



The Bluebonnet Bulletin
www.bluebonnetequine.org

Bluebonnet Equine
Humane Society

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Volume 1, Issue 2

Featured Horse –



Phoenix is a four year old, Arabian/Tennessee Walking Horse gelding. He's aptly named Phoenix – he was the first horse into BEHS. Just as he's rising from the ashes of his former life, Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society members are rising from the ashes.

He was donated by an owner who could no longer keep him. Prior to coming to BEHS, Phoenix had been with a trainer who mishandled him. Consequently, Phoenix is leery of new

people and nervous in new situations. His foster "mom" is working with him, and he's slowly learning to trust her. She can now touch him anywhere except on his hind legs, and he stood quietly while she tacked him up recently. He's learning to longe now, and his foster mom will try him under saddle once he's comfortable wearing tack while longeing.

We're hoping Phoenix can begin looking for an adoptive home soon – and that he'll find an adopter who doesn't mind putting in the time to help Phoenix trust.

President's Letter

On May 19, 2005, the horse world lost a great horsewoman, the rescue world lost a wonderful supporter, and I lost a dear friend.

I met Susan Bovay Baker when I was looking for a sidesaddle instructor. Although I never took a sidesaddle lesson from her, we began chatting nightly thanks to ICQ, an instant messenger program. Within weeks, I felt like I had known Susan forever. She quickly became not only a trusted friend but also a mentor – offering advice on riding and training issues and supporting my rescue work.

When I finally met Susan and her husband Jim in person, I was a little leery about

spending a few days with someone I had met on the internet. I had nothing to fear, though. Susan and Jim were wonderful hosts and I had a great time chatting and taking riding lessons. I rode my first reining horse during those lessons, and I also rode a wonderful gelding named FS King Presley (a.k.a. Elvis).

Susan and I grew ever closer thanks to that visit. We chatted more and learned that we had several connections. We had shown at the same Class A show in Kansas City (the only Class A show I was in), and I had presented her ribbons at a show in Texas just a few years before.

I think Susan and Jim spent hours answering my questions – they offered advice on my own horses, and they often had great information that helped the horses I fostered for the rescue.

When Jim and Susan were preparing to move to Arizona, they came for a visit first. They brought “Elvis” to give lessons at our barn. We took him to a small show where I showed him in halter. Then Jim and Susan said they had a presentation to make. They took Elvis into the arena and talked about his show record and said they had been looking for a new home for him. I turned to Spencer and told him I did not want them to sell Elvis. He did not say a word. A few seconds later, Jim called me into the ring. He talked about the rescue – and then said they had a certificate to give me. The certificate awarded me Elvis – and I was stunned. Susan had spoken to Spencer and the barn manager where I kept my horses the day before, so everyone at the show knew. I was so stunned that I kept checking to make sure Elvis was really there.

I got to visit Susan and Jim after they moved to Arizona – Riding their Arabian reiner “Magic” and their QH reiner “Jackson” (a brother of Hollywood Dunny). I went back to Arizona for a month when Jim unexpectedly died. During that time, I told Susan that she was family – Spencer and I loved her dearly and adopted her as an ‘unofficial’ family member.

Susan loved her horses, and she loved showing. She won countless championships – including National Championship – in a variety of disciplines. She loved helping other people get into horses – often letting kids show one of her horses. She also loved matching up horses with owners. She once told me that she could see how much Elvis and I loved each other in our photos, and she thought we were a perfect match. One of the last time I spoke to her, I told her that Elvis’ new job once we moved back to Texas would be to teach my nieces to ride and show. She was excited and looking forward to getting photos of the girls on Elvis.

Like a true friend, she was upset when I left the other rescue. She had supported the rescue – telling everyone she introduced me to that I ran one of the best rescues. When I told her about the birth of Bluebonnet, she told me the legend of the bluebonnets and sent me bluebonnet seeds - as a celebration of the new group.

