



The Bluebonnet Bulletin
www.bluebonnetequine.org

Bluebonnet Equine
 Humane Society

P.O. Box 4944
 College Station,
 Texas 77844-4944

(888) 542 5163

August 2005

Volume 1, Issue 4

Featured Horse



Crimson is a pretty 19 year old, Thoroughbred cross gelding. He came to BEHS from another organization. Crimson suffers from degenerative suspensory ligament desmitis (DSDL) and as a consequence he cannot be ridden.

Crimson is very sweet and friendly – and he’s curious about what’s going on around him. He would make a great pasture-pal or companion for a lonely horse.

Crimson is available for adoption for \$100 and is located in Gladewater, Texas.

As a bonus, Crimson can be seen on RFD-TV’s Horse Sense in August!

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President's Letter

Hello everyone!

In order to be the best rescue we can possibly be we need *your* input. We need ideas and we need volunteers to make those ideas happen. Recently a newer member of BEHS sent me two very long emails just full of ideas to help improve the rescue. I had already thought of a couple of them, but several were great ideas that we can put in place to help promote the rescue and make us a better group. While we can't implement every idea (either because of money or volunteer manpower), we do want to hear your ideas!

You can send them to the BluebonnetEquineRescue group or to me at jenn@bluebonnetequine.org. If you aren't internet savvy, you can also call BEHS at (888) 542 5163 and let us know your ideas.

Don't be shy, either! One of our best known officers started out as a new member who knew almost nothing about horses and even less about rescue. She kept jumping in to volunteer, share ideas, and help others – and before long she found out that she knew more about horses and rescue work than she ever thought possible! We're a friendly group – so please jump in with your idea.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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

Karen Allen
Sarah Brown
Lake Hills Montessori
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Aubrey Angel
Barbara Lucas
Gaye and Michael Patrick
Leslie Scardaci

Michael Beddingfield
Sharon Martin-Holm
Christy See

Medalist Supporters

Cat Ballew

Welcome to Our New Members

Rhonda Daniel Kristy Deslate

Thank You to Our Lifetime Member

Cat Ballew

Ways to Help BEHS

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

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 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! 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.

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 \$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.

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 receive 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

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

Volunteer Positions

Would you like to get more involved in BEHS? We still have 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 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.

Fundraisers Needed!

Regina Anderson needs you! She's 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 rlanderson@austin.rr.com to learn how to join the Fundraising Committee.

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

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.

National Homeless Animals' Day Candlelight Vigil – August 20th from 6-9 PM in Carrollton, Texas.

Equestrian Market Day- August 20th in College Station, Texas.

Upcoming Events

Favoring Winds Ranch Benefit

NEW DATE: On Saturday, August 27 (weather permitting), the **Favoring Winds Ranch** will host a **BEHS** fundraiser. Door prizes donated by several generous local merchants will be awarded. 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 wish!). 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.

Watch Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society on RFD-TV

The RFD-TV show Horse Sense will featured Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society on August 16th at 8:30 PM CST. Randi Smith, Sharon Martin-Holm, Ralph Pinnell, Jodi Luecke, Cat Ballew, Tina Shalmy, Jennifer Williams, and Wendy Mearl, and Stephanie Taylor will discuss adoption, neglect investigations, rehabilitation and more. Viewers will get to see Eclipse, Crimson, Jake, Phoenix, and Dream Girl. This show should bring plenty of great PR for BEHS – please watch and let us know what you think!

Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society Out and About

July 1, 2005 – Lake Hills Montessori – Austin, Texas

Leslie Schedler took a mare and colt miniature horse to visit her daughter's Montessori school. The kids got the chance to meet and pet some miniature horses, and Leslie talked about the rescue. At the end of the day, the school made a donation to BEHS.

Great work, Leslie! Thank you.

The Horses of BEHS

Newest Equines

Fandango is a pretty, bay, 6 year old, Arabian gelding. He was seized due to neglect and awarded to BEHS. He's been with us over a month now, and his foster home says he's friendly and curious. He's gaining weight and needs to move into a foster home who can

evaluate his training.

