



The Bluebonnet Bulletin
www.bluebonnetequine.org

Bluebonnet Equine
Humane Society

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Featured Horse



If you are looking for a companion to pet and love, **Magic** could be the horse for you! Magic is a 19 year old, Thoroughbred gelding. He's looking for a pet/companion only home where he won't be ridden since he suffers from an old injury to his left hind leg/hip. He loves attention and grooming and has been handled by a child in his foster home. He's gentle and kind, and he would be a wonderful pet and companion. Please consider giving Magic a home for life! **Located in Star City, Arkansas. Adoption fee \$100.**

Table of Contents

Featured Horse	1	President's Letter	2
Bluebonnet Supporters	2	Welcome New Members	2
Thank You Lifetime Members	3	Health and Hooves	3-4
Guess Her Foaling Date – New BEHS			
FUNdraiser	4	Ways to Help BEHS	5-6
Volunteer Positions Available	6-7	Upcoming Events	7-8
BEHS Out and About	8	Show Biz	9-11
Contest Time	11-12	The Horses of BEHS	13-17
Old and New Faces	18-19	December Financials	19-20
The Color Corner	20-21	Annual Members Meeting	21-22
Fostering and Adopting Fun	22	Horse TV Channel Launch	23
Classified Ads	24	The Officers and Directors of BEHS	25

President's Letter

Hello and welcome to 2006!

2006 is off to a busy start for Bluebonnet. We have already taken in our first horse – a neglect case named Dallas. He's in Arkansas and has begun his slow rehabilitation thanks to his foster home. He's a young guy – only six or seven – so once he's gained weight we'll evaluate him under saddle and see what he knows.

I think 2006 promises to be a busy yet exciting year for the rescue. The directors and officers will attend the first annual directors/officers meeting January 13-15. The meeting will last an entire weekend because we have plenty to cover: budget, fundraising plan, marketing plan, internal audits, job descriptions, and more! We plan on putting together a 2006 calendar so everyone can see what will be happening in the rescue including the directors' deadlines for the 2007 budget, fundraising plan, marketing plan, etc.

I'm really pleased with the direction the rescue is taking, but I know there is always room for improvement. If you have ideas, please let me know. I want this to be *your* rescue so I never want you to hesitate to talk to me about any concerns or any ideas you have. I can't promise to implement every idea, but I do promise to listen, consider what you have to say, and present it to the Board of Directors for discussion. Please help us make this the best group possible!

Jennifer Williams, Ph.D.
President

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

Blue Ribbon Supporters

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Paula Parr
Sandi Scott
David Weber

Wendy King
Jo Rush
Ralph and Cindy Taylor

Welcome to Our New Members

Amanda Conaway

Shona and Michael
Foote

Glen Johnson and
family

Sandra Kuta

Thank You to Our Lifetime Member

Cat Ballew

Health and Hooves

The Health and Hooves Column is a new addition to the Bluebonnet Bulletin. We'll cover topics such as DSLD, founder, natural trim, and more. If you have suggestions or submissions, please contact Sharon at leosharon@earthlink.net.

Sharon Martin Holm Director

This month I'm going to recap an article that was recently published in The Horse journal about Bute. The article is in the January 2006 issue and was written by Marcia King, a free-lance writer. I think this topic is extremely important and bears repeating since many, if not most, of us use Bute on an as-needed basis for our horses' aches and pains.

Bute is 'phenylbutazone' and is also known as PBZ. It is a 'non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug' -- NSAID -- related to our own human medicines like ibuprofen, naproxen and aspirin. Used correctly and judiciously it is a safe and effective treatment for musculoskeletal disorders. But if certain precautions are not observed, it can do irreparable damage to a horse's sensitive inner organs.

All NSAIDs work to decrease inflammation by inhibiting chemicals called prostaglandins. The body makes lots of different kinds of prostaglandins (PG's), but "nonselective" NSAIDs like Bute cannot distinguish between the good PG's (that protect the lining of the stomach for instance) and the bad PG's that cause swelling and heat in an injured joint.

NSAIDs are also metabolized - broken down - in the liver and kidneys. Doses that are too high, or if given to certain at-risk horses, can actually cause fatal liver or kidney damage. One characteristic of Bute that makes it so effective is that it is metabolized in the liver to oxyphenbutazone, which leaves the body very slowly. This gives bute a 24-hour effect. However, if a horse's liver is not working optimally, toxic doses of Bute can quickly build up and start to do damage.

Horses that are most at risk for side effects from Bute "are foals, performance horses that travel, ponies, aged horses, dehydrated horses, and those with hypoproteinemia (low blood protein levels), liver or kidney disorders, or rhabdomyolysis (tying-up)." These side effects range from ulcers and bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract - including the mouth, esophagus, stomach and colon, to anemia, to liver and kidney failure. Sometimes the effect will be seen quickly; other times it may take days or weeks to see the result of the toxicity. Any horse that is given Bute and seems to have a bad reaction should be seen by a veterinarian immediately.

The dose of Bute that is generally recommended is 1 or 2 grams per day for an average 1000 pound horse, but in some instances up to 4 grams per day is given. This should be only for a short duration and only under a veterinarian's close care. For chronic treatment, such as for arthritis, giving 1 gram two or three times per week is usually sufficient for pain control and keeps the risk of side effects to a minimum.

Bute is a very effective drug with a lot of conveniences. It's cheap, and is available in tablets, powder, paste and IV (intravenous) form. However, for certain horses a different NSAID with a higher safety margin such as flunixin (Banamine) or ketoprofen (Ketofen) may be more appropriate and safer.

To see the full article, please pick up The Horse at your local feed store or Tractor Supply, or go to www.TheHorse.com.

Guess Her Foaling Date – New FUNraiser!

BEHS is expecting our first foal - out of a POA mare who was seized in October due to neglect. Rose is a 10-11 year old, sorrel Appaloosa colored mare. You can meet her at <http://www.bluebonnetequine.org/horses/nursery/index.htm>. We did not know she was in foal when she was seized, but her belly grew and her foster home had the vet check her out, and we learned that we're expecting a foal - possibly three or so months from now.

To help pay her vet costs and the veterinary costs of the foal, Spencer (one of our board members) proposed a fun contest.

The entry fee for the contest is \$5. Each entrant gets to pick a foaling date, sex of the foal, and whether the foal will be a mule (long-ears) or horse (short-ears) foal. The person who gets the closest date will get to name the foal and receive a photo of the foal. If there is a tie for closest date, the person who selects sex and type of foal (long or short ears) will win the contest. If there is still a tie, we'll do a random drawing.

