and appaloosa will follow in subsequent installments.

It is useful to note at this point that the term "roan" can sometimes be misleading and confusing. Technically, the definition of roan for any animal color is "the intermixture of white hairs and colored hairs". In horses, however, there is a very distinctive pattern of intermixed white hairs that occurs and is specifically called roan. "Roaning" would be a better descriptive term to use in horses who are not truly roan, but have some intermixture of white hairs such as is seen often in sabino paints or even just in older horses who

develop white flecks within their usual color. Some gray horses can look roan, but you can easily tell the difference by looking at the horse's head. If his head is light, it is a gray horse. If the head is dark, it is a roan horse.

Every horse has a base color: black, bay or chestnut/sorrel. Roan horses are no exception. The roan pattern may also occur on horses with dilute colors, such as silver, dun, palomino and buckskin. The classic roan color causes a relatively even mixture of white and colored hairs on the body, but generally spares the head, mane, tail and legs. The loins, hips and rump will tend to be the lightest areas. Roans often have dark spots in their coats, called "corn spots" which are sometimes from scars and sometimes just occur spontaneously.



***BEHS horse Lucy being shown by BEHS member Kelly Bolinger could be called a "red roan" with several "corn spots".***

The terminology used to describe different colors of roan is also confusing. "Blue roan" is used to describe roan on a black base color. "Purple roan" is used to identify a dark/mahogany bay with roan. "Red roan" is classically a bay roan, although some people use this to describe a chestnut roan as well. "Strawberry roan" is typically the chestnut roan, but for darker and lighter shades of chestnut/sorrel there are also "lilac roan" (liver chestnut roan) and "honey roan" (blond sorrel roan). The best way around this is to just use the base color name with "roan": black roan, bay roan, chestnut roan, sorrel roan. If the roan is combined with a dilute color, then identify it as palomino roan, zebra dun roan, red dun roan, etc. (Just for fun, what would you call a horse that had dun and roan on a black background, that also had pinto spots? Why, a "grullo roan paint" of course!)

The roan color of an individual horse will tend to change with the seasons. It usually is lightest in the spring after shedding, becomes a little darker during the summer, and during winter can be so dark as to be unable to tell it from non-roan horses. A few roan horses will also get progressively darker as they get older.

The genetic control of roan, as that of gray, is also by a dominant gene. With this being the case, you should not get a roan foal from two non-roan parents. For some time, it was believed that the homozygous roan (two roan alleles) was "lethal", but it has since been established that there are several breeding horses whose progeny indicate they are indeed homozygous.

## As a horse owner, Can I Afford NAIS?

NAIS is the National Animal Identification System, a plan conceived by NIAA, an industry organization, and then developed by the USDA for implementation by the States. The Texas Animal Health Commission is poised to implement NAIS in Texas. Under this plan, you will have to:

**Register the location where you keep your horse** and any other livestock that you own such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, and exotic livestock and poultry. This means you will put information about where you keep your animals and the types of animals you have into a database that will be accessed by the State and Federal governments. You will be assigned a premises ID number, a unique 7-character code, keyed to GPS coordinates.

**Individually register your horse and each livestock animal you own.** Each animal must be assigned a unique 15-digit number before it is moved from its herd of origin or brought to a location where it will be in contact with other animals. Your horse will be microchipped with this number. Other livestock may be microchipped, radio tagged, or otherwise physically identified depending on the type of animal.

**Report within 24 hours anytime you move your horse (or other livestock) on or off your location and every death or missing animal.** The current recommendations specifically for horses would require horse owners to report every time their horses are transported interstate, or intrastate when “commingled with other horses or livestock, or to premises or events” where a health certificate or Coggins are required.

*The USDA insists that 100% of premises be registered, 100% of animals under the age of 1 be identified, and 60% of animals be tracked by January 2009.*

**Bottom line:** You will have to register with the government, tell them what animals you own, microchip every horse, and report every time you take your horse off your property. This means each time you take a mare to the breeder’s, take a horse to a trainer, go to a riding lesson or 4-H or Pony Club practice, go to a show, trail ride, or rodeo. You must even report each time you take your horse to the veterinarian’s office. Imagine the cost and the loss of your freedom!

