



The Bluebonnet Bulletin
www.bluebonnetequine.org

Bluebonnet Equine
 Humane Society

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

(888) 542 5163

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Featured Horse



Miss Priss is a very cute, weanling, Arabian filly. Miss Priss was seized when she and her herd were found without food or water. She was underweight when she came to BEHS, but plenty of clean, fresh water and good food have helped her quickly gain weight. Her 'foster mom' reports that she's curious, energetic, and friendly – a great foal to have around! She learns quickly, too, and she's learned to be caught and haltered as well as to lead and trailer. She's so easy to get along with that she's going to make a great horse for a lucky adopter!



Miss Priss is located in Lorena, Texas and her adoption fee is \$350.

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SPECIAL ALERT – HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF

We've all heard about the animal victims of Hurricane Katrina – the pets left behind to starve, animals rescued out of attics, and horses standing chest deep in water and mud. But the media has been silent about the victims of Hurricane Rita. Luckily, officials learned from Hurricane Katrina and let evacuees take their pets. Unfortunately, some people were unable to leave or chose to “shelter in place”. They have lost their homes, barns, fences, and even their jobs – and now their animals are in need.

BEHS is seeking donations of hay, grain, supplies and volunteers to participate in a convoy to take these supplies to farmers and ranchers who need a helping hand at this difficult time. Please consider making a donation to BEHS or volunteering to participate in a convoy. To offer assistance, please contact Mearl Taylor, Emergency Co-Coordinator, at cowboymearl@gmail.com or by calling 888 542 5163.

President's Letter

Hello everyone!

It is **good** to be home! We left Michigan on September 18 at about 6 am and arrived that evening in Kansas City. Our plan was to stay in Kansas City two days to give the humans, horses, cats, and dog a break from being in the truck/trailer. However, we ended up extending our stay a week thanks to Hurricane Rita. Luckily, our home in Houston escaped harm and we enjoyed the extra time with my family. But our thoughts and prayers were with all of our Texan friends and relatives. I sincerely hope all of you stayed safe through the storms. I know some of our members suffered property damage, and I hope everyone is recovering.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have demonstrated our need for an evacuation plan as well as our need for training in disaster relief. In the coming months, I'll be working with Mearl Taylor, Rose Westover, and other volunteers to get these programs in place so we can be better prepared next time.

Now that I'm home, I hope to see many of you at our future BEHS events starting with Loretta Pinnell's get-together on October 29!

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

| Cat Ballew

Lecolift, Inc.

Mary Lestingi

Welcome to Our New Members

Jean Bowman
Kathy Fraser
Christine Stull

Julie Bradley
Kelly Kurtz
Maureen Reichardt

Kathleen Brast
Cheryl Martinez
Rose and Terry
Westover

Courtney Campbell
Christine Stull
Diane and Jake
Strother

Thank You to Our Lifetime Member

Cat Ballew

Seizure News

This new column will feature information on seizures in which Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society has been involved.

Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society Awarded Survivors of Horrific Neglect in Grimes County



Almost two weeks after their removal from a neglectful home, four donkeys graze peacefully at their foster home near Navasota. These donkeys, along with one other yearling donkey, seven mules, and seven horses were removed from a Plantersville property on September 28 after Grimes County Deputy Ramirez investigated a complaint of dead animals. When she arrived, she found four dead equines which were too decomposed to be easily identified. Bluebonnet

Equine Humane Society volunteers later determined these animals to be a donkey, a mule, and two horses. Three of the equines were located in pens with no evidence of food or water and the remaining living animals were clearly neglected – several appeared to be ‘walking skeletons’. Grimes County officials quickly made the decision to remove all animals from the property and called Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society (BEHS) to assist. During the seizure, an additional horse was located in the woods. Volunteers with BEHS gathered the animals and moved them to a safe location where they could be assessed by veterinarians and horse experts. During the seizure, a one-year-old donkey collapsed, too weak to walk to the horse trailers. BEHS volunteers and sheriff’s deputies helped him to the trailer, and he was treated by a veterinarian. Although he received fluids and additional care, he was too weak to survive and was euthanized the following day.



On October 6, 2005 Grimes County Sheriff's deputies, a veterinarian, BEHS volunteers, and the animals' owner attended a hearing before Justice of the Peace Joe Imhoff. After hearing evidence including veterinary statements, statements from an equine expert, testimony from the deputy on the case, testimony of a volunteer with BEHS as well as testimony from the animals' owner, Justice of the Peace Imhoff determined that all of the animals had been neglected and awarded them to BEHS. While reading his decision, Justice of the Peace Imhoff stated that the owner was clearly unable to financially care for the animals, and he felt that BEHS could rehabilitate the animals and place them in adoptive homes where they would have no fear of starvation again.



After the decision was read, the animals' owner was arrested and charged with 24 misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty as well as one felony count.