Any submit is subject to approval by the BOD of BEHS (we don't want any profanity in the name, no corporate sponsorship type names, etc.).

You can submit your \$5 entry fee, date of foaling, sex, and type of foal to BEHS at Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society
PMB 141,
6425 South IH-35, Suite 105
Austin, TX 78744

or you can pay via Paypal at

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_xclick&business=info%40bluebonnetequine%2eorg&undefined_quantity=1&item_name=Name%20the%20Foal%20Fundraiser&amount=5%2e00&no_shipping=1&no_note=1¤cy_code=USD&bn=PP%2dBuyNowBF&charset=UTF%2d8

and then email your selection to jenn@bluebonnetequine.org

We have also created an email-list where Rose's foster home can post updates on how she's doing and can post an announcement once the baby's born. You can join at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RosesFoal/join>

If you have any questions, please email me at jenn@bluebonnetequine.org

Ways to Help BEHS

There are many ways to help BEHS – remember your contributions and participation in these great 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 at

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¤cy_code=USD&charset=UTF%2d8&charset=UTF%2d8

Or by sending 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 looking for another way to help the horses of BEHS? Talk to your local feed stores, tack stores, and veterinary offices and ask if you can put out a donation jar. We've seen donation jars for rescues at grocery stores, gift shops, and even at Dairy Queen! Let's get our 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.

Raise Money for BEHS While you Shop

Do you like to shop at Country Supply? Do you like to shop for horse tack and supplies on-line? Well, you can shop at County Supply at <http://www.countrysupply.com/> and earn money for BEHS! When you check out, enter the Country Cares Program code "behs", and we'll receive a portion of what you spend.

Raise Funds for BEHS While Enjoying Free Pizza

Looking for an easy way to help us raise money? Do you like pizza? Here's a great way to combine these!

BEHS is pleased to partner with Domino's pizza in a fun and tasty fundraising effort. For only \$10, you can purchase a card to use at participating Dominos that will give you 1 medium pizza when you buy 1 large pizza. Better yet, this 2 for 1 offer is good for up to 20 separate times over the next 12 months. Not sure you want to eat that much pizza yourself? You can still help! You can pay a \$3 deposit per pizza card and then re-sell them to your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Once you collect payment, send the remaining \$7 per pizza card on to BEHS.

Please contact Ari Pettigrew to order cards or to receive information on how to sell cards to your friends and family to help BEHS raise much needed funds.
treasurer@bluebonnetequine.org or (888) 542 5163.

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 name on each item.

Ari Pettigrew has mailing labels and boxes for Rethink, Ink. They prefer to receive many items shipped at one time. Ari will be happy to send you a mailing label, but it will be cost prohibitive to mail you an empty box, so feel free to recycle one of your own. If you're in the Austin area, Ari will be happy to meet up with you and pass along a box.

She also has GreenFund Network pre-paid shipping envelopes, so if you need one of those, please let her know and she'll mail it to you.

If you need supplies, or have questions, please contact Ari at
treasurer@bluebonnetequine.org

Buy Air Fresheners and Support BEHS

DD Steele is an Ecoquest dealer. She has a selection of quality air and water purification products. She'll make a contribution to BEHS for any referral that results in a sale. Contact DD at deedee@damonsteele.com for more information.

Volunteer Positions Available – Help us Help the Horses

If you would like to help Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society be the best rescue we can be and have time to volunteer, consider applying for one of these volunteer positions!

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Jennifer Williams at jenn@bluebonnetequine.org or call BEHS at (888) 542 5163 to request a copy of the job description.

Assistant Newsletter Editor – Responsible for gathering information for the BEHS newsletter. Will need to solicit articles, read email list to gather information for the newsletter, and write articles.

Donation Committee Chairperson – Responsible for seeking donations for BEHS, managing the donor recognition program, and organizing and managing committee members.

Music Festival Committee Chairperson – Responsible for putting together and organizing a music festival as a fundraiser for BEHS.

Nominating Committee Chairperson – Responsible for running the nominating committee, seeking nominations for officer and director positions, and researching the candidates.

Resource Development Committee Chairperson – Responsible for managing the Resource Development Committee and volunteers. The committee will seek to develop relationships with corporations in order to secure donations of hay, grain, and other resources.

Expo Committee Chairperson – Responsible for managing the Expo Committee and volunteers. Will be responsible for coordinating the 2007 BEHS Expo.

PR Committee Chairperson – Responsible for managing the PR Committee. Will be responsible for writing and distributing press releases, working with the media, etc. Will also be responsible for coordinating committee members and assigning tasks.

Trailing Committee Chairperson – Responsible for managing the Trailing Committee and committee volunteers. Responsible for maintaining the BEHS Trailing Volunteer Application paperwork, approving trailing volunteers, and assigning trailing needs.

Fundraisers Needed!

Regina Anderson needs you! She is in charge of the Fundraising Committee, and she needs your ideas, talent, and time to put into some great fundraisers to help bring in the funds for BEHS. More funds generated = more horses helped. Please send Regina an email to randerson@austin.rr.com to learn how to join the Fundraising Committee.

Foster Homes Needed

If you are interested in learning more about fostering and taking an active roll in helping the needy horses, please contact Loretta at lacy@bluebonnetequine.org.

Booths Volunteers Needed

Booths are a great way to spread the word about BEHS, recruit new members and foster homes, and sell BEHS products. But we need your help to staff these booths. Please email Wendy Taylor at cowgirlwendy@gmail.com if you can help out or if you know of a booth opportunity.

Upcoming Events

Virtual Horse Show – March 1-31, 2006

Our first Virtual Horse Show was such a success that we've decided to do a second virtual show in March 2006.

These shows are great - you don't have to get up early, clip your horses, or stand in long lines to use port-a-johns or register for classes. Instead, submit photos of your horses, sit back, and watch the show on-line!

<http://www.bluebonnetequine.org/virtualshow/>

Entries accepted: March 1 through March 15, 2006

Judging: March 16 – March 31, 2006

Winners announced: April 5-10th, 2006

Entry fee: \$5/photo/class or unlimited entries for one horse for \$50. You can make an unlimited number of entries for an unlimited number of horses for \$100..

Prizes: Rosettes awarded to 1st place. Flat ribbons awarded 2nd – 6th place. The high point horse will win a High Point Award (TBA).

Entries must be emailed to jenn@bluebonnetequine.org. Please send one photo per email. Include the horse's name, sex, breed, and age and the owner's name. The person entering the photo must own the horse or include permission from the horse's owner. For horses in the rescue class, please include the name of the rescue the horse was adopted from or is being fostered for. You may also include the rescue's URL.