Miss Priss is a 2005, chestnut, Arabian filly. She was also seized due to neglect, but she's gaining weight quickly. She's learned to lead, stand to be groomed, and have her feet handled while with her foster home. Her foster 'mom' says she's a sweet filly who is a joy to be around.

Windy is a 4 year old, brown/white pinto Shetland mare. She was seized after going without water for days, but she's doing great now.

Isabell is an approximately 15 year old, chestnut grade mare. She was donated to BEHS when her owner could no longer keep her. She's sweet to humans but also very dominant and has been known to kick. She's supposedly broke to ride but will need to be evaluated before going up for adoption.

Equines Available for Adoption

Moonshine is a grade Appaloosa gelding. He's between 15 and 20 years old. Moonshine was donated to BEHS by his previous owners when they could no longer keep him. They had rescued him out of a bad situation and rehabilitated him. He is a quiet horse who has wonderful ground manners. Moonshine is broke to ride but he is very rusty. He could use a short refresher course and then may be a nice horse for a child with riding experience or a small adult. *Adoption fee: \$400*

Eclipse is a stunning 12 year old, registered Quarter Horse gelding. He was donated after he bucked and bolted with his owner. Eclipse is broke to ride, but his donor feels he is unpredictable. He has been ridden in BEHS and appears very well-trained, but his adoption fee is in review as he undergoes more evaluation.

Moose is a stunning, 8 year old, registered Arabian gelding. He was donated to BEHS when his owner could no longer keep him. Moose has been ridden in BEHS and is a calm, laid-back horse who is easy to work with. He knows how to give to the bit, turn, and stop, but he's uncertain about moving forward. Moose has the potential to become a nice show horse in a variety of disciplines. *Adoption fee: \$1,000.*

Shasta is a 1988, gray, Quarter Horse mare. She was purchased by her donor as a companion to her other horse, but they decided to donate her to BEHS because she was not being ridden. She's not been ridden much in the past several years, but she recently went trail riding and was wonderful. Her foster home has ridden her bareback with a halter and a lead rope, and she did great. She is a bit rusty, so she would do best with an intermediate rider or a novice who is working with an instructor. In April of this year, a veterinarian discovered masses in her abdomen that may be melanomas. They do not seem to bother Shasta. *Adoption fee: \$800*

Congratulations to These Adopted Horses

Zeek was just our second horse in BEHS – and we're glad he's found his forever home! He's a pretty, 11 year old, bay Thoroughbred gelding. He was donated because his owner was going to college and could not take him. He's got pain in his back, hips, and pelvis but his foster home has worked with a chiropractor to help alleviate his pain. His foster 'mom' just fell in love with Zeek and decided to make him a permanent addition. Congrats to Zeek and Jo!

Fancy is a gray, 27 year old, half-Arabian mare. She was one of our first foster horses in Arkansas. She was donated to BEHS when her owner could no longer keep her. Although Fancy is an older mare, she doesn't act like one! Under saddle, she likes to go. She's friendly and a nice girl to have around, and that helped her to quickly find an adoptive home. Fancy was BEHS' first adoption in Arkansas, too. Congrats to Fancy and Robert!

Serena was one of BEHS first seizures. She had gone without food or water for many days when she was seized. She quickly recovered, and her foster home reported that she is the sweetest filly. She's a yearling, Arabian filly who loves attention. She quickly captured the heart of her foster home, and they decided to make her a permanent addition to their farm. Congrats to Serena, Bill, and Cindy!

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

BEHS Secretary Jodi Luecke grew up on horseback. She got her first horse, a mare named Ginger, at the age of two. Jodi's dad was a professional saddle bronc rider and later became a horse trainer, so the family spent most of Jodi's childhood traveling to various horse events. As a teen and while in college, Jodi worked alongside her dad training horses.

Jodi's rescue activities started as a kid – she would bring home any stray or injured animal she came across. She was finally able to combine her love of horses and helping needy animals when she joined Lone Star Equine Rescue in 1999. While there, she served as an officer, staff member, foster home, and volunteer.

Jodi received a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication from Southwest Texas State University. She now lives on a ranch in Central Texas with her husband Fred. They share their lives with Jodi's reining and pleasure horses and their dogs.

In addition to rescue work and riding, Jodi also raises antique roses and scuba dives.