BEHS officials and volunteers are pleased with the outcome of the hearing. President Dr. Jennifer Williams stated that while she's been working with equine rescues for over seven years, this is the most horrific case of neglect she has witnessed. BEHS Director

Joanne Terry coordinated the seizure and expressed relief that the animals can now move into foster homes where they'll receive the one-on-one care necessary for their rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation of the animals will take several months and will cost the organization thousands of dollars. If you would like to make a contribution to assist with the animals' rehabilitation, please visit the BEHS website at www.bluebonnetequine.org, email BEHS at info@bluebonnetequine.org or call (888) 542 5163. BEHS is also seeking foster homes for horses, donkeys, and mules that are seized due to neglect, and the organization has several animals available for adoption.

Joanne Terry's Thoughts on the Seizure:

I just love seeing the [e-mail] posts after foster homes meet their new foster horses (or in this case, donkeys and mules, too) for the first time. I know the feelings you all have, anticipation, maybe nervousness, but overall, excitement over having a new one to help. And it is so much to ask of someone, to open up their heart, their barn and their wallet, to help a needy equine. But you all came through, once again, when you were needed.

This past week I felt like a nervous mother hen, clucking over my charges at the sale barn, shaking my head when they acted like one amorphous glob of scared equines. One would start moving and all 18 would fall in as one, nervously circling around, snorting, or just plain running, wondering what these humans were going to do to them next. I told Jenn that separating most of them would be the best thing that could happen to them, as it would help them focus back on people instead of on each other and on surviving when the odds were against them.

So I worried and fretted about my "kids" at the sale barn. Did I assign the right equine to the right foster home? Would the foster homes see the good within these equines, of which I saw glimpses this past week? Would my kids behave when it was time to be caught and load up in the trailer? Or would the foster home be ready to ship them back to me, no return address? Was I moving a thin one too far away, and the trailer ride would be difficult, if not harmful, for them? Some of you met these equines the night of the seizure, and had already handled them, but for most of you, it was blind faith and a willingness to help.

To be willing to take on one or more of these horses or mules, without knowing much, if anything, about them, is what makes our foster homes so very special. We don't get to pick breed, color, size, temperament, or sex, in a situation like this. We knew they all needed help and they all needed foster homes, and once again, you all told me that you had "room at the inn".

Every one of the horses, mules and donkeys, if not already appreciative, will soon be when they settle in. And then it will be time for some of us to start repeating the "chant". The "chant" goes something like this "I cannot adopt them all, because if I do, then I will have no more room to foster." Once we get attached, it is very hard to let go. I have tried hard to think of myself as a way station in the life of my foster horses. They come to me thin, injured, sick, or abused, and I pour my heart into making them whole again. When that is accomplished, I try to prepare them for the future, helping them become good citizens, polite and well-behaved. I brush them off and show them off to potential adopters, knowing that someday, the right person will come into that horse's life. When that person appears, it is time to let go, knowing that you have succeeded in your mission, and that horse is going to bring joy into another's life. And then you can open your heart again, for in the wings is another needy one, waiting for you to turn your attention on them and start again.

Thank you all for taking them in and helping them.

Election Time – Nominees Welcome

Can you all believe how far we've come in a few short months?! I can't—it seems like just yesterday we were selecting a name, discussing bylaws, and nominating our first set of officers, directors, and member representatives. And now, we're already ready for another election.

If you would like to review exactly how this process works, please review the bylaws at <http://www.bluebonnetequine.org/about/mission.htm>

The following terms will expire on March 15, 2006. People may be re-elected for these terms indefinitely.

President - Jennifer Williams

Secretary - Jodi Luecke

Texas Member Representative - Sharon Martin-Holm

Class A Director - Denise Crosthwait

Class A Director - Spencer Williams

Class B Director - Wendy Taylor

The Texas Member Representative and both Class A directors will be voted on during the annual members meeting held the third Saturday of February. Location and more information on this meeting will be available in the next newsletter. All nominations for these positions must be in by December 1.

The President, Secretary, and Class B director will be voted on during the directors meeting on the 2nd Saturday in January. All nominations for these positions must be in by November 1.

Any member may nominate someone for a position. All nominees must have been paid members for at least 6 months prior to assuming their position and will assume positions on March 15 2006. The directors will review all nominees to ensure that they meet any minimum requirements for their positions.

All nominations must be either e-mailed to me at jenn@bluebonnetequine.org or be mailed to BEHS, PO Box 4944, College Station, Texas 77844-4944.

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! 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.

BEHS Candle Fundraiser

BEHS's candle fundraiser has drawn to a close. BEHS members sold Apple Cinnamon, Black Cherry, Cherry Vanilla, Cinnamon Vanilla, Georgia Peach, Honeysuckle, Lilac, Plain 'Ol Vanilla, Sugar Cookies, and Texas Bluebonnets candles. Regina Anderson organized the fundraiser and worked with both members and the candle creator to distribute samples, take orders, and process forms. This event raised \$1,400 for BEHS - \$400 more than Regina Anderson had hoped for! Thank you, Regina, for all of your hard work. Thanks also go out to the members who purchased candles or who sold candles for the rescue. Joanne Terry is our 'Candle Sales Queen' for selling 44 candles!

With the success of this event, I hope Regina will consider organizing another candle sale next year.