Proceeds from this show will be used to benefit the horses, mules, and donkeys of BEHS. You can learn more about BEHS and our animals at www.bluebonnetequine.org

Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society Out and About



BEHS Christmas Party – Niederwald, Texas – December 17, 2005

Our Vice President Regina Anderson opened up her home for a day full of trail ride, fishing, eating, and good fun! Several members showed up to enjoy an afternoon of good company. The evening was topped off with a “Chinese auction” gift exchange – but everyone at this event was nice and stuck with the gifts they picked up! Gifts included alfalfa, halter, horse decorations, videos, and more! Thank you to Regina for all of your hard work – and thanks to everyone who came.

Show Biz

Show Biz is a new column by Jodi Luecke. Since BEHS has been holding horses shows (but in person shows and virtual shows), many of our members are getting their first introduction to the world of showing – and they have many questions! Jodi's been riding and showing as long as she can remember, and she's going to attempt to help answer some of your questions. If you have ideas for Jodi's column, please email her at jodi@hlkn.tamu.edu or call the BEHS line at (888) 542 5163.

Equestrian Equipment and Attire for English Equitation **Jodi Luecke, BEHS Secretary**

Now that we've completed our overview on Halter Classes (See December '05), let's move on to discuss the English Equitation Classes. The term "English Equitation" may strike terror in the hearts of many, but don't worry—they're not all wealthy hard-bodies prancing around in skin tights and black velvet helmets, brandishing snappy little riding crops. And if you're still intimidated, just hang around and see if you can catch one trying to mount their 17 hand Thoroughbred.

English Equitation Classes are strikingly different from Halter Classes in that (a) your horse will wear more "gear" rather than just a halter, and (b) you must be astride your horse. I hope I am not insulting anyone's intelligence—just trying to make things clear.

So, what sort of English gear is required for English Equitation, you ask? An excellent question! And in order to provide you with a thorough explanation, we are forced to limit this "Show Biz" article to addressing *Equestrian Equipment and Attire for English Equitation*.

ENGLISH EQUITATION EQUIPMENT

According to the (good 'ole) AQHA rules, English Equitation Equipment would include "**an English snaffle, kimberwicke, pelham and/or full bridle with two reins, all with plain leather brow bands and cavesson nosebands**".

Did that make sense to you? Me neither—excuse me for a moment while I look up several of the above terms and get back with you...Ok, I'm back! And full of pertinent information as follows:

ENGLISH BITS

English Snaffle - A *non-leverage bit*, such as the Eggbutt Snaffle or the Full Cheek Snaffle.

Kimberwicke - You may also use a Kimberwicke bit. One of the ways that a Kimberwicke (hey, that's kinda fun to say), differs from an English Snaffle in that it is a *curb, or leverage bit*.

Pelham - You guessed it—another type of bit. This is a *curb, or leverage bit* that actually has *two sets* of reins. (I always did say the English had to make things difficult!) Note that certain rules apply to the actual size of the bit's mouthpiece as well as to the width of the curb chain if using a leverage, or curb bit.

Once you've determined which bit you're going to use in English Equitation, the rules specify that you will need to have at least two reins—Gee, that could come in handy, dontcha ya think? You also need to make sure that your headstall has a plain leather browband as well as a cavesson noseband. A cavesson noseband is largely aesthetic, but also helps the bit function properly, preventing the horse from gaping his mouth and/or evading the pressure of the bit.

ENGLISH SADDLES

English saddles are required for all English Equitation Classes. This would be the traditional hunting or “forward seat” type. The English saddle will require a certain amount of balance and will not have a horn to grasp in emergencies. These saddles are ultra-conservative English black or brown, you won't see any green ostrich seats on these. The saddle pads are to be white or natural, with no ornamentation. If you tend to possess a more flamboyant personality than the English Equitation rules will accommodate, you will be able to express yourself in the Barrel Racing Event, which we will cover in a future article.

OTHER ENGLISH TACK

Several other optional tack items you may want to utilize in English Equitation include:

- Spurs—which cannot have rowels—those spinning things on the end,
- Crop or bat—not a baseball bat, mind you,
- English breast plate—a type of English breast collar,
- Standing or running martingale. This keeps the horse from raising its head above the point of control. Now anything that will help me control my horse is something I'm going to want, but martingales are only permitted in certain English Equitation classes (to be covered later).
- Protective leg wraps, protective boots and bandages (for your horse, not for you). Not unlike the martingale, these are only permitted in certain English Equitation classes.

Additionally—if you don't find sleep a necessary part of life—you may stay up late or get up early and braid your horse's mane and/or tail in “hunt style”.

ENGLISH ATTIRE

To present oneself as a properly attired English Equestrian, one must have certain—shall we say—“necessary articles” in one's wardrobe. Sounds a bit stuffy, doesn't it? Well, we'll just have to try to take some of the pomp out of it and spell it out plain and simple. Here are a few guidelines on how to gear yourself up for English Equitation:

- Helmets, or hard hats, are recommended for some classes and required for other classes. English riding helmets, please—not construction worker helmets. These must be black, navy blue or brown. Save any other colors for the construction site along with your steel-toed boots.
- Hunt coats of traditional colors such as navy, dark green, grey, black or brown. Maroon and red are considered to be improper. Don't ask me why, that's just the way it is. If you have a maroon or red hunt coat, you may want to save it for your Team Roping Class (to be covered later).
- Breeches are to be traditional shades of buff, khaki, canary, light grey or rust. Now how many male judges do you think would actually know the difference between buff and khaki? You may also wear jodhpurs, which are similar to breeches. Personally, I would go with the most slenderizing color they make and whichever most closely matches the color of arena dirt.

- Riding boots should be the high English boots or paddock (jodhpur) boots. In brown or black, of course.
- A tie or choker is usually required. However, I've heard that some of these English Equestrian blokes are feeling quite cheeky—and having their initials embroidered on the collar.
- **If you have long hair, it should be neat and contained. Now is not the time for hot rollers and big hair —we'll save those for the rodeo queen contest.**

And there you are, Chappy. You should now have a good idea about what's required to outfit both yourself and your horse for English Equitation. In the next "Show Biz" article, we'll explain the ins and outs of the different English Equitation classes—and then you just might want to give it a whirl at the next local show!

Contest Time!

2005 Member/Foster/Adopter Drive Winners Announced!

Pre-July winners: Tie: Barbara Lucas, Cindy Fanning, and Tina Shalmy

July winner: Tina Shalmy

August winner: Wendy Taylor

September winner: Tina Shalmy

October winner: Wendy Taylor

November winner: Nicky Ladkin

December winner: Tina Shalmy

Overall winner: Tina Shalmy - Congrats Tina!!