Susan battled breast cancer and then bone cancer for years. In January, she entered home hospice care. The hospice workers at the Hospice of the Valley in Phoenix were angels on this earth. For the first time, Susan felt she had someone who understood her battle. A week before she passed away, she entered a hospice facility. She succumbed to cancer early in the morning of May 19.

I miss Susan more than I can express – but I think of her each time I see Elvis. I’ll always

remember her kindness and compassion, and she'll live on through our rescue work.

I hope everyone can have such a wonderful mentor and friend. And I hope to help others learn more about their horses in Susan's memory.

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

Eli Benson	Leslie Davis	Patty Elliott
Laura Senseman	Marianne and Stephen Skarpa	
Joanne Steele	Scott and Deena Silverman	
Karen Strieder	Wendy and Mearl Taylor	
Judy Williams	Tina Shalmy	

Medalist Supporters

Red River Regional Sidesaddle Association

Champion Supporters

Cat Ballew

Welcome to Our New Members

Cat Ballew – Lifetime Member	Carole Brunsting	Cynthia Thornton	Judy Williams
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Become a Bluebonnet Supporter

The equines of Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society need your support!

Contribute to the rescue at

https://www.paypal.com/xclick/business=cowgirljenn%40gmail%2ecom&item_name=BEHS%20Donation&no_shipping=0&no_note=1&tax=0¤cy_code=USD

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

Our 501(c)(3) status is pending and donations may not be tax-deductible at this time.

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 veterinarian offices and ask if you can put out a donation jar. We've even seen donation jars for rescues at grocery stores, gift shops, and even at Dairy Queen! Lets 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

BEHS NEEDS YOU!

Would you like to get more involved in BEHS? We've still got several volunteer positions available – join us in making a difference in the lives of horses and other equines around the world! 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.

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

RAISE \$\$ 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 get a portion of what you spend.

Upcoming Events

Favoring Winds Ranch Benefit

On Saturday, August 6 (weather permitting), the **Favoring Winds Ranch** will host a **BEHS** fundraiser. There will be door prizes donated by some of the local merchants. Better Birds of Texas will be there and will give one lucky person a bird and complete bird kit. They will also have birds for sale. We will give 1000 pounds of Purina Select Horse

Feed to lucky attendees-- courtesy of Steinhauser's of Alvin and Purina Mills.

Listed below are some of the activities available for guests:

Petting Zoo (free)	Pony rides	Concession Stand
Bake Sale	Pictures	Live and Silent Auction
BEHS Info Booth	Live Band	

Games - Fish, Ring Toss, Pop a balloon for a Prize

The fun starts at Noon and lasts until 6 pm.

For more information: Favoring Winds Ranch, 6707 CR 511, Rosharon, TX 77583
832-244-3471

Golfing Fore Pets to Benefit BEHS

Do you like to golf or know people who do? Then come out to the 2nd Annual Golfing Fore Pets Tournament and help BEHS! The tournament takes place September 27, 2005 in Austin, Texas with a 9:00 am shotgun start. The cost is \$100 per golfer with 4 golfers per team (Golfing Fore Pets can put together a team for you if you need!). Sponsorship packages start at \$100 for a hole sponsor and go up to \$2,500 for underwriting.

For more information, contact Golfing Fore Pets at 512-263-2900

Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society Out and About

Texas Equine Expo, Fort Worth, Texas - May 14-15, 2005

Members Tricia and Michael Gilbreth and Directors Sharon Martin-Holm and Wendy Taylor put together a great booth at this new event. They handed out so many tri-fold brochures on Saturday that they had to restock their supplies for Sunday! They talked to several potential members and sold BEHS merchandise.

Adopt-A-Thon, Columbus, Texas – May 14, 2005

BEHS Directors Marianne Skarpa and Joanne Terry braved this Adopt-A-Thon to put on a nice booth to promote the rescue. They took donations and had a drawing for a bucket of horse supplies – and the bucket was won by our own Cindy Fanning! Congrats, Cindy!