Volunteer Positions Available – Help us Help the Horses

Volunteer Positions

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

We've already been involved in two small seizures and one large seizure and we are currently investigating several other reports of neglect. If we want to keep helping the needy horses, we need more foster homes!

We are now able to conservatively reimburse for vet bills. This means that we'll reimburse for pre-approved vaccinations, teeth floating, and castration, but may need to arrange a payment plan or delay reimbursement on larger veterinary bills based on our finances.

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

Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society Open Show in Azle, Texas – November 19, 2005

This show was postponed due to Hurricane Rita, and our show organizer, Wendy Taylor, is working to get a new show date. The show has classes for beginners through advanced riders and even special classes for rescue horses. We need volunteers as well as attendees! Visit <http://www.bluebonnetequine.org/news/sept24show.htm> or email info@bluebonnetequine.org to learn more.

Member Get Together – October 29, 2005 – Rosharon, Texas

Loretta (Lacy) and Ralph Pinnell are hosting a get-together on October 29. There will be a Halloween Costume Party Theme – and everyone is guaranteed to have a great time! Come out and meet other BEHS members, eat, talk, and have fun. For more information, contact Lacy at lacy@bluebonnetequine.org.

Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society Out and About

Morgan Horse Celebration – San Marcos – September 10, 2005

Thank you to Regina Anderson, Susan Brown, Pam and Enes Archung, and Ari Pettigrew for working this booth. Regina reported that the crowd was small, but she still spoke with several people who were interested in learning more about the rescue.

Golfing Fore Pets – Austin – September 27, 2005

BEHS Treasurer Ari Pettigrew worked at the Golfing Fore Pets event. The event did not draw as many golfers as usual, but the event still raised about \$1200 for BEHS! Thank you to Ari Pettigrew, Janet Sims, Dr. Chuck Vandermause, and Ted Keyser.

Feeding the Senior Horse Seminar – Fort Worth – October 6, 2005

Wendy, Mearl, and Stephanie Taylor attended this event and were ready to talk about BEHS! Wendy reports that she was able to talk to several people who are interested in joining BEHS as well as local store owners and a Purina rep. The Purina rep is sending Wendy back numbers to use for her show, and the store owners requested trifolds and flyers that they can hand out to customers. Great job, Taylor family!

Mane Mission – Tyler, Texas – October 8-9, 2005

Mane Mission was set up as the biggest parade in the world in an attempt to get in the Guinness Book of World Records. The event drew people from all over and included a great vendor's area. Sharon Martin-Holm set up the booth on Saturday and spoke with a lot of people about BEHS and what we do. Wendy and Mearl Taylor attended on Sunday and spoke to even more people. This booth was great exposure for us, and I hope we see some new members from it soon! Thank you Sharon, Wendy, and Mearl!

Pet Fest – San Marcos – October 8, 2005

Ari Pettigrew and Brian Garvey attended this great event for us. While Ari noted that attendance was down from previous years, she estimates that they spoke to at least 200 people. Dr. LuAnn Groves stopped by to learn about the new rescue and offered discounted veterinary services to BEHS. Another veterinarian, Jill Todd, donated a case of CD-ROMS entitled "The Parasite Problem: A New Puzzle" for us to sell as a fundraiser.

Ari noted that they had set aside room for us to bring animals, so next year we want to plan on having some BEHS horses, donkeys, and mules on hand to greet the public and beg for donations.

Thank you Ari and Brian for working this booth!

BEHS Horse Show – Stockdale – October 8, 2005

Thank you to the participants and volunteers who attended our first horse show. Attendance was not what we expected, but the rescue still made money thanks to class sponsorships and donations. We learned a lot on how to make future shows flow better, and we'll be planning the spring BEHS shows soon. If you know of someone willing to donate the use of their area or a judge who will donate his or her time, please let us know (jenn@bluebonnetequine.org).

Thank you to everyone who helped send out flyers for the show and to everyone who donated to the show, purchased class sponsorships, and volunteered.



Class Sponsors:

Halter: Pleasure Horse Type Weanlings and Yearlings – Victoria McIntire and Foxrun Farms

Halter: Stock Horse Type Weanlings and Yearlings - Dottie Clower in memory of her adopted horse "Sugar"

Halter: Stock type horses, colts, fillies, and geldings 2-4 years old - David and Barbara Lucas in memory of Joy and Quinn

Halter: Stock type mares 5 & over - Dottie Clower in memory of her adopted horse "Misty"

Rescue Horse Halter - Ralph and Loretta Pinnell in honor of all the foster horses that have passed over the Rainbow Bridge

Showmanship: Novice showmanship all ages - Ralph and Loretta Pinnell in honor of the wonderful foster homes of Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society

Costume - Jennifer and Spencer Williams in memory of Jim and Susan Baker

Gaited Horse Pleasure - Mary Jo Wisecap

Rescue horse: walk, jog or trot, lope or canter - Sponsored by Carol Darnell - in memory of the magical elfhorse, Sharif, who was found on a feedlot and made my life very special

English/hunter pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk only - Sponsored by Dottie Clower in memory of her rescue horse "Tenor"

English/hunter pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk/trot – Victoria McIntire and Foxrun Farm

English/hunter pleasure: Pleasure type horses – Southern Ohio Ladies Aside

English/hunter pleasure: Novice horse or novice rider - Sponsored by Dottie Clower in memory of her rescue horse "Sidekick"

Western horsemanship: 18 and under - David and Barbara Lucas in memory of Lady Jane and Lisa for letting their family share their lives.