2006 Member/Foster/Adopter Drive Contest

The 2005 Member/Foster/Adopter Drive Contest went great – it resulted in several new members and foster homes as well as horses placed in their 'forever homes'. Several of our competitive members enjoyed the contest, so we'll try it again for 2006.

The rules – 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 (so if they can foster 3 horses, you get 6 points)
- Each new adoptive home recruited: 2 points per horse/equine they adopt
- Each booth organized: 5 points
- Each newspaper ad run: 5 points

The person with the most points each month will get a BEHS prize – a t-shirt, ballcap, or other BEHS merchandise. You can win more than one month.

The year-end award winner is going to get at least a \$50 gift certificate to a tack store (I just don't know which yet).

So let's kick this contest off, please! Email me off list at jenn@bluebonnetequine.org if you have activities to report.

Please help us make this great by recruiting members, foster homes, and adopters and putting on booths or running newspaper ads. If you have activities to report, please email me at jenn@bluebonnetequine.org.

2005 Fundraising Contest Winner Announced

Congrats to **Ralph and Loretta Pinnell** – They are the winners of the 2005 Fundraising contest by raising the most money for BEHS: Approximately \$3200. They put on a benefit for BEHS earlier this year and then requested and received donations for BEHS' Annual Gift Campaign in December. They'll be receive a \$100 gift certificate.

Joanne Terry placed 2nd raising \$2,205 in donations for BEHS, and Regina Anderson was 3rd, raising \$1428.80 for BEHS by coordinating the candle fundraiser as well as the auction fundraiser. Good work ladies!

Karen Strieder was the non-board member who raised the most through her booth at the AdoptAThon earlier this spring.

2006 Fundraising Contest

Fundraising is an issue that faces all non-profit organizations. In Bluebonnet, we have horses, donkeys, and mules who need veterinary bills paid, we have seizures to pay for, and other bills. If we raise more funds, we'll be able to help more horses, establish a training fund, and establish a sponsorship fund to enable our foster homes to foster more horses.

We recognize that raising funds is hard work, so we wanted to make it more fun for our members – thus we created this contest.

The following will count towards the fundraising contest:

- Benefits
- Fundraisers
- Donations
- Sponsorships

The person who raises the most throughout the year will receive a \$100 gift certificate to a tack store. I am going to see about putting together monthly prizes, too. (Suggestions welcome).

If you get donations or sponsorships for BEHS, email me at jenn@bluebonnetequine.org so I can record it.

The Horses of BEHS

Newest Equines

Silver – 14.3hh, age unknown, grey grade gelding. Silver was donated by owner when they could no longer care for him. Not much is known of Silver's history except that the donor said he was used as a roping horse. He is very malnourished will need some extensive rehabilitation. Located in Kingsland, Texas.

Storm –7year old black, Paint stallion that was. Storm was seized by law enforcement and awarded to BEHS. At this time Storm is very malnourished and will need some extensive rehabilitation before he is put up for adoption. Not much is known at this time of Storm's history. Located in Caldwell, Texas.

Woody –13 year old, grade gelding. Woody was surrendered to the Sheriff's department and turned over to BEHS in lieu of seizure. He is very malnourished. He has a loving personality and loves attention. He is very gentle right now, but that could change with weight gain. Nothing is known of his history. Woody's halter was extremely tight and he is very shy around the face area where the indentions are from being sore. Located in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Deputy - 13 year old grade gelding. He was surrendered to the Sheriff's department and turned over to BEHS in lieu of seizure. He is very malnourished. He has a loving personality and loves attention. Deputy is very gentle right now, but he could change with weight gain. Nothing is known of his history. Located in Rison, Arkansas.

Dallas –6 year old, TB/QH cross gelding. Our first horse of 2006 was donated after the Drew County Sheriff department made a call to the owners property and was very worried about the horses there. He was with 2 really skinny mares and a very healthy mustang stallion. When Drew County saw the shape the horses were in, he asked BEHS to accompany him to the donors property and take Dallas into our care. Located in Rison, Arkansas.

Equines Available for Adoption

Available as Companion Only

Companion Only equines may not be ridden or driven due to health problems, behavioral issues, or lameness issues. Companion only horses make great pets, companions to your other horses, or 'yard ornaments'. Consider opening your heart to a needy, companion-only horse. They have a lot of love to give!

Phoenix is a 2001 (4 year old) 14.1hh Arab/TWH mix. He is not gaited and looks more Arab than TWH. He is a very sweet horse, however, he can be very distrustful of new people and snorts a lot when worried. He has been well cared for. He does become herd bound very quickly. It was reported that Phoenix spent 90 days with a "rough" trainer. He has two large lumps on the crown of his head, one behind each ear. He cannot fully rotate/flex at the poll. His vet feels these lumps were the result of a prior unknown injury. He also has lumps along the tendons of both back legs and will not yet all his back legs to be handled below the hocks. After a vet examination it has been determined that Phoenix has a markedly reduced flexion on the front left fetlock (it won't bend nearly as far as it should). Because of this, Phoenix is available as a companion only. **Located in Gladewater, Texas. Adoption fee \$100**

Crimson is a 1984 (21 year old) 15.1hh Thoroughbred cross gelding. Crimson was donated to another rescue after a woman bought him as a riding horse. She quickly discovered that he would not be able to withstand even light riding due to DSLD. The rescue she donated him to then placed Crimson with BEHS. He has a super sweet personality and gets along well with other horses as well as people. He is curious and friendly and has a delightfully alert expression. He would be

wonderful as a pasture pal to an only/lonely horse. **Located in Lincoln, Texas. Adoption fee \$100**

Jake is a 1994 (11 year old) 14.0 hh chestnut grade QH type gelding. His owner donated him when they could no longer keep him. He is a sweet horse, but is wary and tense around new people. Jake was recently a star on Horse Sense on RFD TV and did really well with all the cameras and people around. He has a permanent lameness in the left front fetlock. Although this does not cause him any pain, he will always have a limp. His foster home will work on getting a glued on shoe that will help hold his foot in a more normal position so that the tendons and ligaments supporting it won't break down over time. Because of this lameness, Jake is available only as a companion animal. **Located in Lorena, Texas. Adoption fee is \$100**

Magic is a 1987 (18 year old) Bay 16.2hh Thoroughbred gelding. His donor rescued Magic in January 2005 when he was very thin and hurt. She could not afford to care for him properly and donated Magic to BEHS. Magic loves people and attention. He is available as a companion horse only due to a hind-end lameness. Early in 2005, Magic had an injury to his hindquarters and because of this injury it would not be safe or humane to ride him. However Magic would make a wonderful pet and companion. **Located in Star City, Arkansas. Adoption fee \$100**