***CALL or WRITE your elected officials asking them to adopt legislation to limit the TAHC’s and USDA’s authority***

See sample letter on the back of this flyer

For more information, and to learn how you can protect your rights, go to  
[www.farmandranchfreedom.org](http://www.farmandranchfreedom.org)

**Below is a sample letter.**  
**Personalize your letter – tell them how you will be affected!**

**Contact information:**

State Representative and Senator: [www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm)

Governor Perry: Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 12428, Austin, Texas  
78711-2428

Your U.S. Representative: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison: 284 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC  
20510-4304

Senator John Cornyn: 517 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510

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Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I oppose the implementation of a national animal identification system (“NAIS”). The Texas Animal Health Commission has proposed regulations to implement the first stage of NAIS; these regulations would require every person who owns even one livestock animal, whether it is a chicken, sheep, goat, pig, cow, horse, or exotic bird or livestock, to register their premises with the state. The next two phases, animal identification and animal tracking, will be far more onerous and intrusive.

Never before in the history of our country has a person had to report to the state simply because he or she owns animals. The proposed regulations represent an unprecedented expansion of the government bureaucracy into people’s private lives and infringe on our property rights. Moreover, the regulations are a tax on livestock ownership. This program unfairly burdens small farmers and ranchers, homesteaders, and people who own animals for companionship.

The stated reason for NAIS, disease tracking, is both insufficient and unfounded. Fears of disease cannot justify every possible intrusion into people’s lives. Moreover, the government already has in place existing programs and systems that are sufficient to track disease. In addition, the proposed regulations fail to address the significant differences among different types of premises, and the risks of creating a black market in livestock ownership. Our limited resources would be better applied to addressing the causes of disease, rather than trying to track it 48 hours after the fact.

Rather than protecting us from disease, NAIS will discourage people from owning animals for pleasure and drive many farms and ranches out of business. This will have far-reaching effects on the Texas economy.

While the USDA has delayed proposing federal regulations, the threat remains that this program will be mandatory, whether at the state or federal level.

***In your letter to Governor Perry, include the following:***

This issue is of great importance to thousands of people all over this state, and it needs to be addressed by the Legislature immediately. I urge you to add this issue to the call for the special session.

***In your letter to your state Representative and Senator, add the following:***

I request that you support legislation that would limit the TAHC's authority to a purely voluntary program and require full disclosure of the purposes of the program and who has access to the information.

***In your letter to your U.S. Representative, Senator Hutchison, and Senator Cornyn, add:***

I request that you support legislation that would limit the USDA's authority to a purely voluntary program and eliminate federal funding for this program.

***The Horses of BEHS***

**Newest Equines**



**BEHS #100 Rockefeller**, a male mule was born at 4:55 am on 06/23/06 to BEHS #044 Rose. He is a beautiful bouncing baby boy with very long legs and very long ears. The first foal to be born into BEHS, Rockefeller also became BEHS #100. He's already finding ways to get into mischief and drives his poor mom batty. Look out Rose—you have your hooves full now! **Located in Burleson, Tx.**

**BEHS #101 Dixie**, an older Chestnut mare with a sway back. Dixie was investigated by Plano Sheriff Department for neglect. Rather than having Dixie seized, the owners decided to donate her to BEHS on 07/05/06. **Located in Gladewater, Tx.**





**BEHS #102 Zydeco**, a bay gelding that was investigated by Plano Sheriff Department due to neglect. Owners decided to donate to BEHS 07/05/06, rather than Zydeco being seized. **Located in Gladewater, Tx.**



**BEHS #103 Samantha** is a 1990 Chestnut Grade mare. Samantha was found “stray” in Jim Wells County along with Sam (below), and after their owner could not be located, both horses were sent to an auction. A caring BEHS member bought them and placed them with the rescue on 07/13/06. Samantha was very underweight when she came into the rescue. At this time, she is so thin that we are unable to evaluate her under saddle. **Located in Bastrop, TX**

