

Large Animal Protection Society

Caring, Committed, Taking Action.

PO Box 243 West Grove, PA 19390 * (610) 869-9880 * LapsPA@hotmail.com

www.largeanimalprotectionsociety.org

[Facebook.com/laps.pennsylvania](https://www.facebook.com/laps.pennsylvania)

2016 Newsletter

A Day in the Life of a Humane Officer

Folks often ask what it's like to be a Humane Officer and how on earth we can stomach the job. It's a good question for which there is generally no cut and dry answer. Each day, each call, brings something so varied and different. Not only do we see a variety of animals, but each call has a way of teaching us so many things about the community we live in. The education is ongoing. Thursday, July 28th, was one of those days where an officer ran the full gamut of good, the not so good, and the downright ugly.

5:15 pm I am dispatched to a farm with a skinny horse. Upon arrival I see a horse that is indeed quite underweight and obviously very lame. There are several large dogs loose on the property so I blew my car horn to get someone's attention. I am greeted by an Amish man who upon hearing where I was from immediately changed his demeanor from friendly to distant. Time to switch gears and appear less intimidating. This job constantly requires adjusting our approach, particularly when working in the Amish community. After a bit of small talk and upon seeing the man become more relaxed he assures me the dogs are contained and under control. We walk to the pasture where the horse is kept and he begins to tell me everything that has happened. A case of canker has claimed all four feet on this horse, three of which were healed from daily injections while the last remained quite stubborn. Admitting the horse is way too thin he asked what else he could do. He likes the horse, his wife is also attached, but after two rounds of treatment the right front foot never quite cleared up and then the cycle continued. He takes me into the barn to show me the empty containers of wormer he had given the horse and explains he had his teeth checked in the spring. It would seem pain is the mitigating factor in all the weight loss. After a rather long conversation he agreed to call his veterinarian to see what else could be done. I know the vet so I feel fairly confident about keeping the communication open until this is resolved.

Call number two takes place about an hour later and only seven miles down the road from the first location. Work horses tied up in harness all day is the complaint. I dislike these calls because the practice is not illegal, but yet I too feel work horses are often maligned, mostly out of ignorance. The horses were in fact still in harness when I arrived, tied under a shade tree. They were in reasonable body condition, didn't show any signs of rubs or lesions from the harness and were actually snoozing with hind legs cocked. I chatted with the owner for a bit of time (continued on page 2)

A Giant in the Land of Little Horses

It was a raw and rainy day in February when we received a call about a mule and a draft in desperate need. Two other horses had gone down and died in the previous weeks from an apparent lack of care at this location. Upon arrival there was a very thin Belgian mare and a very frightened half wild gray mule. The concrete barn floor was a sea of urine and liquefied manure posing a challenging situation when trying to halter the mule who was terrified. The Belgian was calm and easy to handle so we used her as a wall to trap the mule in a corner. So here we were, in slime over our ankles, holding an unfamiliar 18.1 hand Belgian with a very skittish mule trapped in the corner. Thankfully no one got hurt and even more thankful we were able to halter the mule by sliding against the Belgian and slowly working our way to the corner. The Belgian never so much as batted an eye.



Upon arrival at the farm Minnie immediately began savoring the hay and it was apparent to all of us that she was indeed very special. Despite her poor physical condition and being very hungry she would immediately leave her hay to have her face rubbed. She LOVED people! (continued on page 4)

A Day in the Life of a Humane Officer

(continued from page 1) explaining this is not illegal, but others see the horses and feel they are being mistreated so they call us to report it. He tells me the horses are harnessed then hitched to a flat wagon in the morning, taken up into the field to harvest vegetables. The wagon is driven back down to the barn where the horses are tied while they sort, wash and package the vegetables for the organic market. He said they are watered at that time then usually snooze under the shade tree during the lunch break until they head back up to the field for the afternoon harvest. This is repeated three times per day which generally ends at nightfall when he removes the harness, feeds them and turns them out for the night. Not a particularly demanding job. While I knew there was nothing I could do to stop this practice I feel it's always good to at least chat with the owner to let him know we are keeping an eye on things.