Olive Oyl is a 1987 bay 16hh TB mare. She was surrendered to BEHS after her owner was investigated for neglect. When she arrived at BEHS, she was severely malnourished but has now gained weight and looks beautiful. She is a very sweet mare and enjoys attention and petting. She also has great ground manners. Unfortunately, Olive Oyl suffers from an undiagnosed, intermittent lameness in her left hip or stifle. Because of this lameness, she is available as a pet/companion only. She would enjoy keeping other horses company and spending time with an adopter who loves to groom and pet. **Located in Redfield, Arkansas Adoption fee \$100**

Available for Riding or Driving

Miss Priss is a 2005 sorrel Arabian or Arabian cross filly. She was seized due to neglect and awarded to BEHS. She is intelligent, energetic, curious and affectionate. She is still a baby, but she leads, loads and can be caught. She should be able to do whatever her adopter wishes once old enough and trained. She has wonderful spirit and gets along well with humans and with all of her foster Mom's geldings. **Located in Lorena, Texas. Adoption fee \$300**

Sierra is a 1990 - 1995 (10 - 15 year old) 14.2hh red dun grade quarter horse type mare She was donated to BEHS from an equine rescue in Louisiana because she has COPD. Since moving to northern Texas, she's doing well and has stopped taking COPD medications. However, any adopter must be aware that as heat and humidity rises Sierra will need to go back on COPD medications. Sierra has been ridden in one foster home, but she appears to not know much. For the right adopter, she could do some light riding – but because of the COPD she will not be able to be ridden hard or too often. **Located in Lorena Texas. Adoption fee \$200**

Roy is a 1995 (10 year old) 16.0 hh grey registered Arabian gelding. Roy has severe COPD (heaves) and was living in Mississippi when Hurricane Katrina struck. He could not handle the heat and humidity, and his owner decided to donate Roy so that he could move to a better climate. Roy is a gorgeous horse with tons of personality and spirit. His previous owner reports that when she rode him, he would "dance in place". Roy's heaves are much better in the less humid climate of northern Texas, and he could be ridden lightly as long as it is not too humid. He will need medication to help control his heaves. In addition to heaves, Roy has severe allergies to bahia grass, moderate allergies to rye grass, and slight allergies to pecan and sycamore trees. Roy also has scarring in his Trachea from the COPD. Since he likes to "go" that will be a challenge and will need someone experienced that can keep him from going more than he should. We believe he would make an excellent trail horse for someone in the northern area, where his COPD does not bother him as much. **Located in Weatherford, Texas. Adoption fee \$200**

Beau is a 1993 – 1995 (10 – 12 year old) sorrel Quarter Horse gelding. He was seized due to neglect and awarded to BEHS. He is an extremely social horse and he seems to enjoy the company of humans and other equine. 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 smart and once he knows what is expected of him he seems to be more than willing to follow the rules. He is broke to ride and his previous owner reported that he had been ridden in parades, on trail rides and by children. Beau had colic surgery in 9/99 at Texas A & M and at that time he suffered an injury to his left jugular. Because of this you cannot use his left jugular vein for any type of injection (drawing blood or anything that would perforate that vein). It is extremely important that anyone fostering or adopting this horse be aware of this and that they make sure their veterinarian or any other care giver is aware of this. Beau is able to be ridden by an intermediate or experienced rider. He does test new riders but will settle down to work if his rider is firm. He neck reins and responds to leg cues and has been ridden in a snaffle bit. This boy has lots of energy and turns on a dime. He is a real smooth ride. Beau has wonderful ground manners and can be handled by a child on the ground. He loads/unloads like a dream. Beau is the dominant horse in the herd and does not do well with mares. **Located in Joshua, Texas. Adoption fee \$650 NEW FEE**

Pandora is 1993 (13 year old) 14hh sorrel Arabian or Arabian cross mare. She was seized and awarded to BEHS. She is extremely docile and very easy to handle. She has been ridden in her foster home and responds well to her rider. She is still green and probably needs an intermediate rider. She’s a gorgeous mare who could easily go on to be a pleasure or show horse. **Located in Niederwald, Texas. Adoption fee \$900**

Handsome is a 1990 (15 year old) 15.2 hh sorrel Saddlebred or Saddlebred cross gelding. When sheriff’s deputies found Handsome malnourished and injured, his owner decided to relinquish him to the sheriff’s department. They then asked BEHS to take him. Handsome is a loving horse who enjoys attention. He is a big beautiful guy with lots of flash and chrome. Nothing is known of his history but his gelding scars seem to be a few years old and he was likely a stallion until the last couple years. He is sometimes pushy but learns quickly. Handsome is broke to ride and his foster home reports that he’s a joy to ride. He does not neck rein, but he may have once been a show horse. He will park out on command and carries himself very upright. Handsome could make someone a beautiful show horse or a fun trail horse. **Located in Rison, Arkansas. Adoption fee \$900 NEW FEE**

Madison – is a 1996 bay tobiano 14.2hh Paint mare. She was seized from a neglectful home. Her previous owner reported that she was used as a roping horse. She’s been worked with at her foster home. She knows how to longe and will stand still for saddling. She’s hesitant to accept a bridle, but she stands still be mounted once bridled. She has a lot of ‘go’ under saddle but will walk, trot, canter, turn and stop off of leg cues – and she neck reins well. She is not a horse for a beginner or timid rider. Madison is looking for an adoptive home who will put her to work – helping on the ranch or riding on the trails would make Madison happy! **Located in Niederwald, Tx. Adoption fee \$700**

Opal – is a 2001 white donkey jenny. She was seized due to neglect and awarded to BEHS. Opal is a sweet donkey. She likes to be brushed, and can be bathed. She likes to be part of the donkey herd in her foster home and fits in well with the group. Her eyes are brighter and she is now at a good weight. Opal is reported to be trained to harness, but the foster home has not had a chance to try her out as of yet. Opal is still on the shy side to people, but she will sometimes come when called. Other times, she will come part way then hesitate. She has really made improvements. **Located in Round Top, Texas. Adoption fee \$300**

Sundancer is a 1981 (24 year old) 14.3 to 15.0 hh sorrel Quarter Horse type mare. She was donated by owner when they could no longer care for her. She is good with a mixed herd but is the dominant mare. Sunny is full of energy and does not act her age! She is not spooky, but she is full of energy when ridden and is not appropriate for a timid rider. Sunny’s donor reported that she was once used on trails, but her foster home has not had a chance to test her on trails yet. **Located in Manvel, Texas. Adoption fee \$400**