**EHS #104 Sam** is a 2003 Bay Grade stallion. Sam was found “stray” in Jim Wells County along with Samantha, and after their owner could not be located, both horses were sent to an auction. A caring BEHS member bought them and placed them with the rescue on 07/13/06. Sam was very underweight when he came into the rescue. Like Samantha, Sam is too thin to evaluate under saddle. Once he gains weight, he will be gelded and then evaluated. **Located in Caldwell, TX**



**BEHS #105 Angel** is a 2001 14.0hh Sorrel Tobiano Paint mare. Angel came to BEHS when her owners released her to BEHS. She is a beautiful girl and very calm and gentle. Nothing is known of her history. She is reportedly broke to ride. She will be evaluated when she gains weight. **Located in Berryville, AR**

**BEHS #106 Chuck** is a 2005 12.1hh Solid sorrel Paint colt. Chuck came to BEHS when his owners released him to BEHS. He is a handsome young man but needs a lot of weight. He is very calm and gentle. His dam is Angel #105. When Chuck gains the necessary weight and grows up, he should be able to do anything someone would like to train him for. **Located in Rison, AR**



**BEHS #107 Annabelle** is a 1995 14.3hh Chestnut Arab/QH mare. Annabelle was seized in a cooperative effort between law enforcement and BEHS and then awarded to BEHS by the courts. She currently suffers from malnutrition. However, she is now in rehabilitation and we do not believe that this will have any lingering effects. Annabelle is too thin yet to be evaluated under saddle. Her manners on the ground (once caught) have been impeccable so far. She stands well (even for fly spray) and has been groomed by a 3-year old boy. **Located in McDade, TX**

**BEHS #108 Lakota Moon** is a 1997 14.3hh red roan Appaloosa mare. She was seized in a cooperative effort between law enforcement and BEHS and then awarded to BEHS by the courts. Lakota Moon currently suffers from malnutrition. However, she is in rehabilitation and we do not believe that this will have any lingering effects. She is too thin yet to be evaluated under saddle. **Located in Smithville, TX**



**BEHS #109 Chance** is a 2005 13.0hh Red Roan Paint colt. Chance was given to a BEHS member when his owner was being investigated for neglect, and then was donated to BEHS. He seems to have a sweet docile disposition, and at this time is interested mainly in eating. He was the youngest weaned horse in a larger herd. He is very thin and weak at this time. Otherwise, no health issues known. Chance had minimal handling before coming to BEHS. He is learning to be haltered and led. **Located in Lorena, TX**

## Congratulations to These Adopted Horses

**BEHS #025 Handsome** is a 1990, 15.2 hh, sorrel grade gelding. We believe he's probably a Saddlebred or Saddlebred cross. When sheriff's deputies found Handsome malnourished and injured, his owner decided to relinquish him to the sheriff's department, who then asked BEHS to take him. Handsome is a loving horse that enjoys attention. He is a big beautiful guy with lots of flash and chrome. **Handsome was adopted 07/08/06** and will be a pleasure horse and companion to his adoptive home's first horse, Deputy. Happy trails to Handsome and his new family.



**BEHS #038 Opal** is a 2001, white jenny with black ear tips and black spots on withers. Opal stands about 12.0 hh. She was seized due to neglect and awarded to BEHS. Opal is a sweet donkey, and enjoys her "spa days". Opal's training history is unknown, although her donor reported that she was harness-broke. **Opal was adopted 06/18/06** her new adoptive home just couldn't wait until the beginning of the week to go see Opal. She fell in love at first sight and took Opal to her new home. Our most popular donkey is now in her new forever home. Congratulations to Opal and her new forever home.

**BEHS #085 Sonny** is a 1987 16.2hh Bay Grade Quarter Horse gelding. Sonny was surrendered to BEHS in lieu of seizure. He is a beautiful boy and seems to be very calm. Nothing is known of his history. He is estimated to be 18/19 years old. Sonny's donor stated that he is very broke to ride and could be ridden by a beginner. He is an extremely tall horse so his height could be intimidating to a new rider. He is very well mannered and can be handled by a beginner on the ground. **Sonny was adopted 8/3/06** by his foster home. He wrapped his hooves right around his foster homes heart and they couldn't bear to part with him. Great job Sonny.