Western pleasure – green horse/rider. Walk/jog – Victoria McIntire and Foxrun Farm

Western pleasure: 19 and over - Dr. Daniel Welch, Welch Veterinary Clinic in La Grange, Texas. Supporting the members and horses of Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society

Western pleasure: Stock type horses - Thousand Hills Cowboy Church, reaching out to cowboys, ranchers and country folks. Team roping, bull riding, penning and cutting held weeknights

In-hand trail – Horses may not be shown in any under saddle classes - Sponsored by Dottie Clower in memory of her rescue horse "Mickey"

Contest Time!

Member/Foster/Adopter Drive

In just seven short months, we've taken in over 53 equines and have more waiting to come to us. I'm proud of our growth, but we need more volunteers, fosters, and adopters to help the organization grow so we can assist more animals. The Board of Directors would like to reward those who help the rescue grow, so we've created a Member/Foster/Adopter Drive.

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.

Winners as of October 1, 2005:

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

July winner: Tina Shalmy

August winner: Wendy Taylor

September winner: Tina Shalmy

Overall leader: Tina Shalmy

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.

Fundraising Contest

Fundraising is a big issue we're facing in BEHS—we already have several horses who are needing us, and we need to get the funds in to pay the vet bills, costs of seizures, and other expenses. To help make fundraising more fun and rewarding, we are holding a fundraising 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.

So far, our leaders are Ralph and Loretta Pinnell with a little over \$2800 raised by their benefit! Woo hoo!

The Horses of BEHS

Newest Equines

Ferris was donated to BEHS when the donor could no longer care for him properly. Ferris was a stallion when he came to BEHS and was gelded on 10/05/05. He is still frisky, very vocal, and pushy sometimes around feeding time or around mares. It will take a while for the hormones to subside. He is an 18 year old registered Arabian, Bay A Faris, who has been ridden western and on trails with 6 months total training. His donor rode him for a couple of years but after that he was on pasture for at least 3-4 years.

Camille was donated to a children's petting zoo and was not suitable to be around children because of her high spirit, so the petting zoo placed her with BEHS. She is a beautiful black Paso Fino around 20 years old. Her history is unknown, but she shows signs of being mishandled recently. She is currently foundered on the front two feet and shows discomfort on the left hind pastern and occasionally moves both hind feet in jerky motions under her in the air like she is trying to get a muscle cramp loose. She is with our experienced foot foster home at this time under evaluation and hopefully her feet will improve soon.

Sierra was donated to BEHS from an equine rescue in Louisiana so she could move to a different climate. She has COPD (heaves) and the southern climate was making her very sick. She is taking medication for the COPD and is in northern Texas and doing very well. Sierra is a 15-20 year old Quarter Horse mare. She is very well mannered and calm. Her current foster home will be evaluating her riding abilities.

Roy was donated to BEHS because of Hurricane Katrina. He was located in Mississippi. He has severe COPD (heaves) and the owner felt like the only choice she had was to donate him so he could move to a different climate. Roy has lots of personality and is very high-spirited. He is a registered Arabian gelding, Royal Quest, and is around 20 years old. Roy was used as a pleasure horse and his previous owner rode him around their farm and on trail rides until 3 years ago when he developed severe COPD that was caused by allergies. He will be able to be ridden lightly in good weather.

Tucker was donated by his owner when they could no longer care for him. He was handled and ridden by a 7 year old in his previous home. So far he's very sweet and easy to handle, but that could change as he gains weight. He gets along with the two geldings he has been pastured with. Tucker is a beautiful big black Thoroughbred gelding around 20 years old. He is reportedly well broke to ride and can be ridden by a child. His riding abilities will be evaluated after he has gained a significant amount of weight and his previous injuries heal.

Zeus is a 9-year-old Quarter Horse gelding. He was donated by his owner when she could no longer give him the care he needs. He has an awesome temperament. He has been around children and has been a child's mount. He has no problem with dogs, noise or family environment. He is quiet and loveable, friendly and gentle. He was in a home with beginner horse people before being donated and did fine. Zeus is completely trained English and Western. He was a 10-year-old girl's horse until he became lame. He trail rides, arena rides, longes, ties, bathes, etc. He has virtually no bad habits. At this time he suffers from anhydrosis (the inability to sweat) and possibly right front navicular. He will be evaluated to see what type of riding he may be able to sustain, if any, after he has been treated. If he does show that he can be rideable, he will make a child a wonderful riding horse.