New Faces – Jim and Sue Munkittrick

Jim and Susan have lived in Texas since the late 80's. Prior to that, Jim's employer had kept transferring them all over the country - from Chicago to Tampa to Minneapolis to Atlanta to Pittsburgh to Seattle.

Jim sells for a nationwide advertising specialty print company; Suzan is in middle management with Sabre Holdings based in Southlake between Dallas and Ft. Worth. They have four kids. Sue tells us that some refuse to move out – they're pretty convinced it is a conspiracy; when one leaves, another returns home!

Jim and Sue were glad to get to put down roots in Ft. Worth. The old adage applies – they were not born in Texas, but they got here as fast as they could!

Jim's first acquaintance with horses was when he was a kid in southern New Jersey. Jim says: Believe it or not, there actually are farms in New Jersey! Suzan's equine experience stems from her high school years where she was lucky to ride any horse in a 'rent a stall' barn whose owner could be cajoled into giving her permission to ride.

Moving from suburbia, in 1997, they built our home in Fossil Creek Estates. Once they were settled in, building a barn was a priority. Soon after, Jim and Sue acquired a horse, Jim named her Tramp, Sue (at first) called her Lady. A few years ago, on a very hot April day, Tramp, while standing still at the end of a trail ride collapsed. Jim helped break her fall by being underneath her. Sue says, "Worry not, Tramp was able to get up and run for dear life.....Jim was not so fortunate... he broke his leg in 8 places."

Jim was hospitalized for a time, by the time he was able to come home, Tramp/Lady had moved to new ownership - where she continues to lead a happy life and has not fallen over on anyone else.

Sue and Jim are lucky to live in a unique neighborhood. As far as they know, it is the only neighborhood in Tarrant County developed with a focus on horses boarded on each owner's property while also offering acres and acres of equestrian trails. As of 2005, there are more horses living in Fossil Creek Estates than there are total homes.

At the urging of their neighbor, Mary Lestingi, Sue and Jim recently joined Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society and immediately volunteered to foster our first horse - Eclipse. They are now in the process of adopting him. Jim and Sue hope to foster more soon and tell us "We are honored to be members of the rescue and look forward to meeting everyone."

July Financials

As of August 1, 2005

ASSETS

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Current Assets | |
| Compass Bank Checking | \$4,173.64 |
| Total Checking/Savings | \$4,173.64 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$4,173.64 |
| For July | |
| Income: | \$1,982.87 |
| Expenses: | \$4,703.33 |
| Net Income: | -\$2,720.46 |

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

Members Corner

The Members Corner is a new column for the Bluebonnet Bulletin. Share your stories, poems, or drawings about your horses or BEHS horses. Submissions can be sent to

jenn@bluebonnetequine.org.

Poem for Petey

Karen Daw

She looked at you, Petey, and shuddered to see
Skin stretched across bone like a timpani.
The urge was great to turn away
But your sweet, open face compelled her to stay.

In your brave eyes she saw a light
That said "Let's try. I want to fight."
Though eating and washing and bones so weary
You watched her smile; saw her eyes grow teary.

You heard her curse: "What evil force
Could allow a person to hurt such a horse!"
You should have been someone's beloved pet;
Such pain, she thought, you could never forget..

She couldn't have known what you wanted to say:
"With each touch that you gave, a bad week fell away.
With every kind look, an old hurt was displaced.
You whispered you loved me; my past was erased."

With faith and with courage, she seemed to know
When the time had come to let you go.
Her heart's fiercest wish was for you to stay
But she held you so gently as you slipped away.

When you run with the others, the wind through your mane
You imagine you hear her whisper your name.
You eat the lush grass, your body restored
No longer discarded, unloved or ignored.

You left this earth not broken or shattered,
For you knew you were loved; you knew that you mattered.
As the moon starts to rise and you rest in the clover
Your thoughts turn to the one who helped you cross over.

Training and Behavior Help

The Training and Behavior Help Column is a new addition to the Bluebonnet Bulletin. We'll cover topics such as introducing new horses to the herd, coping with a biter, and more. If you have

suggestions or submissions, please contact Jenn at jenn@bluebonnetequine.org.