**BEHS #064 Deputy** is a 1992, 15.2hh sorrel, Grade gelding. Deputy was surrendered to the Sheriff's department and turned over to BEHS in lieu of seizure. He was very malnourished. He has a loving personality and loves attention—especially a good grooming. **Deputy was adopted on 06/17/06** his new home fell in love with Deputy at first sight and decided he was the one for them. We wish Deputy and his new family many happy trails.

**BEHS #065 Dallas** is a 1999, 15.1hh, dark bay, Thoroughbred/Quarter Horse cross gelding. Dallas was surrendered to BEHS in lieu of seizure because he was malnourished. Although little is known of his history, he has been ridden in his foster home. He seems green, but he quickly learns, and he moves like a hunter. Dallas is a perfect age to be trained to do anything. **Dallas was adopted On 06/15/06** his new home is not far from his foster home. His adoptive mom tried Dallas out and found him as fun as his foster home did. Wishing many happy trails to Dallas and his new forever home.



**BEHS #084 Harley** is a 1992 15.3hh Dark Bay TWH/QH cross gelding. He was surrendered to BEHS in lieu of seizure. He is a beautiful boy and seems to be very calm. Nothing is known of his history. He is estimated to be 13 to 14 years old. He has no known health or lameness issues. His abilities are unknown at this time. Harley's donor stated that he is broke to ride but should have an intermediate rider. He will prance and be a little hot under saddle, but does not rear or buck. **Harley was adopted 07/01/06** his new forever home visited and fell in love. We hope you have many happy trails to come, Harley.

**BEHS #014 Beau** is a 1993 to 1995, 14.3hh Sorrel Quarter Horse gelding. He was seized due to neglect and awarded to BEHS. An extremely social horse, Beau enjoys the company of humans and other equines. He tends to get very excited at feeding time and was a bit pushy the first few feedings but now with a firm "back" he will walk politely to his feeder. He's extremely smart and once he knows what is expected of him, he seems to be more than willing to follow the rules. **Beau was adopted 08/05/06.** He will be a great riding horse and companion for BEHS Brown Sugar, who was adopted the same day by the same adoptive home.



**BEHS #054 Brown Sugar** is a 1986, 14.0hh Chocolate with small white blaze, Rocky Mountain Cross gelding. He was donated by owners because of lameness in front legs. Brown Sugar has swollen front knees which are painful as he exerts himself or goes without joint supplements. Because of this, he cannot be ridden. He was recently shown in halter class in an open horse show and behaved beautifully, even took 6th place. **Brown Sugar was adopted 8/5/06.** Congratulations Sugar, your beauty and manners will make your adoptive home so happy to have found you. Sugar will be the companion to another BEHS horse Beau, who was adopted the same day.



**BEHS #033 Tucker** is a 1980-1985 16.0 to 16.2hh Dark Bay Thoroughbred gelding. He was donated by his owner when they could no longer care for him. He was handled and ridden by a 7 year old in his previous owner. He proved to be well broke to ride and has a kind spirit. His foster home nursed him back to health and instantly fell in love with him. Although she wanted to make sure that Tucker found the perfect home, it was just proved impossible for her to part with him. **Tucker was adopted 07/01/06** by his foster home. Congratulations Tucker for snagging such a great home and thank you to his new adoptive home for taking such great care of this grand gentleman.

**BEHS #042 Crisco** is a 2000, ivory, 13.0hh, john (gelding) mule. He was seized to neglect and awarded to BEHS. He is a shy young mule, but his curiosity usually wins. He is intelligent and, as mules are prone to be, very cautious until he gets to know his handler. Although he did not know much when he arrived at BEHS, his foster home has done a great job working with him. **Crisco was adopted 07/23/06**. He is going to a great forever home along with his pal Hawk (see below). His new adoptive home has a great place and loves the smaller animals to care for and love. Great job Crisco!



**BEHS #051 Hawk** is a 1995 bay, 12.0 to 12.2hh pony mule gelding. His previous owner reported that Hawk was broke to ride and to pull. He knows how to longe and line drive in a round pen. He's quiet when handled and seems to enjoy attention. He stands quietly for saddling but is a little touchy about having his ears handled when bridling. **Hawk was adopted 07/23/06**. He is going to a great forever home along with his pal Crisco. His new adoptive home has a beautiful place and lots of buddies for Hawk to socialize with. Congratulations, Hawk.