On October 6, 2005 BEHS was awarded 19 mules, donkeys and horses from a seizure in Grimes County. Below is a brief description of the animals. BEHS foster homes will rehabilitate these equine animals and they will be evaluated once they've gained weight. After court, the owner let us know that almost all of the animals were broke to ride, drive, or pull.

Sage is a 12 year old bay molly (female) mule.

Name Pending - 9-year-old bay Paint mare.

Thyme is a 10-year-old bay john (castrated male) mule.

Opal is a 4-year-old white donkey jenny (female).

Molly is a 4-year-old black molly (female) mule.

Sally is a 10-year-old large black molly mule.

Name Pending - a 5-year-old ivory (off-white) john mule.

Rose is an 11-year-old sorrel POA mare.

Gypsy is a 9-year-old bay horse mare.

Curious George is a 13-year-old brown donkey jack (castrated male).

Abby is a 6 year old dark gray donkey jenny (female).

Honey is a 15-year-old sorrel mare.

Pearl is a 15+-year-old light gray donkey jenny (female).

Tecumseh (Tex) is an 8 year old bay gelding. **HAWK** is a 10-year-old bay/dun john (castrated male) mule.

Name Pending - a 5-year-old small black john mule (castrated male).

Kaluha (Lou) is a 7 year old black bay gelding.

Logan is a 15 year old bay gelding.

Equines Available for Adoption

Phoenix is a beautiful, 4 year old, Arabian (or Arabian cross) gelding. Phoenix was donated when his elderly owner could not keep him. He's been badly abused and has suffered an injury to front left fetlock. A veterinary exam revealed arthritis in that fetlock, so Phoenix will be available as a pet/companion only (no riding). Due to the abuse he had suffered, Phoenix will need an adopter who is willing to gain his trust. *Located in Gladewater, Texas – Adoption fee \$100*

Jake is an 11 year old, sorrel, grade Quarter Horse gelding. Prior to being donated to BEHS, Jake suffered an injury thanks to a barbed wire fence. It has left him unridable – but he'll make a great pet/companion for some lucky family! Although he's leery with new people, once he warms up to you he's a sweet horse. *Located in Lorena, Texas – Adoption fee \$100*

Crimson is a 21 year old possible Thoroughbred or Standardbred cross. He was placed with BEHS by another rescue organization who had an overflow of horses. He suffers from DSLD and is not rideable. He's a sweet horse who gets along great with others – so he would make an excellent companion or pet for a lucky adopter! *Located in Gladewater, Texas – Adoption fee \$100*

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. *Located near Somerville, Texas – Adoption fee in review*

Miss Priss is the cutest weanling Arabian or Arabian cross filly. She was removed from a neglectful home after going for days without water, but she's recovering nicely. She's a smart girl who learns quickly, and she's sweet and friendly. *Located in Lorena, Texas – Adoption fee \$100.*

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. *Located near Round Top, Texas - Adoption fee: \$800*

Congratulations to These Adopted Horses

Jasper is the cutest little 10-year-old, chocolate palomino, Shetland gelding that was seized by BEHS. Jasper is blind in both eyes. At first he was very timid but quickly built confidence after learning his surroundings and handler. His foster home immediately fell in love with him and adopted Jasper soon after he came to her home. He now has a donkey as his eyes and is a very happy well-adjusted little guy. Congrats to Jasper, Jodi, and Fred!

Moonshine is a 20+ year old, grade Appaloosa gelding. He was donated to BEHS by his previous owners after they rescued him from neglect and nursed him back to health. He is such a quiet well-mannered horse. He was recently adopted by a nice family and will be a show pony and riding companion to a little girl. Happy Trails Moonshine and congrats to the Kurtz family!

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.



Junior was a yearling donkey jack who was part of the Grimes County seizure in September. Seizure coordinator Joanne Terry tells his story:

Our volunteers were up the hill in the woods that night we seized equines, assisted by the deputies. It was heavily wooded, and on every trip up the hill, more and more emaciated animals would appear. They were like shadows, thin and quiet. Some

approached the humans readily, others hung back. Still others would appear in front of us, and then fade away into the woods again. We despaired of ever getting them down the hill, and knew that darkness was steadily approaching.

One of the littlest such ghosts appeared from behind the trees. A baby donkey, less than a year old, so emaciated he could hardly walk. He followed the volunteers slowly down the hill, and stood quietly in the pens, as we tried to catch the loose horses. He stood between the bodies of two dead horses, and an overwhelming stench, afraid to move, beyond being able to do anything at all but simply stand in place.

When it came time to load Junior into a trailer, he collapsed to the ground. Soft hands gave him water, stroked him gently, and helped him to his feet. With trembling legs, he was picked up and placed in a trailer, and managed to stay standing until arrival at the sale barn.

The next morning, we found him down again, unable to rise. We gave him intravenous fluids, glucose, and steroids, everything we could think of to give him enough energy to rise. He failed to respond to anything we did, and later that afternoon I found him stretched out on the ground, in the pen by himself, too weak to lift his head. I called his name softly - Junior - and he gave an equally soft bray of greeting. I knelt on the ground next to him and begged him to find the strength to rise, to keep fighting, so that we could get him loaded into a trailer and get him to the vet clinic. As I knelt there in the dirt, brushing fire ants off of him, and wiping his eyes, his expression told me that I was too late, and he was asking me to let him go. I told him that Petey was waiting for him on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge and would be his guardian angel in a special place where there would be no more suffering. He crossed over swiftly and painlessly, leaving a hole in the hearts of those present in those woods that night.