Pepper is a 1979 (26 year old) gray 14.0hh grade Appaloosa mare. She was donated by her previous owner when they were no longer able to spend the time with her that she deserved. Little is known of Pepper's history, she may have been used as a trail horse. She has been ridden in her foster home and appears to be well broke to ride western but is a little rusty. Currently she can be handled by a novice. **Located in Gladewater, Texas. Adoption Fee \$300**

Geronimo is a 2000 to 2002 (3 to 5 year old) 15.2hh gray roan tobiano Paint gelding. He was donated to BEHS. Geronimo was not handled much by his previous owner and was left in the pasture with only limited contact at feeding time. He suffered an eye injury and has lost the sight in his left eye. Since he has had no formal training, his foster home is in the process of teaching him ground manners and the Parelli 7 games. He's going to need an experienced handler who can continue to work with Geronimo and establish ground rules for him. **Located in Burleson, Texas. Adoption fee \$300**

Ferris is a 1987 (18 year old) Bay 14.1hh Registered Arabian gelding. Ferris was donated to BEHS when the donor could no longer care for him properly. He was just recently gelded, and while he can be out with geldings, he is still very study around mares. His donor reported that he was ridden western on trails and had been in training for six months. He has been ridden in his foster home and is a very responsive horse. He would do best with an intermediate or above rider. **Located in Caldwell, Texas. Adoption Fee \$600**

Faeden is a 2001 (4 year old) Sorrel 14.1hh grade mare. She was donated after being rescued from a feedlot as a yearling. She was started under saddle last winter in 2004 but has only been ridden a couple of times since. Faeden is extremely intelligent, strong willed and sometimes dominant mare. She is not what you would consider green broke, but she has been well started under saddle. She will need an experienced rider to continue with her training or will need an advanced beginner or intermediate that would be willing to continue working with a trainer. She should be able to do whatever her adopter chooses to pursue with her. She needs a job and is a much happier horse when she is busy and stimulated. **Located in Dayton, Texas. Adoption Fee \$900**

Congrats to These Adopted Horses, Donkeys, and Mules

Fandango is an approximately 6 year old, bay Arabian (or Arabian cross) gelding. He was seized after he had gone without water for days, but he's made a great recovery and is now looking for an adoptive home. Fandango is broke to ride and on a recent trail ride, he was an unflappable gentleman - one of the best horses on the ride! He loves attention and is a curious horse, and he would be a great best pal and riding buddy. Fandango's foster home just fell in love with this guy and said that "horses like him do not come along very often", so they adopted him. Congratulations to Fandango for finding his perfect home. Many happy trails to him and his adoptive family.

Curious George a 12 year old standard donkey gelding was seized due to neglect along with 18 other equines and awarded to BEHS on October 6, 2005. While he was in BEHS's care, we enjoyed his foster home writing and telling us about he latest antics. He would either be in the house or eating the cat's food or some silly antic to amuse and delight us. Although we will miss him tremendously, he is now a wonderful Christmas gift to a little girl. BEHS hopes that George will delight and amuse them as he did us. Merry Christmas George.

Lovey is a 1986 flea bitten gray Arabian or Arabian cross mare. She was surrendered to the Sheriff's department and turned over to BEHS in lieu of seizure and charges filed against the owner. She has a loving personality and is very laid back. She comes quickly when called and very easy to handle. Lovey has great ground manners and is willing to do anything asked of her. She is broke to ride and after some evaluation, we have discovered that she is great with kids. Lovey was delivered to her new adoptive home just in time for a wonderful Christmas present. The look on the adoptive home and Lovey's face, said it all. Smiles all around for a very Merry Christmas indeed.

Rainbow Bridge

The most difficult part of rescue is realizing when it is time to help the horses Cross the Rainbow Bridge – and sometimes, it is the kindest thing we can do. Our sympathy goes out to everyone who fostered, cared for, and loved these horses. We appreciate everything you do to make their lives better.

Written by Jennifer Williams on December 27, 2005:

Just a few short days ago, BEHS added a new baby to our family: a sickly foal. He and his two pasturemates were the subject of a neglect complaint. The veterinarian who reported the case to both BEHS and the authorities was concerned for all of the horses but especially for this young foal. He was weak and tiny, and she worried he might not make it. Law enforcement approached his owner and instructed her to begin a proper feeding program immediately or face removal of her horses. She told them she would comply, but when they checked in just a few days later, they found that the foal was down and unable to rise. The veterinarian (and volunteer for BEHS) was immediately on the scene and lined up a trailer to take the three horses to safety. The owner decided to surrender them at that point in hopes of avoiding a criminal charge. At one point, while the vet, Tina (our great AR Member Rep.) and I were on the phone, the vet said she wasn't sure if the little guy was alive as he had stopped moving.

But he struggled through. He was surrounded by police officers and deputies, and they lifted him to get him on the trailer. He rode standing up and was met at the vet clinic by a warmed blanket. The vet began working on him - administering fluids, getting him on a proper feeding program, and pulling blood to check for infection and other concerns. Hundreds of people who never met him held their breath and lifted up prayers for this little guy.

His pasturemates began to improve, but he continued to struggle. The vet believed he was younger than we were told and discovered he could not rise on his own although he could continue standing once helped to his feet.

She started taking him for brief walks to help him gain muscle and move enough to alleviate the swelling that settled into his legs. He won over her entire family, and he was given the name Munchkin.

On Christmas, he had a bout of colic but his devoted vet coaxed him through it.

Today, the results of his blood work came back - his red blood cell count was ridiculously low. We agreed to a transfusion in an attempt to save his life.

But we did not know that little Munchkin was tired. And he worn out by fighting for his life. So tonight, he laid down and gave up the fight. Because of the cruelty of one person, he suffered. Over the last few days, Tina, Dr. Theresa Miller, and others at the vet clinic tried to show him that there was joy and love in the world, but he was too tired to hold on.

On nights like this, sometimes it is hard to stay focused on what we do. On nights like this, we want to give in the towel and spare ourselves future heartbreak and loss. But if we do not fight for the Munchkins of the world, who will? We fight on in his name and because we fight and remember him, he lives on - healthier, happier, and loved.

Old and New Faces

This section will feature a bio on an 'old' face around BEHS each month as well as one of our new members. If you would like to have your bio included, please contact Jenn at jenn@bluebonnetequine.org



Spencer Williams

While Spencer is active in the rescue, he's not really a 'horse person' – he's a musician! Until he met Jennifer, he thought horses were "neat" – from a safe distance. About a year after meeting Jennifer, they had their first horse together – a mare named Fire. Spencer only rode Fire once, but he spent plenty of time helping Jenn care for her and the horses to follow. While he's not a horseperson at heart, he's very good with them and is now helping to teach family members about horses and their care.