**BEHS #068 Peddler's Belle** is a 1987, 15.2hh black Tennessee Walking Horse mare. She is double registered with TWHBEA and the Racker association. Peddler is very gentle with people and animals. She is passive to other horses. The owner donated her because they have too many horses and wanted to be sure Peddler goes to a good home. They also have Quarter horses and can't keep up with Peddler on the trail, as her walk is faster than their trot! A show horse in her younger days, she then became a brood mare. **Peddler's Belle was adopted 8/10/06** by her foster home. She was just transferred to her new foster home and they immediately fell in love with her and decided she was there to stay.





**BEHS #090 Red Cloud** is a 2005, gray dun Welsh Mountain Pony gelding. He is an outgoing boy. Intelligent and curious, Red Cloud is easy to train. He is also cautious and independent, which means he should be handled by someone who is quiet and gentle. When Red Cloud came to BEHS, he had never been handled and was untouchable. In just 2 months, Red Cloud has learned to lead, tie, halter and pick up his front feet. He has never kicked or bitten. **Red Cloud was adopted on 7/31/06** he is joining Smokey, Crisco and will be part of a very lucky gang.

**BEHS #091 Smokey** is a 2005, 11.0hh gray dun Welsh Mountain Pony gelding. Like Red Cloud, Smokey had never been handled and was untouchable when coming into BEHS. His amazing foster home quickly taught him to lead, tie, halter and pick up his front feet. Smokey was adopted 07/31/06 he is joining Red Cloud, Crisco and Hawk in a fabulous home where he'll never have to worry about his next meal.



## Available for Adoption

Please view our horses available for adoption at <http://www.bluebonnetequine.org>

## ***Bluebonnet Announcements***

### **Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society Establishes Endowment Fund**

This year the Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society Board of Directors proved that they are thinking about the future of BEHS. How? By establishing an endowment fund!

An endowment fund is an investment in the organization's future and was established to provide a long-term source of revenue for BEHS. Money placed in the endowment fund is investigated. Interest made can be reinvested or can be used to pay for a percentage of the organization's operating expenses.

An endowment fund takes time to develop and build, and we may not see the benefits for the first few years. However by donating the endowment fund, you can be assured that your money will go to helping BEHS help horses - for many, many years!

Join the family of Bluebonnet Supporters who want to invest in the future of BEHS - make a tax-deductible gift to the BEHS endowment fund today!

If you would like to create any planned giving for BEHS (such as including BEHS in your will, donating earning from stocks, etc.) please contact your lawyer or accountant for help setting up such a program.

## ***July Financials***

### **July 2006**

Income:	\$ 7,533.50	
Expenses:	\$ 8,127.96	To view a detailed financial report,
Net Income:	\$ (594.46)	please go to our website at
Checking Account Balance:	\$ 10,553.98	<a href="http://www.bluebonnetequine.org">www.bluebonnetequine.org</a>
Savings Account Balance	\$ 5,404.77	

*If you have any questions about the finances of BEHS, please e-mail Ari Pettigrew at [apettigrew@austin.rr.com](mailto:apettigrew@austin.rr.com), Jennifer Williams at [jenn@bluebonnetequine.org](mailto:jenn@bluebonnetequine.org), or any other BEHS director. You may also call BEHS at (888) 542-5163.*

## **Ways to Help BEHS**

***Many opportunities exist to help BEHS. Remember, your contributions and participation in these fundraisers help us to help those needy horses, donkeys, and mules who need us!***

### **Become a Bluebonnet Supporter**

The equines of Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society need your support!

Contribute to the rescue:

[https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_xclick&business=info%40bluebonnetequine%2eorg&item\\_name=BEHS%20Newsletter%20Donation&no\\_shipping=0&no\\_note=1&tax=0&currency\\_code=USD&charset=UTF%2d8&charset=UTF%2d8](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_xclick&business=info%40bluebonnetequine%2eorg&item_name=BEHS%20Newsletter%20Donation&no_shipping=0&no_note=1&tax=0&currency_code=USD&charset=UTF%2d8&charset=UTF%2d8)

Or mail a donation to Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society at PMB 141, 6425 S. IH-35, Suite 105, Austin, TX 78744-4230.