I am so sorry Junior, I wish we could have come sooner. Know you are missed by all of us, and that your story helped bring the rest of your herd to safety.

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

Sharon Martin-Holm

Sharon Martin-Holm is a Director and the Texas Member Representative of BEHS. She was involved with founding the new organization when Lone Star Equine Rescue was merged with Habitat for Horses at the end of February, 2005. In addition to her Directorship duties, Sharon is active in helping to foster and trailer the rescue's horses.

Sharon works as a Family Physician in White Oak near her home in Gladewater in East Texas. She is employed by Good Shepherd Health System and is kept very busy in a single-doctor outpatient clinic. She is married to Leo Holm who is a BEHS member and a wonderfully supportive rescue husband. Leo also is a Family Physician, working in the small town of Overton. Leo's hobbies are being a musician and an excellent cook, and growing bonsai trees.

Leo and Sharon have been married since 2001 and have no human children; but they are kept very busy with their 4-legged, fuzzy kids. The family includes 3 dogs and 4 cats as well as 7 horses and 4 donkeys. Four of the horses were adopted from LSER while Sharon was a member there. One of the donkeys was also adopted from LSER, one from True Blue Animal Rescue, and one from the Black Beauty Ranch. The fourth is a "registered spotted ass" bought for Leo's Christmas present a couple years ago. The donkeys are their favorite pets... sweet, mischievous and sociable.

Native Texans, Sharon and her brother Jake grew up in Mississippi with their parents Chester and Shirley. Her dad works as a wildlife biologist for the Army Corps of Engineers and they transferred him to the historic town of Vicksburg while she was in grade school. It was there that the horse-crazy little girl finally got to indulge her interest in riding. She was signed up for riding lessons at a new hunter-jumper stable that had opened just outside of town. Although never able to have a horse of her own, Sharon excelled at her lessons and quickly became the "catch-rider" for the stable. Riding a large variety of different horses gave her a strong foundation, as did her strict instructor's penchant for "no stirrups allowed today"!

There was a hiatus from horses while she went to college (starting at Texas A&M then graduating from Mississippi State) and post-graduate training (medical school at the University of Mississippi and Internship/Residency at the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler.) As soon as she and Leo were able, they purchased a house in the country with acreage for horses and have never regretted it. Leo, originally a city boy from Houston, took to country life like a duck to water and Sharon was delighted to find horse rescue such a rewarding outlet for her desire to be involved with equines.

New Faces – Allison Griggs



Hello Bluebonnet!

My name is Allison Griggs and I am a new member to BEHS.

I am 20 years old and I am a fulltime college student. I attend Tarrant County College in Fort Worth and I am working towards my associates degree in Arts and my Teaching certificate. I have several hobbies and passions however my life right now is all about photography and horses and when they are combined that is even better! I am quite the crafty person and I enjoy art especially painting, photography and making crafts. I am semi-new to the horse world although my love and passion for them is not! I volunteer for an equithery group called Wings of Hope in Egan. It is physical and mental therapy on horseback for disabled adults and youth. I am in the beginning steps of trying to become a NARHA certified therapy instructor. I have learned so many things through

this program about horsemanship. I can't imagine my life with out it! I am also taking riding lessons. I ride western, and when I become more comfortable in the saddle and on the back of a horse I am going to take barrel racing lessons. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you and helping this wonderful organization in preserving an American tradition one equine at a time!

September Financials

For September	
Income:	\$4,785.45
Expenses:	\$1,963.51
Net Income:	\$2,821.94

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

Account balance:	\$6,915.91
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Members Corner

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

Thanks to BEHS member Kristy Deslatte, our Vice President got to go on her first trail rides - yay Regina! Doesn't she look like she's having a blast?

Behavior and Training 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.