6:30 pm and onto the opposite end of the county for a concerned call about draft horses in a field with no water or shelter. As my car rounds the corner I clearly see three drafts in an open field. There is a tree line to the East which can provide shelter at this time of the year. A stream runs through the west side of the pasture, and the horses are fat. No need to even stop to speak to these folks. It appears this is an idyllic Lancaster County picture and the horses are well cared for. 7 pm brings an entirely different set of circumstances with a call about a lame steer. Our agricultural laws can be a slippery slope, they are extremely vague and in most cases favor the farmer. I was expecting this would be yet another one of those calls where I may not approve of what I see, but have very little in the way of enforcement, that is until I actually saw the steer. He was thin for an Angus, had patches of skin across one side of his torso and hips missing as though he had fallen and was somehow drug on the ground and also had what appeared to be a massive puncture wound directly under his ankle joint which was oozing yellow pus. As one can imagine, the flies were merciless on this animal who was not able to pivot on the left foot to reach around and brush them off. He was completely non weight bearing on the front foot and had a very difficult time moving about. It was actually painful to watch. I was at this location until dark while I played phone tag and guessing games with the owner who was not home at the time and rather uncooperative. His wife was given a Notice of Violation stating that the animal had to be seen by a veterinarian no later than noon the following day. I explained if this was not done I would obtain a search warrant in the afternoon, bring a bovine vet to check all the steers, have a livestock trailer on the premises, and would be accompanied by the State Police.



The following mornings activities began at 7:45 with calls from the veterinarians and owners as follow ups to those calls I had been to the night before. A new treatment plan was prescribed for the skinny horse with the bad foot. I will return to check on this horse in two weeks and while I don't expect to see any appreciable weight gain I would expect to see improvement in his comfort level. In the absence of having achieved this there will have to be a discussion about other not so pleasant options. The steer was determined to require too much care and expense to recuperate and was humanely dispatched. Ironically I will not be able to cite this owner for cruelty since he did obtain veterinary care for the steer. So the take away for me was having ended suffering. The take away from the owner was loss of income.

This job can be very frustrating and is certainly not for the faint at heart or the overzealous. Each case has to be handled in such a way that the animal somehow benefits first and when possible the owner walks away being better educated. At the end of the day it is important for every Humane Officer to keep in mind it isn't about headlines in the newspaper, but about what is in the animal's best interest. I'm thankful for those situations where animal owners are willing to learn because it helps me feel as though I have done my job ensuring the animal's needs are attended as will be those of any future animals they may have. I'm also thankful that in the case of noncompliance there are legal steps I can take to give the animals the help they need.

Annabelle and Artie

In early March of 2015 LAPS got a call from the Chester County SPCA asking for assistance in a case involving cattle in East Coventry Township. One of their Humane Officers had responded to a complaint about a dead cow and after seeing the cow & the condition of the other animals they passed the case to us. A LAPS officer went to the farm the next day. It was a bleak, cold day. Snow covered the ground & the dead cow was still in evidence surrounded by a flock of turkey buzzards. The cause of death is unknown, but the cow was quite thin. Standing watch nearby was another cow. The Hereford type cow was also very thin, her backbone & hips protruding through her winter coat. The cows were kept in a small pasture in the midst of open farmland without trees or shelter. There was no hay in the pasture & the small amount of water in the water tub was frozen solid & covered with feces. As the officer had been warned about the lack of food she had brought a bale of hay along and the cow eagerly munched the offering. (continued on next page)

The cow was not the only animal on the farm. Nearby was a bank barn surrounded by a stone wall. Behind the wall were two beef bulls, one black the other brown. The bulls had fared better than the cows as they had the barn for shelter. The black bull was slightly thin and the other was in fairly good weight. No food or water was in their enclosure and the black bull was observed drinking from a puddle of half frozen urine & melted snow. They also happily dug into the hay. The farm was unoccupied, but the cattle owner's information was acquired with the help of the township property records and the local police. A notice was left for the owner informing him that he was breaking the cruelty law and requesting he contact LAPS. After almost a week with no communication from the owner the LAPS officer returned to the farm. The dead cow had been buried and the remaining cow was now housed with the bulls. A large round bale of hay was in the enclosure and there was some water provided. The officer left hoping the owner, having been warned about possible charges, would now care for the animals.

A third visit to the farm in early April was a disappointment. No food, no water & the animals were bellowing for both. The officer carried buckets of foul black, oily water from a nearby pond to the cattle and they sucked it all down. The cow had developed a skin problem & was missing about half of her hair. She was also very thin. The black bull had lost a huge amount of weight and was extremely emaciated. The brown bull was obviously the dominant animal and was in decent body weight. The officer left a notice of violation asking the owner of the animals to contact her, provide food and water immediately and veterinary care to them within 48 hours. As expected there was no call from the owner and another visit to the farm found the notice of violation still taped to the barn wall. It was obvious the owner had not been

