

# Large Animal Protection Society

Caring, Committed, Taking Action.

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## LAPS Newsletter

### Labor of Love

Most of us horse lovers have heard, and believe, the old saying “There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.” In the case of LD, short for Labor Day, the outside was a sad picture of emaciation and crooked and swollen legs criss- crossed with wounds. A painful hoof abscess only added to his agony.

LD had started the Labor Day holiday of 2014 at the New Holland auction. The two year old chestnut Thoroughbred gelding was in such poor condition that he was deemed not fit to go through the auction by veterinarian Dr. Holt. We do not know where he came from or what horrors he had to endure, but his luck was about to change. Whoever had brought him to the auction did not want him back so he was offered to LAPS and was quickly picked up and taken to the farm.



In the meantime a new LAPS volunteer, Candie Ward, had just come onboard. Candie had recently moved to Chester County to retire and as a long time horse owner with knowledge of our organization she knew she could make a difference here. Candie had also just been diagnosed with breast cancer. The first time she saw LD she had just come from her first appointment with her oncologist. Candy says that her heart broke when she saw him. In his eyes she saw pain and his broken spirit. She immediately took him on as her special project. In her own words she and LD “took to each other and fell in love right away”. Candy came to the farm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday spending most of her time with LD.

Besides receiving Candie’s TLC, LD was also checked over by Dr. David Levine from New Bolton Center. David is also a member of the LAPS Board of Directors. Right away he decided that LD was too thin to withstand inoculations and worming. The hoof abscess made it impossible to do a soundness exam. It was decided to take a wait and see approach to determine LD’s future. Our LAPS caretakers worked at nursing LD back to health with good food and hoof care. Andrew Neilson made a special shoe for the abscessed hoof. Candie provided hours of grooming and affection which LD clearly enjoyed. He recognized her voice and always welcomed her to the barn. Slowly the look of hopelessness left his eyes (continued on page 2)



### Humane Officers

LAPS is first and foremost a law enforcement agency. We field complaints from the public about animal cruelty, specializing in large animals. Our humane agents are a crucial part of our organization. Humane agents in Pennsylvania must successfully complete training on the contents of the PA cruelty laws and how they are interpreted, investigation techniques and enforcing these laws. Agents must also successfully complete training on how to give body condition scores to different animal species, animal handling techniques and normal care practices for large animals.

Our humane agents are dedicated to trying to resolve animal care problems by first working with the owner. Unless the animal is in extremely critical condition or the owner refuses to recognize the problem we leave the animal in the care of the owner. The animal must be seen by a veterinarian and the owner must follow the care instructions given by that vet. The animal is checked frequently by the humane agent to make sure the care is being administered. Very rarely is an animal seized using a search warrant. This is only done when the owner will not or cannot provide the care needed and the animal is in dire condition. Sometimes surrendering of the animal is offered to owners that are unable physically or financially to comply with the cruelty law. The long term goal is always, a healthy, well cared for animal.

Currently LAPS has 6 humane officers. All are badged in Chester County, two are badged in Lancaster County and one is badged in Delaware County. Our two newest officers were badged this year and are the first male agents for LAPS. We are happy to welcome Kirk Hoffman and Richard Moszynski.

## Labor of Love (cond't)

and the abscess and leg wounds healed. He began to gain weight and showed a renewed interest in life. LD's progress was a great source of comfort and pride to Candie. As she waited for doctors appointments she looked at photos of LD. Even her doctors enjoyed seeing the changes in the horse. Candie underwent breast cancer surgery in November of 2014. She was out to see LD for her regular Wednesday visit before her surgery on Friday, when he affectionately nuzzled her on her mouth. She showed up for surgery with a case of poison ivy on her face complements of LD. Her photos of the horse remained by her side throughout her hospital stay.



As soon as she was released from the hospital Candie returned to her volunteer duties. She started radiation and even though she was feeling down she continued to work with LD. His gentle, sweet disposition made him safe to work around. Now that LD was sound Dr. Levine was able to do a more thorough exam. Unfortunately he showed signs of a neurological problem. By now everyone was in love with the horse and it was decided to give him a little more time

in hope that as his body gained strength the symptoms would go away.