Trailer Safety Part II **Eli Benson**

Two months ago I wrote an article about trailer safety (which was published in the previous newsletter). After a very trying trailer experience a few weeks ago, I have a few bits to add about trailer safety. I went with a couple other people to deliver horse feed to the disaster relief organizations that were working in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. The trip started very ominously with a flat tire. That's not a problem though, because we had 2 spares and a nice floor jack. We took care of that pretty quickly. Then once we got on the road, we realized that the trailer brakes were not working. The brake controller seemed to think that they were working, but we had no brakes. Well, we decided to keep going, since we were not going to be transporting horses, only feed. By the time we had picked up the horse feed in Houston (4 hours into the trip), I had checked the tire pressure on the truck and trailer about a half a dozen times. It seemed to me that the spare that we put on the trailer at the beginning of the day was losing air. We stopped at a Sears Auto Center to get the tire fixed and also fix the one that started out bad. Here's the first new bit of information: national chain service centers may or may not do work on your trailer. They were happy to fix the tires, but they didn't want to mess with a trailer loaded with 7000 lbs of horse feed. It was up to us to remove the bad tire. Second new bit of information: two 2x8 blocks nailed together to form a "jiffy jack" work fine on an empty trailer. On our loaded trailer, we still had to use the floor jack a bit to get the offending tire off the ground. Three 2x8 blocks would have probably done it, but I think next time, I'm going to get 4 and cut the edges to make a nice ramp out of them. While the service center was fixing the tires, I dug into the trailer wiring to see if I could figure out what was wrong with the brakes. I figured out pretty quickly that the brake wires going to each hub had worn and corroded through. Third new piece of information: not as vital, mind you, but weird. Sears didn't carry any wire splices that I needed to fix the brakes. The best I could do was a roll of electrical tape. So I twisted the wires as snugly as I could back together, and taped them well. I had brakes at last - a much more comforting feeling to be sure. Strangely enough, just as I was finishing the brake repair, a gentleman showed up who owned a trailer maintenance company. He had seen us working on the tires and brakes and offered his help. It was a nice gesture, but about 20 minutes too late. I thanked him anyway. One final note about Sears: they didn't charge us for the two tire repairs, due to the fact that we were making the trip for the hurricane relief. A mighty nice thing, since they normally charge \$17 to fix a flat.

The next adventure happened in Louisiana. Just as we were in Baton Rouge about to head south toward Gonzales on Interstate 10, we blew a tire. One of the ones that we had just repaired at Sears 4 hours before. What was more exciting (but not fun in any way, shape or form) was that the blown tire knocked the other tire off the rim, essentially blowing it too. I was driving the truck at that time, and I knew it wasn't an ordinary tire blowout. The whole trailer and truck started vibrating and swaying violently. I had to cross 3 lanes of heavy traffic, and found the only place to pull off that didn't have a concrete wall blocking the shoulder. The really exciting part was that we couldn't pull the trailer off too far because we needed a place to set the jack on concrete. The driver's side

was about a foot away from the white line, and cars were not slowing down, making space, or even acknowledging the flashing obstacle beside the road. A very nerve wracking experience to have semi trucks whooshing by and rocking the truck and trailer 3 feet from you. Needless to say, I didn't exit the vehicle through the driver's door; I squeezed past the stick shift and center console to exit the non-deadly side of the vehicle. So, I had two blown tires on the same side. It could be worse; we did have 2 spares, after all. We tried the wooden block method of raising the trailer, and it didn't work. The rim of the front tire would not climb up the 2 wooden blocks. We tried the jack, but that didn't work either. The jack was rated at 6000 lbs but couldn't budge the trailer. I tried to call my roadside assistance through Allstate Motor Club. This was a time when everybody and their mother were using cell phones in the area. It took repeated tries to get a circuit that wasn't busy. Then, it took just as long to get a person to answer at Allstate. It seems that they were being slammed in the Baton Rouge area because of the post-hurricane traffic. Fourth piece of new information: Allstate *does* cover roadside emergencies with your trailer. The woman that I talked to didn't think that they did at first. She had to go and look it up. This leads me to believe that not all auto clubs will cover horse trailers. If you have an auto club, check to make sure your horse trailer is covered. It didn't matter anyway, because they don't have any contracted service providers in the Baton Rouge area. I would have to find someone, get the help I need, and then get reimbursed at some time in the (probably way distant) future from Allstate. It was really frustrating; all I really needed was a bigger jack. My brother had a better idea than the Allstate Motor Club. He dialed 911, and told them that if we didn't get some help out there soon, there was going to be a really nasty accident. In about 10 minutes, a gentleman from Louisiana's roadside assistance showed up and turned on some very comforting yellow overhead lights. It is a state sponsored department that handles just this sort of emergency. The gentleman didn't know what all he could do with a heavy trailer with two blown tires. I explained that I had enough spares, but I needed a bigger jack. His was actually the same as ours, 6000 lbs. It didn't lift the trailer either. After a bit of thought, we decided to try and use both jacks simultaneously. That finally worked. The gentleman also had a very handy cordless impact wench that made the tire removal and installation a lot easier (a DeWalt, in case you are wondering). I think I am going to buy one for myself. It isn't powerful enough to crack the nuts loose, but it sure makes quick work of the nuts once you crack them with the regular spinner. With the two bad tires, and the precarious 2-jack arrangement, we decided to change one tire at a time. If the trailer had shifted (which it did some) and fallen off the jacks, it might have been a medical emergency for sure. Also, it is really hard to get a jack back under a trailer that is completely on the ground. The tires got changed, and the man even helped us get back into the busy traffic. All that work, and we were about 10 miles from our destination. We spent the next morning unloading feed and then went to purchase 2 new tires. Luckily we found a place that had suitable tires - 14 ply tires this time, instead of the 12 ply ones that were on there.

There are a few things to learn about our misadventure.