We are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization—donations are tax-deductible.

### **Donation Jars for BEHS**

Are you searching for another way to help the horses of BEHS? Talk to your local feed stores, tack stores and veterinary offices, asking them if you may place a donation jar in their business. Donation jars for rescues have been sighted at grocery stores, gift shops and even at Dairy Queen. Let's put our BEHS donation jars out there and help bring in funds for the rescue!

If you put out a donation jar, be sure to check it weekly and send all funds to PMB 141, 6425 S. IH-35, Suite 105, Austin, TX 78744-4230.

BEHS is signed up for a charity program called GoodSearch and will make money for ANY Internet search that you do, at home, at work etc. We will actually make 1 cent for every search you do on the Internet providing you do the search via

[www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)

### **Search the Internet for Money at Good Search**

1. Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)
2. When the goodsearch page loads on your computer, scroll down to "I'm supporting" and type in Bluebonnet Equine and it should come up automatically in the "I'm supporting" bar.
3. Scroll down a little further and download the goodsearch tool bar to your Internet Explorer Tool Bar or Firefox toolbar.

4. After downloading to your Explorer or Firefox toolbar, you should have a toolbar that shows Good Search and a blank box (that will be where you search for things on the Internet). You should also have a place that says “My Charity”, and the box should read Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society
5. Ready to search the Internet? Try this: type in “yahoogroups” in the blank box after Goodsearch and your search selections will appear. YOU HAVE JUST MADE 1 cent for BEHS! Think of the possibility for free money for something that all of us do every day at work and at home.
6. Do this honestly for your searches, doing fraudulent searches we will be removed, use it only as you search the Internet.
7. Notice that there is a link to tell a friend—use it! They can search the Internet and make money for BEHS.

Read more at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) - more information and popular Q & A's are available at <http://www.goodsearch.com/About.aspx#faq>

Get on the Internet and search away. But again, be honest—don't enter searches just to earn money—we don't want to be excluded!

If you have a question about Good Search, please contact Regina at [rlanderson@austin.rr.com](mailto:rlanderson@austin.rr.com) .

### **Recycle and Help BEHS**

BEHS is pleased to announce that we have signed up with both Rethink, Ink and GreenFund Network to recycle ink and toner cartridges as well as cell phones. Not only are we helping the environment, but we earn money for doing it.

Our partner code for GreenFund Network is “BEHS-ATX”. Please mark your items accordingly before shipping. Rethink, Ink does not have a partner code, but does recommend writing “Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society” in full on each item.

BEHS Treasurer Ari Pettigrew has mailing labels and boxes for Rethink, Ink who prefers to receive many items shipped simultaneously. Ari will be happy to send you a mailing label, but because mailing an empty box would be cost prohibitive, please feel free to recycle a box on your own. If you are in the Austin area, Ari will be happy to meet with you and provide a box.

Ari also has GreenFund Network pre-paid shipping envelopes, so if you need one of these, please let her know and she will mail one to you. If you need supplies or have questions, please contact Ari at: [treasurer@bluebonnetequine.org](mailto:treasurer@bluebonnetequine.org).

### **Raise Money for BEHS through Country Supply**

Do you enjoy shopping at Country Supply? Do you enjoy shopping for horse tack and supplies online? Now, you can shop at Country Supply at <http://www.countrysupply.com> and earn money for BEHS! When you check out, enter the Country Cares Program code "behs", and we will receive a portion of what you spend.

### **Buy Air Fresheners and Support BEHS**

BEHS member DD Steele is an Ecoquest dealer, and carries a wide selection of quality air and water purification products. DD has generously offered to make a contribution to BEHS for any referral resulting in a sale. Please contact DD at [deedee@damonsteele.com](mailto:deedee@damonsteele.com) for more information.

### **Shop for Charity**

Do you love to shop? Now you can shop and make money to help the horses! BEHS is now a beneficiary of "Shop for Charity Day", an online site where you can make purchases from dozens of popular stores, all the while earning money for BEHS. Just visit [www.shopforcharityday.com](http://www.shopforcharityday.com) and select Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society as the organization for which you wish to shop. Birthdays, anniversaries and any other special occasion is now an opportunity to raise funds.