Introducing New Horses into Your Herd

Joanne Terry

In an ideal world, all of us would have enough pens, corrals and cross fencing with safe materials so that integrating a new horse into your present herd would not be much of an issue. This is not the case for most of us, however, so the following is a general guideline and some tips on how to safely integrate a new horse into your herd at home.

First, know your horses! Study your herd, and learn the position each horse has within the herd. Every herd has a ranking of horses in order of dominance. Usually a mare will be in the top position. This is true even in the wild. A stallion may have "his" herd and drive away other competing male horses, but a mare is almost always top dog. She is the one who eats and drinks first, while the other horses stand respectfully waiting their turns.

Second, think about the new horse you are bringing home. Is it a mare or a gelding? Is it young? Has it ever been turned out with other horses? Is it sound enough and is it strong enough to be able to get away or tolerate being chased by other horses?

Third, recognize that integrating a new horse safely can take time. I allow a minimum of two weeks, and often more. The new horse is kept in a pen, where it can meet the other horses over a safe fence - in my case, that means a pipe fence with non-climb horse wire. Allow a few days for everyone to meet. Once they all have settled down, and there is no more ear pinning, striking, kicking, then you are ready for the next step.

Recognize potential problems before they happen. Such problems include trying to integrate a new gelding into a herd of mares which already has a gelding. Often the established herd gelding will act studly and attack the new gelding. Mixed sex turn outs are not as easy to accomplish, and in some cases not possible at all, when there are mares and two or more geldings involved.

Young horses, such as weanlings and yearlings, do better when they have a buddy or two their own age. This way they are not bothering the older horses as much. At the same time, though, often young ones can be easily frightened when out in the pasture by themselves. They rely on the guidance of the older horses to let them know when a situation requires flight or to continue eating grass. The older horses will also help protect the younger ones against possible dangers, such as a pack of stray dogs or coyotes.

Control the initial turn out. I turn out the newcomer in the pasture by themselves, or with one or two other non-dominant horses. Allow the new horse to learn the pasture, in the daylight hours. I never EVER leave during this process. Chances are you do not know how your new horse is going to react in a new situation. Is it going to respect the fencing or try to jump it? Will it even recognize a fence line. There have been some LSER horses who can't see anything other than a board fence. Some have never been around electric fence, and will run right through it. Likewise, some have never been around barbed wire.

Once the new horse has checked out its new pasture, then try adding horses, one at a time, starting with the least dominant. Be alert and ready to run interference. It helps if you have a pen that you can throw open the gate and allow the new horse to run into if it is being chased by the herd, and then close the gate to prevent the bullies from entering. I

also carry a lunge whip to be used to keep pursuing horses away from me, and halter and lead rope over my shoulder, in case I need to catch the bully for a “time out”. Beware about trying to catch the new horse when the other horses are chasing it. In their excitement, they may fail to respect your space and you could get run over or kicked. Catching the new horse also makes it an easier “target” for the horses that are loose, and they may not stop their efforts to drive it away, even though it is now being led by you. The new horse could panic and try to escape, in which case you now have a horse running around the pasture dragging a lead rope, being chased by other horses.

One tactic that can help, if one of your dominant horses will not accept the newcomer, is to keep them next to each other in separate enclosures for a period of days. As horses are social animals, they often will “buddy up”. Beware that this acceptance may change when they are turned out.

Another hint is to use “Acclimate”. Acclimate is a scented stick, much like a roll-on deodorant, which is rubbed on the muzzle of the non-accepting horse. It masks the smell of the new horse and if there is no smell to trigger a reaction, often the dominant horse, over the course of a few days, will buddy up across the fence with the newcomer.

Herbal supplements can also help reduce aggression in both mares and geldings. They should be added to the feed for a few days prior to turning out the newcomer.

Use the weather to your advantage. Turning out new horses is much easier on a hot day than it is in winter. Likewise, if there is a front coming in, and the wind is blowing, that will make the herd much more excitable.

I usually bring the newcomer in at night for the first week, to prevent fence accidents at night. But likewise, I will pen up the herd right next to the newcomer, and turn the newcomer out first and then the herd, in the morning. This way you do not have the newcomer running frantically out into the pasture looking for the herd and getting everyone all stirred up. If the newcomer has not been turned out on grass recently, then the turnout needs to be even more gradual to prevent possible founder on rich grass. Start with an hour twice a day, and increase by an hour or two every day so that their digestive system has a chance to adjust to the new diet.