- Tandem axle trailers may not always save you. The next trailer I buy will be a triple axle trailer.
- Check with your auto club about trailer emergencies.
- Don't count on a name brand service center working on your rig.
- And finally, always carry a jack that is bigger than anything that you could possibly carry with your trailer.

This wasn't my truck or trailer. Even if I had my truck, my jack may not have been enough either. I have a house jack that is rated at 8000 lbs. I'll have to test that when I

have a heavy trailer next time. I would like to know that I am equipped for this sort of thing should it happen again. I am only glad that we were not carrying horses at the time when the tires blew. As badly as the trailer was vibrating and swaying, I hate to think of how it would act with 4 scared horses moving around in it.

I would like to thank the Louisiana Roadside Assistance, they were helpful and professional. I would also like to thank the Sears Auto Center. It wasn't their fault that the tires blew out, but they did give us two free repairs. One final thank you goes out to the Love's truck stop on Hwy 59 just east of Victoria. They gave us all the free ice we could carry because we were involved in the hurricane relief effort.

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.

George and the Jennies **Joanne Terry**

"George & the Jennies" sounds like the name of a band. I have Curious George, a gelded donkey jack at my place, and three jennies, also from the Grimes Co. Seizure. Two of the jennies were the thinnest equines still alive. Abby is also a burro type donkey, like George, but more of a standard size, a little larger than George. She is about 6 y/o, dark gray and has absolutely the biggest ears I have ever seen. I KNOW I could get some great TV reception if I could figure out how to use them. She was pretty standoffish but is coming around nicely.

Pearl is a blue gray jenny, with a finer shaped head and body. She is 15 y/o and not as large as Abby, but extremely emaciated as Abby is. She also was shy, but has now allowed me to pet her face. She has an old deep untreated injury to the front of her left hind hock which she has not allowed me to investigate yet

Opal is a small ivory donkey with black spots on her withers and her ear tips. She is young, about 5 y/o, and very shy. Thin, but a little better than Abby or Pearl. She also has a finer head and body. She has pink skin around her eyes but her eyes are either blue or brown, I cannot get close enough to see. She also has some abrasions on her left side, not too serious, but again, she is so very shy that I have not been able to get close to her yet. She will walk away from food rather than let me touch her.

They have some pretty dried up grass in their pasture, plus a round bale, which they nibble on occasionally. Twice a day I split one flake of hay between the four of them and they eat all of that. Since they were not eating the beet pulp, I bought some oats at the co-op yesterday - 10% protein and very low fat - and am giving them a handful twice a day. I bought a salt block yesterday and cracked up watching them explore it. George, of course, was there first, and he licked and nibbled for a good ten minutes, all the while circling the block and snorting to keep the others away. That just made the girls more determined to see what George wanted all to himself. Three sets of noses kept inching closer, as George circled faster and faster, until he finally decided to give up and share.

I put a nice bed of shavings in their run in shed, and at night the three girls are sleeping in them.

Spirit, Trigger and JY Bob are enjoying the donkey company next door. Spirit hangs his head over the fence by the water troughs, hoping to grab one of those long ears. George bit him on the nose once for ear grabbing, so Spirit is now all the more determined to get one of those ears



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.

This little "white" mule was seized in Grimes Co. on September 29 and awarded to BEHS on October 6. Sharon Martin-Holm helped us learn about his coloring: In donkey lingo, the solid white ones with light skin and eyes are called "Ivory." They're doing research into the genes that control this color in donkeys; they haven't proven it yet but there's some suspicion that it may be related to the "cream" gene in horses where 2 copies gives you a double dilute, i.e., cremello or perlino.

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.

For Sale: 9 year old AQHA sorrel gelding, \$2300. Excellent trail riding mount, gentle & quiet, for an advanced beginner. Too many horses & must thin the herd. Carrie Isaacks 281-933-1396 or kemcarrie@yahoo.com

The Officers & Directors of Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society

Jennifer Williams
President
jenn@bluebonnetequine.org
734-434-9899

Loretta (Lacy) Pinnell
Vice President – Equine Coordinator
lacy@bluebonnetequine.org
281-369-0382 or 1-800-444-3067

Ari Pettigrew
Treasurer
treasurer@bluebonnetequine.org
512-292-3050

Tina Shalmy
Arkansas Member Representative
shalmy@tds.net
870-325-7646, 870-543-9643

Denise Crosthwait
Director
dcrosthwait@sandersandwest.com

Wendy Taylor
Director
cowgirlwendy@gmail.com
817-295-6026; cell 817-291-0307

Spencer Williams
Director
cowboyspencer@yahoo.com
734-434-9899

Regina Anderson
Vice President
rlanderson@austin.rr.com
512 398-5775 (emergencies only)

Jodi Luecke
Secretary
jodi@totalaccess.net
888-542-5163 (any time)
979-542-8408 (emergencies only)

Sharon Martin-Holm
Texas Member Representative
leosharon@earthlink.net
903-736-1659

Cat Ballew
Director
catballew@earthlink.net

Marianne Skarpa
Director
mtskar@yahoo.com

Joanne Terry
Director
jmterry468@msn.com
(936) 499-6120 (emergencies only)