May 21-22, 2005, Benton, Arkansas – HoofFest

Director Tina Shalmy and member Kenna Graves spent the weekend in Benton, AR talking to potential members and the public about BEHS. They got a new membership, sold BEHS merchandise, and had a great time meeting people!

Do you know someplace we could put together a BEHS booth? Please contact Wendy Taylor at cowgirlwendy@gmail.com or call BEHS at (888) 542 5163.

Raise Funds for BEHS While Enjoying Free Pizza

BEHS is pleased to partner with Domino's pizza in a fun and tasty fundraising effort. For \$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 get 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.

Fundraisers Needed!

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

The Horses of BEHS

Pepper is BEHS' first neglect case horse. Animal Control was called out to her owner's property to investigate a complaint regarding a neglected horse. The owner stated that he did not want the older, Appaloosa mare, and Animal Control gave him BEHS' information. Pepper's now with a foster home that will rehabilitate her and help her gain weight.

Moonshine is a 15-18 year old, Appaloosa gelding. His previous owners rescued him from a neglectful situation but he was sleek and gorgeous by the time they donated him to BEHS. He's a quiet, laid back horse and his foster home will soon test him out under saddle. He should be one of the first BEHS horses to go up for adoption!

Eclipse is a Quarter Horse gelding who was donated when his owner could no longer keep him. He's suffered an abusive past and will likely be a companion only horse when he goes up for adoption.

Sundance is a pretty, 24 year old, chestnut grade mare with a flaxen mane. She doesn't know she's 24 years old – she's quite a spunky little lady! Her foster home has been working with her and discovered that she's broke to ride. She still loves to go so she would be best for an intermediate to experienced rider or a novice working with a trainer. She will go up for adoption soon.

Foster Homes Needed

Within days of opening our doors to horses, it quickly became obvious that BEHS is greatly needed in the horse community. We've got a waiting list of horses needing to come into the rescue – but we don't have enough foster homes! We need kind people to open their hearts and homes to the horses of BEHS.

Currently, BEHS is unable to pay veterinary bills. However, once a foster horse is adopted out, BEHS will use his/her adoption fee to reimburse any pre-approved veterinary bills and after BEHS has several fundraisers, we'll be able to begin reimbursing veterinary bills.

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

Getting to Know Each Other

This section will feature a bio on a different member of Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society each month.

Growing up the daughter of a hotel manager, Regina lived with daily room service and housekeeping. Unfortunately, the hotel life did not leave much room for animals and Regina had had a cat and parakeet growing up.

As an adult, Regina moved into a house of her own where she could enjoy several cats and dogs, but she did not discover horses until her horse-crazy daughter started riding. For years, Regina's job was to chauffeur her daughter to visit the horse. While she might pet her daughter's horse that was as far as her involvement went.

Then, in 2000 a veterinarian diagnosed Regina's daughter's horse with EPM. Regina couldn't afford to treat the mare, Tulsa, and they scheduled a visit from the veterinarian to euthanize Tulsa. Luckily, the veterinarian had to reschedule and Regina reached out to a rescue where to see if the organization could help Tulsa. Regina met Jennifer Williams who helped her learn more about EPM. In the end, Tulsa was not euthanized and Regina joined the rescue in appreciation for their help.

Within a few months, Regina jumped in and volunteered to help out at booths and fundraisers. She was quickly recruited for an officer position and helped the rescue with educational opportunities and helped secure insurance. When she resigned her officer position, she went on to foster several horses for the rescue.

Regina still claims that she knows little about horses, but she now takes care of her adopted horses Pebbles and Freckles and her daughter's mare Tulsa – who is healthy and happy today.

Recycle and Help BEHS

BEHS is pleased to announce that we have signed up with both Rethink, Ink and GreenFund Network to recycle ink & toner cartridges and cell phones. Not only are we helping the environment but we get 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 get many items shipped at one time. She 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 them, 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

What's an Animal Collector?