Be aware that feeding time can also be dangerous. The new horse, especially if it is young, may try to stand by the gate at feeding time. This position is usually reserved for the dominant horse, who often will rush up and try to drive the newcomer away from the gate. Be ready to drive the attacker back so that the new horse is not trapped or pinned against the gate, but to the extent it is safe to do so, allow the dominant horse to remind the new one of proper gate etiquette. You need to be very aware of your position and not allow yourself to be pinned or hurt if the dominant horse attacks the new one. I prefer all of mine to stand some distance away from the gate so that I can safely move horses to their feeding areas. I always start with the most dominant horse and work down the hierarchy to the bottom horse.

The above suggestions, although they appear to be time consuming, will alleviate many potential problems and help prevent injuries.

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.

DSLSD - Degenerative Suspensory Ligament Desmitis

Sharon Martin-Holm

The suspensory ligaments are made of connective tissue and start at the upper, rear part of each cannon bone and travel down the leg, splitting into a "fork" just above the fetlock. Each fork then attaches to a sesamoid bone behind the fetlock. This suspensory ligament, along with the flexor tendons, is an integral part of the sling that holds the fetlock off the ground.

Connective tissue is what "holds stuff together" in the body: the tendons (connect muscle to bone), ligaments (connect bone to bone) and skin are the most obvious examples, but others are more subtle and hidden. For instance, blood vessel walls are largely connective tissue and muscle, and the internal organs are held in their respective places by sheets and strands of connective tissue. Ligaments are made of a particular type of connective tissue called collagen that is arranged in vertical bundles of fibers and is very strong.

DSLSD is a process that progressively damages these previously-strong cables, making them painful and weak and resulting in a lame or unrideable horse.



What breeds of horses are affected? The most widely affected breed is the Peruvian Paso, but it is also seen in Standardbreds, some European Warmbloods, Paso Finos, Arabians, Saddlebreds and Quarter horses. It was also recently diagnosed in a Thoroughbred. It has been noted that Peruvians tend to develop DSLSD at a younger age, and regardless of previous intense exercise. Most of the other cases in non-Peruvian horses appear to happen due to stresses on the legs - intense training, racing and jumping - and possibly improper training and conditioning methods and poor conformation.

There is much debate over the cause of this disease. There are many who feel that it is genetic; especially in the Peruvian horses this seems a strong possibility. Others, as noted above, say that it happens as a result of trauma to the leg. There are at least 3 centers conducting research on DSLSD right now: The University of Georgia, the University of Kentucky and a private firm called DSLSD Research, Inc. The injury to the ligament looks the same regardless of which breed of horse has it, however. Some of the collagen fibers get damaged and instead of being replaced by new collagen, the body tries to heal the damaged areas by filling in with cartilage or other disorganized "scar" type material. This happens repeatedly, resulting in inflammation, swelling and a weak ligament that has difficulty bearing the weight of the horse.

The clinical signs usually start with a bilateral (both front legs or both back legs) lameness. At first, there may not be obvious swelling, but as the disease progresses the fetlocks get puffy and sore. The suspensory ligament is often painful upon palpation and it also feels swollen. In late-stage disease, the fetlocks "drop", becoming more horizontal to the ground. Often the hind legs will look "post-legged" as the angles of the hocks and stifle straighten out. A veterinarian evaluation can often discover the disease at an earlier stage. The fetlock-flexion test (the fetlock is held in extreme flexion for 30-60 seconds, then the

horse is trotted or gaited out, looking for lameness) will often be positive in more than one leg. Ultrasound is a very sensitive test for diagnosing DSLD as well. The abnormal fibers and swelling of the diseased ligament show up clearly. One experimental center is researching nuchal ligament biopsy as a way to diagnose it early. The nuchal ligament runs along the spine, in the crest of the neck. This is intriguing, as it implies that we may actually be dealing with a disease that affects the connective tissue in places other than just the legs.