### **Rescue Charity Initiative**

Another way to earn money for BEHS and you can do it just by shopping for those horse essentials. Visit <http://www.horsesaddleshop.com/rescuehelp.html> and 5% of your total purchase amount will be donated to BEHS.

### **Clean out that garage and earn money for Bluebonnet**

When you sell items through MissionFish.org and eBay, you can designate that a portion of the proceeds for each sale be donated to BEHS. For more information, please contact Jodi at [jodi@totalaccess.net](mailto:jodi@totalaccess.net).

## ***Volunteer Opportunities***

*BEHS is looking for several new staff members to help make the rescue better - and to help make Arkansas and Texas better for the horses, donkeys and mules who need us! If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please email Jenn at [jenn@bluebonnetequine.org](mailto:jenn@bluebonnetequine.org).*

**Expo Committee Chairperson** - One of our missions is to educate horse owners and prevent neglect through ignorance. An Equine Expo gives us the chance to not only educate horse owners but to also promote the rescue and raise funds as well. The Expo will include clinics and seminars to teach owners about horse care, training and behavior and will also include silent auctions, a live auction and a 'sale area' where items can be sold to benefit the rescue. We need an Expo Coordinator to help determine

location and date, recruit volunteers, and oversee organization of an Expo. The position is about a year commitment - because it'll take that long to put together a good expo! Jenn has done some small expos, so she'll be able to give you pointers and get you started on the right track. While it'll be a big job, it is a satisfying one!

**PR Coordinator** – This person will be responsible for writing and/or reviewing press releases, distributing press releases, lining up media opportunities (such as TV spots or newspaper articles) and in general creating more public awareness of BEHS. The job will be busier when we have events/seizures going on, but can be a slower paced job most of the time.

**Booth Coordinator** - This person will help find booth opportunities for BEHS, organize volunteers for booths, and make sure volunteers are prepared for booths. This is often a “slow but steady” type of job.

**Marketing Coordinator** - This person is responsible for creating a plan to market the horses available for adoption as well as marketing the rescue (promoting adoption, fostering and memberships), and will be responsible for carrying out that plan. The job should be slow but steady.

**Education/Speakers Bureau Coordinator** - This person is responsible for identifying people in BEHS who are willing to speak at public events, locating clubs/associations willing to have someone from BEHS come speak, and getting a speaker to said events. This can be a steady job for someone willing to put some time into it.

### **New Program - District Coordinators**

Texas is a huge state and there are parts of it as well as parts of Arkansas that are underrepresented in BEHS. The best promotion of course comes from local people who talk to others about BEHS. We created the District Coordinator job with the goal of increasing BEHS membership and involvement. District Coordinators will be volunteers who are responsible for BEHS promotions in approximately 6-14 counties. They will be the ones who hang flyers in stores, help locate booth opportunities, help locate opportunities for media, recruit new members, foster homes and adopters, and also hold member social events/get-togethers. District Coordinators who are willing may also be in charge of investigating and working neglect cases in their district (but they are not required to be—that's up to the individual coordinator). This can be a big job, but so rewarding! AND you will have the opportunity to meet a lot of great people.

We've had several volunteers, and the following Districts still need coordinators:

## **TEXAS**

**South Texas/Brownsville District: (11 counties)** Brooks, Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Kleberg, Starr, Webb, Willacy, Zapata

**Southeast Texas/Corpus Christi District: (10 counties)** Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, Goliad, Jim Wells, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria

**Southwest District: (9 counties)** Dimmit, Frio, La Salle, Kinney, Maverick, McMuller, Medina, Uvalde, Zavala

**San Antonio District: (11 counties)** Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Dewitt, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Victoria, Wilson

**Southwest Houston District: (9 counties)** Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fayette, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda, Waller, Wharton

**Beaumont/Southwest Houston: (9 counties)** Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Polk, Orange, Sabine, Trinity, Tyler

**Bryan/College Station District: (9 counties)** Brazos, Burleson, Houston, Lee, Leon, Madison, Milam, Robertson, Washington

**Lufkin/Nacogdoches/East Texas District: (12 counties)** Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rusk, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith