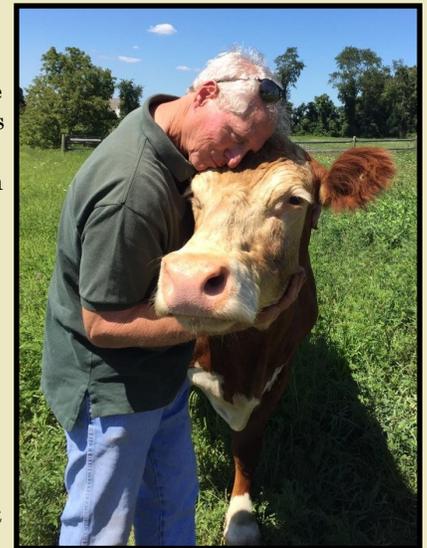


there to care for the cattle. The LAPS team put plans into action to seize the cattle. A search warrant was granted from the Chester County District Attorney & the District Justice. A small group went to the farm on April 10th and with the help of the East Coventry Police served the warrant and loaded the cow and the black bull onto the LAPS trailer. We had worried about the loading process, but the animals were so hungry they followed a bucket of feed into the trailer. We reluctantly left the brown bull behind, but we could not catch him and his body condition didn't make his seizure necessary.

On arrival at the LAPS farm the cattle were seen by Dr. Smith and Dr. Beidel from New Bolton Center. They could find no reason for the poor body condition and skin problem other than lack of food. Meanwhile, the

animals had been named. Annabelle was chosen for the cow. Two Arthurs, a policeman and a LAPS volunteer had helped with the cattle loading, so it seemed fitting to name the bull Artie.

Annabelle and Artie had an uneventful rehabilitation. They quickly gained weight and began to look like normal beef cattle. Annabelle's coat grew back shiny and thick. Artie showed the biggest change in appearance. At the time of the seizure he looked more like a calf though we knew he was actually in his teens. Now there was no mistaking the massive neck and huge body for anything other than a mature bull. We kept a safe distance from him! Annabelle, on the other hand, loved human contact and would come up to the fence for a scratch and would swipe you with her tongue to give thanks. Cruelty citations had been filed against the owner of the cattle and in October the case was ready to be tried in District Court. The LAPS team was well prepared with an attorney, plenty of documentation and before and after photos of the animals. Our biggest concern, as always, was that we did not want to



lose possession of the animals. The owner showed up for the trial and at the last minute decided to plead guilty before being tried. He also agreed to pay LAPS restitution for the cost of rehabbing the cattle.

We were happy with the outcome and ready for Annabelle & Artie to move on. Annabelle, with her sweet disposition, had already charmed a LAPS board member and is living out her days on a beautiful farm with some horse buddies. Artie was not so easy to place, but went to New Bolton Center to be used for teaching vet students.

A Giant in the Land of Little Horses

(continued from page 1) After initial vetting it was determined all the Belgian needed was groceries to right her again. The mule was in fine physical condition, but his emotional state was another story. We dubbed them Mickey and Minnie. It seemed appropriate as they were inseparable; the Belgian providing moral support to the mule.

The weeks passed and Minnie began to rehabilitate beautifully. She morphed into what all of us agreed was the most beautiful Belgian we had ever laid eyes on. Sweet as the day is long we knew finding a good home for Minnie would not be an issue, but Mickey needed training. Even the most basic interaction was marred by his fear of people. Both were transported to our trainer. Mickey, to stay for a period of time and Minnie for evaluation. Within half an hour our trainer was riding her all over his farm, winding in and around farm equipment, buggies and other horses. She actually knew a lot and was more than willing to do what was asked. He agreed she was very special.

A lovely woman contacted us in May. Dawne Smith is the owner/operator of Land Of Little Horses in Gettysburg, an educational park for kids and adults of all ages. While we aren't exactly keen on adopting out to a petting zoo this place was different. I had been to the park and found all the animals were well cared for, many of which were trained to put on shows in the big indoor arena. This place is a mecca for children of all ages as they freely ride pedal cars around the park among the roving group of miniature donkeys and mini-horses who were constantly mugging for treats. Dawne made the trip from Gettysburg to Cochranville to meet Minnie and was instantly smitten. Since that time Minnie has become the star of Land of Little Horses. She participates in the "Parade of Breeds" which takes place 3 times a day where all the horses of different breed types are shown to the visitors and given a bit of education about breed type. The children have an opportunity to pet and groom the horses and learn at the same time. It's a truly great program.



We receive regular updates from Dawne about Minnie with lots of pictures. She tells us she couldn't possibly be more perfect than she already is and loves the attention by the children, totally unfazed by the constant activity and throngs of little kids running through the park. Dawne loves to show her biggest and smallest residents side by side to demonstrate to the children horses come in all sizes. Minnie is certainly as big as they come and she has a heart to match her size. Mickey has a happy ending too as he will be transferred to Gentle Giants in MD which is one of the few select GFAS approved sanctuaries in the country so we take comfort in knowing his future is secure as well.

