



Speak Up For Horses

www.speakupforhorses.org

Happy Holidays to all our Speak Up For Horses friends!

What a year it has been! We thank you for helping us accomplish so much this first year. It was just last year in November that Speak Up For Horses officially debuted with several terrific stories: one in the Cincinnati Enquirer, one in Cincinnati City Beat, one in the Community Press Publications and one in the Dearborn County Register. You can read these stories on the press page of our website: (<http://www.speakupforhorses.org/press.lasso>).

On the heels of those stories came some wonderful notes of encouragement and some much needed start-up contributions. One contribution came from an Ohio family who chose us as the recipient of their 2006 Christmas fund (Thank you to the Hayes Family).

We started off the year by placing Ariel (a beautiful quarter horse donated to Speak Up) into her forever home near Georgetown Kentucky, surrounded by a loving owner, several equine pasture mates, a few donkeys, goats, pigs and dogs as well. Today she lollygags around in lush Kentucky blue grass when she's not trail riding. Shortly after Ariel, Daughter of Wolf came into our lives. Her owners wanted her to be our first official Speak Up horse when we acquired our farm. While we worked to purchase a farm, she moved in with Shelly as a boarder. Sadly this gallant old Thoroughbred broodmare was called to heaven before we found a farm. Photos of Ariel and Wolf can be seen on the rescue page of our website, along with a few other horses we have helped this year (<http://www.speakupforhorses.org/successes.lasso>).

Federal legislation to end horse slaughter was reintroduced into both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Companion bills to re-establish protection for America's wild mustangs were also introduced. We were hopeful that this session of Congress would do what was right and pass these bills. Sadly to date, the bills are still languishing, awaiting Congressional actions. However, not to be deterred, horse protection advocates successfully shut down the remaining American slaughter plants with state legislation in both Texas and Illinois. While we were successful in ending horse slaughter at existing American horse slaughter plants, without Federal legislation we cannot prevent our horses from being hauled across the borders and slaughtered in Mexico and Canada. We will not give up.

Speak Up joined forces with Animals Angels (<http://www.Animals-Angels.com>) by providing the commercial hauling information we had gathered on kill buyers; where they bought their slaughter bound horses and where they hauled them. We knew from our research that many haulers were not obeying the Federal Safe Transport to Slaughter regulations nor were they obeying the Federal Motor Carrier regulations on safe hauling. Animals Angels used our information to help them do several undercover investigations which resulted in some haulers being fined for violations. Their work continues today and we are proud to help them.

We started our speakers' bureau work by giving talks to local trail-riding clubs and other equine organizations. Then Shelly hosted Code 3 at her farm for a hands-on horse session. Code 3 is a nationwide emergency response organization which, as part of its volunteer training, includes how to assess and help animals in an emergency situation.

Early in the year Shelly was contacted by local law enforcement to help them with alleged equine neglect situations. It became obvious that law enforcement needed some education on assessing horses. She used her experience working with animal control to develop a power-point presentation on How to recognize equine abuse and neglect. Armed with a potent presentation and unswerving determination, she convinced the Kentucky State Police Training division that this presentation should be part of their cadet training. This fall she presented to 90 some cadets. We produced a glove-box sized photo booklet to help officers in the field be able to properly judge the condition of horses they are called on to assess. We plan to continue working with Kentucky and branch into adjoining states.

Our book donation project began with a donation of 20 books to the Pendleton County Elementary School, where only one horse book graced the shelves. Now children there can ride the wind with Misty, Black Beauty, Flicka and the Black Stallion.

We began exploring grant opportunities and discovered just how hard it is to acquire funds when you are a new non-profit. Investors want history and the babe that Speak Up is prevented us from qualifying for many potential grants. We are persevering however, and we hope 2008 will be a more fruitful year for grant funding.

In August we welcomed a race horse named Affair in the Air into Speak Up's arms. This 9 year old suffered a horrific fall in his final race in July, being squeezed out on the turn to go flying through the air landing with great force on his side. He is mending and hopefully by spring he will be able to start his new life as a riding horse. We are paying board at a private farm in Bethel Ohio where he has several new equine buddies. We welcome your financial support for this horse, and hope that perhaps you may know of someone interested in adopting him. Check him out on our rescue page: <http://www.speakupforhorses.org/successes.lasso> .

In September we attended a cool brunch at a historical home in Lexington for HSUS. We had a chance to meet and talk with HSUS president Wayne Pacelle and Keith Dane

who heads up the equine division of HSUS. Also in attendance as a guest was Dr. Slovis, the kind vet who tried so hard to save Kona when she was at Hagyard. To show just how much she touched lives, Dr. Slovis remembered her and her baby Lucy down to the stall they stayed in even though more than a year had passed.

This fall we started selling Speak Up sweatshirts. If you do not yet have yours, please support us by buying one. You can order through the pay pal button on our website, or by sending a check to Speak Up For Horses, P.O. Box 434, Falmouth Kentucky 41040. You can read about the size/color options on the Fun Stuff page of the website <http://www.speakupforhorses.org/fun.lasso> . These shirts are not only very nice quality, but they are a terrific billboard for Speak Up. And don't forget to shop your heart out at Amazon.com and the other vendors listed on our website. You must go to these sites through Speak Up for us to earn a contribution from the vendor. Those contributions add up, so shop on, valiant Speak Up supporters!

Kona and Lucy made the news again this time as calendar girls for the Canadian National Horse Protection calendar. The calendars are being sold by TRACS (<http://www.tracs-bc.ca/>). You can view the calendar at <http://www.hurmuses.com/clients/horses/> . Everyone needs a calendar, so get yours for a cool \$14 and help our Canadian horse friends.

In October we learned of a group of nearly 40 horses in Kentucky which were seriously underweight. We heard that neighbors had been feeding them until the drought sent the hay prices soaring. We talked to the owners and began feeding the horses hay over the fence. In November the owners were charged with 8 counts of animal cruelty. Since we first found out about these horses, at least four have died. We are currently raising money to buy hay for these horses and to purchase these horses if we are able. The case next goes before the judge in early January. The Kentucky State Police news release about the arrest of the owners is on our homepage at <http://www.speakupforhorses.org/harrisonCo.lasso> . The palomino pictured at the top is one of the horses that died. The necropsy done on her said she died of parasite infestation. This case underscores why Kentucky has been ranked one of the 5 worst states in the United States for animal abuse and neglect. (Here is full report produced by the Animal Legal Defense Fund: <http://www.aldf.org/news/details.php?id=323>). We want to publicly thank the Animal Legal Defense Fund for working to help the Harrison County Horses. We also want to thank Hagyard Equine Medical Institute <http://www.hagyard.com/> for providing a field assessment of the horses along with a full medical report, assisting in the necropsy of the palomino, but most of all for being on the ready to help these horses.

Perhaps you wonder after all this. . . just how are we? We are well, and we are steadfast in our belief that Speak Up For Horses can make a difference for all needy horses. We are dedicated to our mission, and we only need to hug on our horses to know we will find the strength to continue on.

From Shelly, Paula, Ginger, Terry and Annie along with our equine guiding lights -

Woody, Dar, Chance, Pony, Lucy, Desi, Elliott, Bubbsi, Shamrock, Turk (and Kona from heaven above) - we wish you the best of all holiday seasons. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have done for us this year. God bless.