**Central Texas District: (12 counties)** Bosque, Comanche, Coryell, Falls, Freestone, Hamilton, Hill, Limestone, McLennan, Mills, Navarro, Somervell

**El Paso District: (8 counties)** Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Presidio, Reeves

**Pecos/West Texas District: (9 counties)** Crockett, Edwards, Gillespie, Kimble, Pecos, Real, Sutton, Terrell, Val Verde

**Northeast Texas District: (13 counties)** Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Red River, Titus, Upshur, Wood

**Upper Panhandle District: (10 counties)** Dallam, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Roberts, Sherman

**Amarillo District: (10 counties)** Armstrong, Carson, Collingsworth, Donley, Deaf Smith, Gray, Oldham, Potter, Randall, Wheeler

**Northwest Texas District: (12 counties)** Archer, Baylor, Clay, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Knox, Palo Pinto, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger, Young

**Abilene District: (12 counties)** Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Eastland, Erath, Haskell, Jones, Runnels, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor

**West Texas District 1: (12 counties)** Bailey, Briscoe, Castro, Childress, Cottle, Floyd, Hale, Hall, Lamb, Motley, Parmer, Swisher

**West Texas District 2: (10 counties)** Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Fisher, Gaines, Howard, Martin, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry

**West Texas District 3: (9 counties)** Concho, Coke, Irion, McCulloch, Mason, Menard, Schleicher, Sterling, Tom Green

**Midland/West Texas District: (8 counties)** Crane, Ector, Glasscock, Midland, Reagan, Upton, Ward, Winkler

## **ARKANSAS**

**District 1, Northeast AR (13 counties)** Clay, Craighead, Cross, Crittenden, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Lee, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph, St. Frances, Woodruff

**District 2, North Central AR (10 counties)** Baxter, Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Marion, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren

**District 4, Southwest AR (14 counties)** Clark, Columbia, Hot Spring, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Montgomery, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier

## ***More Volunteer News & Announcements***

### **Fundraisers Needed!**

Regina Anderson needs you! Regina is in charge of the Fundraising Committee, and she needs your ideas, talent and time to invest into some great fundraisers needed to bring in funds for BEHS. More funds generated = more horses helped. Please contact Regina at [rlanderson@austin.rr.com](mailto:rlanderson@austin.rr.com) to learn how to join the Fundraising Committee.

### **Foster Homes Needed**

If you are interested in learning more about fostering and how to take on a more active roll in helping needy horses, please contact Loretta at [lacy@bluebonnetequine.org](mailto:lacy@bluebonnetequine.org).

### **Booths Volunteers Needed**

Booths are a great way to spread the word about BEHS, recruit new members, engage new foster homes and sell BEHS products. We need your help to staff these booths, so if you know of a booth opportunity or can assist in a booth project, please e-mail Jennifer Williams at [cowgirljenn@gmail.com](mailto:cowgirljenn@gmail.com).

## Classified Ads

Classified advertising is available to our members free of charge. Larger ads are available to members and non-members for a fee. See <http://www.bluebonnetequine.org/about/advertising.htm> or e-mail [info@bluebonnetequine.org](mailto:info@bluebonnetequine.org) for more information.

**AlliRetG Photography.** Portrait, Landscape, Animal, Special Events, Weddings. Now offering prints for sale as a great gift giving idea! Serving the Tarrant/Johnson/Parker County areas! [Alliretg@aol.com](mailto:Alliretg@aol.com). Please feel free to contact me and discuss your photographic needs!

**Saddleseat Saddle for sale.** Used 20-21 inch saddleseat saddle. Brown in color. Includes stirrups and leathers. \$250. E-mail [jenn@bluebonnetequine.org](mailto:jenn@bluebonnetequine.org).

**Model horses and supplies for sale.** Many model horses from the 1980s for sale – collectors items, special runs, and limited editions. Also model horse tack and more. <http://www.vanbasti.com/modelhorses/>

## *Yawning Horse Photography*

*Equine Photography and More*

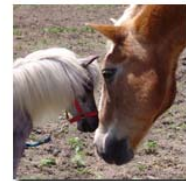
**Taylor Lehr**  
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