Time did not help LD's symptoms, but they did not get worse & the horse was otherwise very healthy. The LAPS board knew that a decision had to be made about LD's future. Fortunately Dr. Levine came up with an option that gave LD a new home and a job. He was donated to New Bolton Center for possible use in clinical trials. LD quickly made himself a favorite with everyone around him at NBC. He was not needed for a trial, but the decision was made to keep him to use to teach students neurological symptoms. Candie misses LD, but visits him at NBC. She is still a regular volunteer spending her time with any horse that needs special attention. She started exercising an older mare, Mia, and said that her "whole world turned around" by being back in the saddle. Radiation had been getting her down mentally and physically, but again that old saying was proving true.



LD's story involves so many people and organizations that regularly work with LAPS. Beginning with the help of Dr. Holt at the New Holland Auction, then the veterinary care of the staff at New Bolton Center, the TLC of the LAPS caretakers, a special volunteer and the teaching staff of NBC. LAPS is thankful to have all of these people on our team.

For Candie there is no doubt that the outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man (or woman). Her work with LD gave her hope and purpose. Seeing the changes in LD we can also say that there is something about the inside of a woman that is good for the outside of a horse.

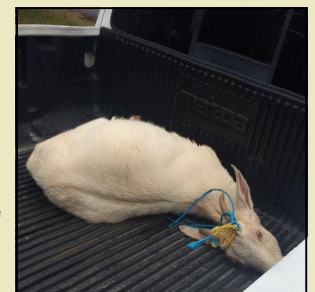
## Elf the Goat

The LAPS humane agent was Christmas shopping on December 23rd when the call came in from the State police. A complaint had come in about a crying goat in the back of a pickup truck. The day was very cold and rainy. In the back of the uncovered pickup truck was a 6 month old male goat. Soaking wet, he was hogtied with his head tied to his feet and unable to move. His screams of discomfort and fear had alerted a neighbor. The police officer was horrified and pledged to charge the person responsible for this to the fullest extent of the law and our agent totally agreed. It turns out this little goat was destined to be a Christmas present for a young man who enjoyed goat meat. Elf, as he was quickly named, was supposed to be Christmas dinner.

The LAPS agent put Elf in the back of her car with the help of her son and took him to New Bolton Center to be checked over. As Elf warmed up he became more lively and it became apparent that he had not had much human contact. Pulling loose in the exam room, he leapt up onto the pharmacy counter and then into the pharmacy itself wreaking havoc in his wake. The mischievous Elf was finally caught and examined. Cold and a little dehydrated, he was otherwise in good health.



Elf had a new home at the LAPS farm. The State police charged the owner with animal cruelty and he pled guilty. The judge awarded ownership of Elf to LAPS. All of this took many months, but luckily for Elf his adopter was a very patient woman. Missy Holm's goat had died months earlier and she had contacted LAPS in search of a rescue goat. She was willing to wait until Elf was a free goat! The Holm's adopted Elf and then set about socializing him. He came to them terrified of people, but with the help of their children and their other animals, John the miniature horse and Lucy the pig, Chris began to realize that people were his friends. He now allows the family to feed, pet and hug him. He spends his days playing with John and Lucy and the three even sleep together at night. Missy says that "He is a wonderful animal who has a lot of love to give and I feel is very happy to have a family to love him back." We thank the Holm family for their gift of loving care to a little goat meant to be a gift himself.



## Big Pat Update

Many of you will remember Lisa H., the adopter of Lucky Duck, from our last newsletter. The article finished on a sad note as their brilliant partnership ended with Ducky's death from cancer. While writing the article there was much communication with Lisa. During that time, a new horse, Big Pat, came to LAPS. Big Pat is also well known to those of you who follow us on Facebook. The blind Belgian gelding was another horse rejected by the New Holland Auction and offered to LAPS. Though blind, skinny and covered with harness sores Pat did not have that hopeless look that many of our incoming horses have. He was cheerful and affectionate even though it was obvious that man had treated him unkindly. He especially tugged at the heart strings of Terry who had picked him up from New Holland.



A fund drive on Facebook allowed LAPS to have Pat treated by New Bolton. A cataract

was removed from one eye giving him some vision. He was also treated for uveitis. Terry generously took Pat into her barn, for six weeks giving him his antibiotics every four hours! His sores were also treated and Pat ate with gusto going through a bag of senior feed every two days. A beautiful Belgian with a lovely disposition began to appear.