The treatments for DSLD are almost as controversial as the reason why it happens in the first place. Historically, affected horses were kept stalled for several months with supportive leg wraps, and corrective shoes were placed that lifted the heel and relieved some pressure on the suspensory ligament. More recently, it is felt that inactivity is a very bad idea and the horses are recommended to be kept at pasture as much as possible. Anti-inflammatories (such as Bute) are a mainstay of pain control, but of course there are side effects to deal with. MSM (methyl sulfonyl methane) has had encouraging results in many horses. There is no cure, however, and DSLD continues to be a progressive disease that most often results in eventual euthanasia to relieve pain.

Two cases are presented here: Cissy, an adopted horse and Crimson, a foster horse.

Cissy is a Peruvian Paso. She is also manifesting signs of metabolic syndrome, which tends to be a common theme in PP's with DSLD. Cissy has all 4 legs affected and gets very sore and stiff with inactivity. She lies down more than normal.

Crimson has both back legs affected. He appears to be of Thoroughbred/Standardbred type, although we don't actually have proof of his heritage. While Crimson's back legs are severely affected (note the very horizontal pasterns and how his hocks and stifles have straightened, giving the impression of a "posty" rear leg) he appears to be in no pain. He does not lie down much, and moves around comfortably in the pasture.



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**Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society
Open Horse Show Series
Class List**

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 24, 2005 Azle, Texas Judge: Shirley Barnett Registration begins: 7:30 am Classes begin: 8:00 am | October 8, 2005 Stockdale, Texas Judge: Registration begins: 7:00 am Classes begin: 8:00 am |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Halter

1. Pleasure Horse Type Weanlings and Yearlings
2. Stock Horse Type Weanlings and Yearlings
3. Pleasure type horses, colts, fillies, and geldings 2-4 years old
4. Stock type horses, colts, fillies, and geldings 2-4 years old
5. Pleasure horse geldings and stallions 5 & over
6. Stock type geldings and stallions 5 & over
7. Pleasure type mares 5 & over
8. Stock type mares 5 & over
9. Rescue horse halter – Horse must be fostered for or adopted from a rescue organization.
10. Halter championship – Horses placing 1st or 2nd in classes 1-9 to show back in Halter Championship.

Showmanship

11. Novice showmanship all ages
12. Showmanship 18 and under
13. Showmanship 19 & over

Miscellaneous

14. Stick Horse
15. Longe line – For horses two years and younger. To be shown on a longe line at the walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring for 2 minutes
16. Liberty – To be shown in the arena for 2 minutes. Entrants will have 1 minute to catch their horse and then may incur a penalty. CD player provided, entrants will provide their own music.
17. Costume – All ages. Horse may be ridden or lead.
18. Leadline – riders 8 and under
19. Gaited horse pleasure – Walk, optional gait, canter

Rescue Horse Classes – Horses must be fostered for or adopted from a rescue organization.

- Horses in class 20 may not enter class 21.
20. Rescue horse: walk and jog or trot
 21. Rescue horse: walk, jog or trot, lope or canter

English/Hunter Classes

22. English/hunter equitation: 18 and under
23. English/hunter equitation 19 and over
24. English/hunter pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk only
25. English/hunter pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk/trot
26. English/hunter pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk/trot/canter
27. English/hunter pleasure – maiden horse

28. English/hunter pleasure: 18 and under
29. English/hunter pleasure: 19 and over

30. English/hunter pleasure: Pleasure type horses

31. English/hunter pleasure: Stock type horses
32. English/hunter pleasure: Novice horse or novice rider

Western Classes

33. Western horsemanship: 18 and under
34. Western horsemanship 19 and over
35. Western pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk only.
36. Western pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk/jog
37. Western pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk/jog/lope
38. Western pleasure – maiden horse
39. Western pleasure: 18 and under
40. Western pleasure: 19 and over
41. Western pleasure: Pleasure type horses
42. Western pleasure: Stock type horses
43. Western pleasure: Novice horse or novice rider

Trail

44. Walk/trot Trail: any seat, any age
45. Trail: any seat, any age
46. In-hand trail – Horses may not be shown in any under saddle classes

Rules:

Rosettes awarded to sixth place.

High point and reserve high point awarded.