Crozier Trophy

All of us who work with LAPS are always excited to see horses we have rehabilitated go on to new homes and show their true potential. "One man's trash is another man's treasure" does not just hold true for inanimate objects. So many wonderful animals are never given a chance to prove themselves. With that in mind Janice Crozier, long time LAPS board member and current president, wanted to create a special award for the winningest rescue horse or pony at the LAPS annual horse show. She donated a beautiful trophy, the Crozier Cup, to be given to a rescue horse amassing the most points in the entire show. Last year the trophy was won by one of LAPS own rehabs. Story, a POA pony that LAPS took in when her owner's farm was foreclosed on, carried her young rider, Kayla Hackman, successfully in many classes.



This year the winner of the trophy was Pacino, a horse rescued by Omega Horse Rescue. Pacino was adopted by Lori Eberly and ridden by Kira Lapi. Kira sent a lovely thank you note to LAPS. In it she explained how Pacino got his name. Omega Horse Rescue saved Pacino from the slaughter pen at New Holland Auction. He had scars all over his face which reminded them of Scar Face, a character played by Al Pacino. Kira also said that she could not understand why his owners did not want him anymore or care about what happened to him as he is such a sweet horse. We hope that seeing how successful rescue horses can be in the show ring will motivate anyone looking for a horse to check out the many fine animals available through rescue organizations.

2016 Remembrances

In Honor Of

In Honor of my great friends
Susie Criddle, Maureen Siddons, Helen Stapleton, and Peggy Smith
by Nancy Botella

In Memory Of

Melissa MacDonald Lankler, a longtime member of the Potomac Hunt Club by Wendy Chamberlain
Sandy Weible by her mother Fran Weible
Michael Martin by Wendy Chamberlain

Joe Stumps known for his love of family, friends, and horses by Karen Echard

In Memory of Jessica Marulli Criddle a lover of horses and canine rescues by her friends :

Helen Stapleton, Jean Hoopes, Janet Menez, Nancy Botella, Maureen Siddons, Peggy Smith

In Loving Memory Of

Gadget owned by Jackie McCann by Nancy Botella
Pixie, our LAPS pony by Elisa & Gregory Kanaskie
Sarah & C.J. Martin's Black Polo Pony by Candy Ayers
Sir Prize and Gus by Sue Mayer
Peachy, love you always by Mary Walsh

Ensure our Future

LAPS recently received a very generous donation from the estate of Ann E. Haggerty. We are so grateful to her for making us a part of her will and ensuring our future.

LAPS is totally funded by volunteer contributions and we need your help in continuing our mission! Please think of us when doing your estate planning. Perform a not so random act of kindness. Leave a legacy of caring for animals and protecting them from abuse and neglect.

3rd Annual LAPS Benefit Horseshow

What a show it was with over 145 horses on the 4-H grounds at the Lebanon Exposition center, Lebanon, PA! The weather was indeed frightful with gale force winds and windchill in the 30's, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm and high spirits of all our competitors. Children and adults of all ages turned out to make this the biggest horse show yet for LAPS.

This year we tried a little something different. In addition to the Trail Ranch classes which were well attended we offered Mini Jumper classes for the first time. The colorful scaled to size jumps were absolutely adorable and the kids sure gave it their all by leading these little horse giants over the obstacles. We learned a lot about how to best judge classes and are poised to improve the all around experience for the mini classes in 2017.

The hunter and jumper classes ran all day and into the evening with the High Point Rescue Horse Crozier Trophy being awarded to Lori Eberly and her rescue horse Pacino. Many thanks to Janice Crozier and Brooke Crozier for their generosity in providing the stunning trophy and all the rosettes for the show. These folks even flew in from Florida for the event! Stephanie Gernert of Crossroads Tack in Lebanon volunteered her show management skills again this year and we have to admit we could not have done this without her! Crossroads also donated the saddle pads which were given to each division champion the monogram provided by the very talented Jennifer MacNeill.

Show results can be seen by going to www.horseshowtime.com. Each year our show gets better and runs smoother. We intend to keep this momentum going for 2017 and look forward to seeing everyone there next year. Thank you all!

**To make a donation, clip and return or pay online with *PayPal*
at www.largeanimalprotectionsociety.org**

*Please provide your email address for electronic Newsletters:

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of:

- \$1,000.00 Gold Sponsor
- \$500.00 Silver Sponsor
- \$250.00 Bronze Sponsor
- \$100.00 Beloved Friend
- \$50.00+ Remembered or In Honor Of
- \$ Other, Deeply Appreciated

Name of Animal or Person Honored:

- Animal Person Remembered Honored
(Please check one) (Please check one)

Remembered or Honored By:

Dedication as you would like it to appear:
.....