Spencer's a music lover at heart – he plays guitar and mandolin and has performed at several rescue events as well as locally in College Station, Texas. He loves to perform Texas music and older country – and he's written several songs of his own including "Rescue Husband Blues."

*We've got the rescue husband blues
Sure don't got no money left to loose
Lets get together and talk about the days
Before our wives were rescue slaves
And drink away those rescue husband blues*

© Spencer Williams

When he's not playing music or helping Jennifer with the horses, Spencer is a toxicological consultant. He received his Ph.D. in Toxicology from Texas A&M University in December 2003.

Spencer joined the Board of Directors at the request of many of the members. He helped Jennifer form Lone Star Equine Rescue (mostly behind the scenes). He plans to develop the Corporate Sponsorship Program this year and work with Jennifer to promote the rescue in the Houston area.

Spencer and Jennifer share their lives with 4 cats, 1 dog, and 4 horses.

New Face: Randy and Shelly Samo

Hi ya'll we are Randy and Shelly Samo and we live in Arkansas. Randy works for MacSteel a local steel mill and I am a disabled nurse, I pulled one too many patients and ruined my back. We found a new love and something to keep us busy and that was raising horses. We live on a farm that has been in my family for over 100 years and we have our horses in a 40 acre field which they love to run and eat the grass. There are 2 ponds on the place and when it gets hot they go swimming like they did today. What a mess, I wish they could wash and brush themselves.

We started playing with horses about 5 years ago when our daughter Rosie wanted to ride. We bought Blaze. We knew practically nothing about horses and Blaze was just the horse to tell us that. He is stubborn and wants to do anything he can get away with which he does because Rosie isn't experienced enough to make him mind. He throws almost any man that gets on him but Rosie can do anything to him and he doesn't make a jump. We then bought Blaze's buddy (big mistake) Kassie. She is 25 years old but she and Blaze had been together for years and don't want to get out of each others sight making Blaze difficult and hard to ride. And Kassie is the same way. Their former owners used them for lawn mowers and they were tied of to a cement block and a rope all day. We thought we would stop there but...we decided we wanted to breed so we bought Rose a huge bay Quarter Horse, she is trained to run barrels and poles. We have her 2 year old filly Jae Bar Bobbi Socks, she is paint breeding stock. Then we bought Missy - a beautiful sorrel Paint brood mare. She and Rose were to foal in about April but unfortunately she miscarried the Sunday before Christmas. It was wonderful timing, her medical bills were mine and Randy's Christmas present to each other. I would love to go out and paint a big dollar sign on her. I really wanted something else! We also have a beautiful blue roan filly named Belle. She is 3 years old. She will be broke this year and our son Chris will ride her. We rescued her she was a yearling and the lady that had her lost her lease on her pasture. I can't remember how many she had horses on an acre of land and they had eaten everything in sight and she was starving. I didn't even have to think about it, we just paid the lady, put her in the trailer, and brought her home. It took her a while to adjust and realize that she was going to get to eat everyday. Now she is a real moocher. She is like a dog - always wants to be loved on. She keeps pulling the caps off our T posts and they are usually found floating in the water trough. Our last horse - Lil' Bit is a grulla Quarter Horse filly. She came out of the same situation as Belle, probably worse because she is hard to catch, she knows were she eats and is getting better about being touched but it is going to be a while before she completely trusts us.

Since they are on 40 acres we feed them a little in the morning and in the evening. That way we can check them and be sure they haven't been injured during the day or night.

It has been quite an undertaking learning about our horses either reading books or the Internet or talking to other people that have horses. We take the information from all the sources, glean out what doesn't sound quite right, and keep the information that is important. It is funny how you can ask two people about the same thing concerning horses and come up with two totally different answers that aren't even close to each other. We just learn as much as we can and leave the rest. It has worked out great so far.

December Financials

For November

Income:

Expenses:

Net Income:

You can see a detailed report on our website at
www.bluebonnetequine.org.

Account balance:

Since our account balance is climbing, the directors are setting aside \$5,000 in a savings account. We are investigating starting an endowment fund to plan for the organization's future. We'll also be putting \$800/month into the savings account so we can pay for insurance when it is due in July.

We have begun reimbursing fuel for those doing inspections and investigations at 14 cents/mile and will soon start reimbursing fuel for trailering at 14 cents/mile. Once we are able to safely accommodate those reimbursements on a long-term basis, we may increase the rate at which we reimburse. Other reimbursements will be introduced over time as we plan more successful fundraisers.

If you have any questions about the finances of BEHS, please email Ari Pettgrew at apettgrew@austin.rr.com, Jennifer Williams at jenn@bluebonnetequine.org, or any other BEHS director. You can also call BEHS at (888) 542 5163.

The Color Corner

The Color Corner Column is a new addition to the Bluebonnet Bulletin. This column will discuss interesting color patterns and coat color genetics. If you have suggestions or submissions, please contact Sharon at leosharon@earthlink.net.

Sharon Martin-Holm Director

We are continuing to look at the Dilute genes this month. Last month we saw how the Cream gene could turn a chestnut into a palomino or cremello, and a bay into a buckskin or perlino. This month we'll see what the dun gene does to the base colors.

Quickly recapping what we've looked at so far: the Base Colors are Chestnut, Bay and Black and are controlled by the Extension and Agouti loci (specific gene placements on chromosomes in each horse's unique genetic makeup.) Other genes can modify these to affect the final outcome of a horse's color. The most common modifying genes are the ones we call "Dilution" genes. These are Cream, Linebacked Dun, Champagne and Silver Dapple. The former two are fairly common and the latter two have been pretty rare until lately, with some breeds in particular focusing their breeding around these lovely colors. There are probably more of these types of modifying colors that just haven't been properly described and classified yet!

One quick definition clarification today. When reading or listening to discussions involving genetics, you may hear the terms "genotype" and "phenotype" used. It's helpful to know the difference between these two. The "phenotype" means what the outcome actually looks like. The "genotype" refers to what is programmed into that animal's genetic code. A good example is a bay horse: referring back a couple months to our discussion on the basic colors and how the Extension (**E/e**) and Agouti (**A/a**) loci control those colors, you'll remember that there were a variety of gene combinations that could result in a bay horse. Since dominant **E** and dominant **A** in combination will give you bay, the "genotype" of a bay horse could be **Ee/Aa** or **EE/Aa** or **EE/AA** but the "phenotype" is a bay horse each time. There would be no way to know what information the genes actually contained unless you had a detailed chart of the horse's ancestors or offspring.