Show clothing is encouraged but not required. Booths are required in all classes (costume excepted) and helmets are required for riders under the age of 18 and in all English classes.

Stock horses are Quarter Horses, Appaloosas, Paint horses, and grade horses and crosses with characteristics of these horses.

Pleasure horses are Arabians, Morgans, gaited horses, and other fine breeds.

Maiden horses or riders are those who have not yet won a blue ribbon in any show.

Novice horses or riders are those who have not yet won more than three ribbons in any show.

Horse/rider teams showing in a walk only classes may not cross-enter into any walk/trot or jog or walk/trot or jog/canter or lope classes.

Horse/rider teams showing in a walk/trot or jog class may not cross-enter into any class where a canter is called.

Horses shown in the in-hand class may not show in any under saddle class.

Use One Form per Horse/Rider Combination

Horse/Rider Number: _____

Open Horse Show Series - Registration Form

I am registering for the: _____ September 24 show in Azle _____ October 8 show in Stockdale

Horse Name: _____ Breed _____ Horse Age _____

Exhibitor: _____ Exhibitor's Age _____

Owner: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Circle the class number

Halter

1. Pleasure Type Weanlings and Yearlings
2. Stock Horse Type Weanlings and Yearlings

3. Pleasure Type horses 2-4 years old
4. Stock Type horses 2-4 years old
5. Pleasure Type geldings and stallions 5 & up
6. Stock type geldings and stallions 5 & up
7. Pleasure type mares 5 & over
8. Stock type mares 5 & over
9. Rescue horse halter. Name of rescue:

10. Halter championship

Showmanship

11. Novice showmanship all ages
12. Showmanship 18 and under
13. Showmanship 19 & over

Miscellaneous

14. Stick Horse
15. Longe line
16. Liberty
17. Fun Costume
18. Leadline
19. Gaited Horse Pleasure

Rescue Horse Classes: Name of rescue:

20. Walk, trot or jog
21. Walk, trot or jog, canter or lope

English/Hunter Classes

22. English/hunter equitation: 18 and under
23. English/hunter equitation 19 and over
24. Pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk only

English/Hunter Classes continued

25. Pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk/trot
26. Pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk/trot/canter
27. Pleasure – maiden horse
28. Pleasure: 18 and under
29. Pleasure: 19 and over
30. Pleasure: Pleasure type horses
31. Pleasure: Stock type horses
32. Pleasure: Novice horse or novice rider

Western Classes

33. Western horsemanship: 18 and under
34. Western horsemanship 19 and over
35. Pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk only.
36. Pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk/jog
37. Pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk/jog/lope
38. Pleasure – maiden horse
39. Pleasure: 18 and under
40. Pleasure: 19 and over
41. Pleasure: Pleasure type horses
42. Pleasure: Stock type horses
43. Pleasure: Novice horse or novice rider

Trail

44. Walk/trot Trail: any seat, any age

45. Trail: any seat, any age
46. In-hand trail – Horses may not be shown in any under saddle classes

Liability Waiver: I, the undersigned, have read and understand the following: Warning: Under Texas law (Chapter 87 Civil Practices and Remedies Code), an equine professional is not liable for any injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risk of equine activities. I further agree that I am showing at my own risk and subject to the rules and

regulations of the Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society Open Horse Show Series. I also agree to hold Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society harmless for any damage, injuries or loss of horses, exhibitors, vehicles, or other items.

Signature of Exhibitor

Date

Minor's release: I do hereby give consent for _____ to compete in the Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society Open Horse Show Series.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Fees:

Office and grounds fees (waived for horses owned/fostered by members of BEHS): \$5.00
Membership to Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society (optional) Youth: \$15
Individual: \$25 Family: \$50 Lifetime: \$1,000 _____

Donation to Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society (optional) _____

Class fee: \$7/class (preregistration) or \$8/class (day of show) x _____ _____

Ride All Day Fee (one horse/rider combination)
\$60 (preregistration) or \$70 (day of show) _____

Class Sponsorship (optional) \$10/class _____

High Point Award Fee (one horse/rider combination) \$2 _____

TOTAL FEES: _____

Warning: Under Texas law (Chapter 87 Civil Practices and Remedies Code), an equine professional is not liable for any injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risk of equine activities.