Dr. Jennifer Williams

While most people know that many dogs, cats, horses and other animals are neglected or abused in this country every year, only a few people have heard of the condition dubbed "animal collector" or "animal hoarder" by psychologists and rescue workers.

Animal collectors often start with the best of intentions. They love animals and cannot tolerate the abuse and neglect they suffer at the hands of humans. Or they may be appalled by the animal over population problems and the shelters that euthanize the "excess" animals. They begin taking in animals, just one here or one there. They love the animals, and while they may initially intend to find homes for these formerly unwanted critters, they decide they can't let go of them. Now, taking in and keeping stray or unwanted animals isn't a problem, but it crosses the line once the collector has more animals than he or she can care for.

Animal collectors often force their animals to live in deplorable conditions. They cannot provide medication attention for injuries and they refuse to euthanize those animals they cannot help. They have more animals than they can clean up after, and feces begins to accumulate. Additionally, they don't have enough money to feed all of these animals, so the animals have to scavenge for their food.

When someone offers to help an animal collector, their help is most often turned down. The animal collector feels that she is providing for the animals in her care, and she does not need outside assistance. She may not want to let outsiders in to see her animals, either.

Psychologists believe that animal collecting (sometimes called animal addiction) may be related to obsessive-compulsive type disorders. Many animal collectors also collect inanimate objects including junk or trash. Animal rescuers or animal control officers who seize animals from a collector must often wade through trash

on the floor or ground, push past mounds of newspapers, magazines, and papers, and negotiate through collections of various inanimate objects.

Some characteristics of animal collectors:

- Most are female.
- Most live alone.
- Most have no social support structure – no family or friends.
- Those collectors who were not socially isolated when they began collecting often lose contact with friends and family as their animals become more and more important.
- Most are intelligent and many are educated.
- Most are very shrewd and able to attract sympathy from the public. They are able to solicit money for the animals at events and they may appear on TV or in the papers discussing their rescue efforts and need for money.
- Most feel the need to bring in more and more animals.
- Many call themselves rescuers, activists, or animal saviors.
- Many are reluctant to let any animals go. In fact, many cannot even dispose of the bodies of those animals who die. When the authorities come in to seize the living animals, they often find dead animals as well.
- Many fear death and will not euthanize an animal, even if the animal is suffering.
- All collectors deny that there is anything wrong with their situation.
- There is a stench of urine and/or feces that's noticeable even outside their house or barn.
- They have sick animals who do not receive proper veterinary care.
- They are dishonest or evasive about the number of animals they own.
- They believe that no one can care for the animals the way they can.
- They need to control everything that happens to the animals.

Often, once the authorities are alerted to a collector and seize her animals, she begins collecting again immediately. She protests that she has been victimized by law enforcement and the rescues who seized her animals, and she may proclaim that she is only “rescueing” the animals in her care.

While dogs and cats are often the species collectors chose, horses have also been collected. I have been involved in animal collector cases. In one, we entered a property to seize several animals and found the entire property covered in trash – bags full of cans, old, empty feed sacks, old boats, cars, and RVs, and more. There were animals whose feet were so long they curled up, there were injured animals who had gone untreated, and the rescuers found remains of dead animals. The owner insisted that she was a rescuer and was providing for these animals, but the courts found that the animals were neglected and removed them from her.

Animal collecting is a sad condition, and psychologists will need to study this further and make recommendations for treating it. The courts will need to work with psychologists to get the humans the help they need, and the courts will need

to work with legitimate rescuers to get help for the animals who are the victims of this disease.

May Financials

As of Jun 4, 05

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Compass Bank Checking 5,905.26

Total Checking/Savings 5,905.26

Total Current Assets 5,905.26

TOTAL ASSETS 5,905.26

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Net Income 5,905.26

Total Equity 5,905.26

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 5,905.26

Income:	2146.58
Expenses:	378.30
Net Income:	1768.28

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

While it appears we have plenty of cash on hand right now, we'll soon be spending most of that money on insurance for the rescue. Insurance is important for our fundraisers and when we do booths at events.

The People of Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society

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