The dun gene locus has a simple dominant mechanism. If **Dn(+)** is present, then the horse will have dun markings. If the horse's genetic code is negative at both dun loci -- **Dn(-)/Dn(-)** then there will be no dun markings present. There is no difference in color (phenotype) between **Dn(+)/Dn(+)** and **Dn(+)/Dn(-)** which are the genotypes.

The dun markings consist of what are commonly called "primitive" markings. These are: a dorsal (eel) stripe down the horse's back, a cross at the withers, dark rings on the forehead (spiderwebbing) and striping on the lower legs around the knees and hocks. In some horses these will be very obvious, in others very faint and not at all obvious unless you are looking closely for them. Some horses (such as the Fjord) are nearly all dun; in other horse breed such as the Arabian and Thoroughbred the dun coloration is unheard of. The dun coloration has been most closely associated with horses of Spanish origin, and also in the northern European pony breeds, but is an attractive and sought-after color that is attracting attention from breeders in many segments of the horse industry now.



There are many variations of dun, depending on the base color of the horse. A base-bay horse with the **Dn(+)** locus gives the classic "zebra dun" color -- a dark yellow/tan body with black points (mane, tail and lower legs) and primitive markings of varying degree. Darker or lighter "shades" of bay with the dun coloration result in "golden" duns, "silvery" duns, "dusty" duns, and some that look just like a bay horse...if you didn't notice the

primitive marks. A black-base horse with dun coloration gets diluted to a gray-ish color and is called "grullo" (or "grulla" if female). Grullos have the darker points and also usually



have a head that is darker than the body color. Depending on the shade of the body, colloquial terms include "smokey" dun, "mouse" dun or "blue" dun. Interestingly, the word "grullo" comes from the Spanish for a crane-type bird which is commonly this same slate-gray color. If the **Dn(+)** gene is superimposed on a base-chestnut horse you will find the primitive markings on a redder body without the black points. Depending on the shade, these are often called "red" dun, "claybank" dun, "orange" dun or "apricot" dun.

Picture's of Sierra's dun markings are shown here. She's a base-chestnut horse and would be considered a "red" dun.

The Annual Members Meeting

Its time to start thinking about the annual membership meeting! Since we are all so spread out, I know that no one location is great for everyone. We're going to use a different location each year to give more members a chance to participate over the long run.

For 2006, our annual members meeting will be Saturday, February 18 in Lorena, Texas at 1:00pm. We will have elections for director positions and the Texas State Representative position and we will discuss fundraising. I'm also taking submissions/ideas for topics to add to the agenda.

We would like our members to RSVP so we can reserve a room if we need to (depending on the number of people attending, this meeting may be held at Cat's house - thank you Cat!). We'll include lunch – and we're deciding now whether it will be catered or a pot luck. I'll let all attendees know around the first of February what we've decided on. We'll be sure to reserve to socialize after the meeting.

We'll have directors votes at the meeting and will discuss the fundraising plan, membership drive, and 2006 budget. You can RSVP by sending an email to jenn@bluebonnetequine.org. We hope to see you all there!

Fostering and Adopting Fun

The Fostering and Adoption Fun column is a new column dedicated to the foster homes and adoptive homes of BEHS. Have an update on your fostered or adopted equine? Share it here! Email your stories to Jenn at jenn@bluebonnetequine.org.



Lovey (left) was adopted this December by the Bolinger family. Read what her adoptive mom's message to BEHS:

To all you very wonderful and special people.

I just wanted to let you all know what a wonderful Christmas present Lovey was for my children. First off let me tell you Snazzy the 28 year old gelding that I have really liked her when she arrived. She was

unsure about the goats, but got over that pretty quickly. I was feeding them Snazzy & Lovey and one of the goats attempted to come between her hind legs and she just stood there eating like it was no big deal, wished I had my camera. Then the goat got stuck between her legs and was rocky trying to squeeze through and she just stood there and let her wiggle, it moved Lovey too, she was rocking back and forth with the goat, but never moved. It was so funny to watch. Later in the field one of the babies was jumping up on her legs and she paid him no mind, just watched him, trying to figure out what he was doing. I got to play and bond with her for a few days before the kids came home and got to meet her.

Then my kids came home and they were so exited. I have a 17, 9, 6 and a 4 year old. They have all ridden her and just love her. Each have ridden her several times, by themselves. The 4 year old rides her by herself around and around the house and field. The 6 year old is gaining his confidence on her and is really excited about taking care of his Lovely. (He calls her Lovely, I don't know if he hasn't caught onto her name or he just likes lovely better).

She is just perfect for our family, thank you so much for all that you= do. Without folks like yourselves, she would not be around today to provide so much joy to my family.

Thank you all for the labor of love that you all perform and a special Thank you to Tina Shalmy for being so persistent and all that you do.

HorseTV Channel Launch

CALABASAS, CALIFORNIA – The HorseTV Channel announced today that Grande Communications[®], headquartered in San Marcos, Texas, will launch The HorseTV Channel on Wednesday, December 28, 2005. The HorseTV Channel will be available to viewers on Grande's digital platform, channel 280.

"The HorseTV Channel's supporters across the country have truly enabled us to expand more rapidly into new markets," said George Greenberg, Chairman and CEO of The HorseTV Channel. "We are grateful for their enthusiasm and look forward to full nationwide availability in a very short time."

Grande Communications will launch The HorseTV Channel in all of the communities it serves throughout Texas including Austin, Corpus Christi, the northwest suburbs of Dallas, Midland, Odessa, San Antonio, San Marcos and Waco.

"Increasingly, cable customers are looking for very specific programming that matches their interests, and stations like The HorseTV Channel provide programming that will inform and entertain a large number of Grande customers who are eager to learn more about horses," said Grande President and CEO Scott Ferguson. "After all, this is Texas and I suspect there is a little cowboy inside all of us."

The HorseTV Channel is the only 24/7 television channel that provides audiences of all ages with entertaining and informational programming focused on the fascinating world of horses. From silk hats to Stetsons, The HorseTV Channel offers viewers a varied and compelling lineup presenting the events, recreational activities, competitions, stories and lifestyles that we share with one of America's most cherished icons, the horse.

Notes:

About Grande Communications (www.grandecom.com)

Headquartered in San Marcos, Grande Communications[®] is building a deep-fiber broadband network to homes and businesses from the ground up. Grande's 800 employees deliver high-speed Internet, local and long-distance telephone and digital cable television services over its own advanced broadband network to communities in Texas. Grande's bundled service area includes portions of Austin, Corpus Christi, suburban northwest Dallas, Midland, Odessa, San Antonio, San Marcos and Waco.

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 email 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. 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. Email 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/>

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