Lisa is an avid Facebook follower and had comments about Pat's rehabilitation. A casual suggestion that she should adopt him as she is a vet who could deal with his eye problem, is a driving enthusiast and already has draft horse experience was met positively. Soon arrangements were made for Lisa to drive from Michigan to pick up Pat. When the big day came Fox news covered the event, but more importantly Pat made the long trip to his new home without any problems.



The rest, as they say is history. Lisa introduced him to her herd and gradually started working with him. Once again Lisa has worked her magic on a horse that was rejected by others. Recently Lisa has begun to ride Big Pat; the world of this former field working draft horse has certainly expanded! For more details and pictures of this remarkable rehab check out our Facebook page, LAPS Pennsylvania.

## Sad Stallion

For years LAPS, the local police department and the SPCA got complaints about a sad, lonely looking horse kept in a small dirt enclosure with a dilapidated home made shack as his shelter. The horse's pen was located near the intersection of a busy road. Traffic backed up every morning and evening, giving many commuters plenty of time to take in the horse's living conditions.

Unfortunately for all of us in the animal cruelty law enforcement business there was not much we could do. The horse's body condition was satisfactory and he did have shelter. No cruelty law was being broken, but the quality of life for this horse was far from ideal. When we listened to our hotline and heard a grey horse mentioned we could almost always guess what the address would be. It became a thorn in the side of the agent dealing with that area. The owner of the horse explained that the horse was a stallion and so could not be turned out with the rest of her horses. Money was tight and she did not seem to think that gelding him was necessary.

Having to explain to caller after caller that the owner was not breaking any laws even though the horse was living a bleak life became more and more difficult. Finally in an act of desperation the agent said to one caller that maybe everyone who complained should donate money towards gelding the horse. To her amazement that caller and the next four callers pledged enough money to cover the surgery! Everyone was excited about the new way of life this horse would have with run of a huge pasture and lots of companionship. The owner accepted the offer and New Bolton Field Service performed the procedure without any complications. In six weeks the new gelding would be able to enjoy life with the herd.

Today we are happy to report that the former stallion is happily ensconced in the small herd. His old pen and shelter have been torn down leaving no doubt that he will never have to return to his old life style. LAPS is grateful to the generous women who gave this stallion a new life. Undoubtedly there are also hundreds of relieved commuters who would thank them too if they knew this story.

# Snickers

Gabrielle had wanted a horse for a long time. A very practical girl, she saved more than enough for the purchase price knowing that owning a horse can bring with it many unexpected expenses. After two years of saving she contacted LAPS about a young mare named Shadow. Shadow turned out not to be the right fit as she needed more training than Gabrielle had time for, but when considering other horses at the farm Snickers caught her eye. Snickers, another lucky New Holland reject, was waiting for his forever home. He came in severely emaciated, but now was an attractive Quarter horse with a lot of experience under saddle to offer to his young adopter.

Snickers has been with Gabrielle for almost two years. Together they trail ride, do a little jumping and have begun to learn the basics of barrel racing. They have formed a bond which makes Snickers jealous and protective of Gabrielle when she is around other people. When her brother tried to push her off of a gate Snickers intervened and would not let him get near Gabrielle. Gabrielle's parents are pushed away if they try to hug her. Snickers was included in the family's Christmas card last year. When Gabrielle's Dad posed next to her Snickers pushed him out of the way! You can see the result in the photo.



Snickers is just one more example of how a horse discarded by others as useless and not worth caring about can shine in a new home. Wouldn't it be nice if every unwanted horse could find their own Gabrielle?

# LAPS Horseshow

LAPS held the 2nd Annual Hunter/Gaming/Trail Show at the beautiful venue of the Lebanon County Fairgrounds on May 17th of this year. We expanded classes to include gaming classes and had a great trail class as well. Susan Martin of the Lancaster SPCA and her crew chipped in to run the gaming classes and provided the trophies for barrel racing, poles, dollar bareback, to name a few. Roddy Strang of Kirkwood designed and judged the trail class which included beginner, intermediate, and advanced courses much of which was quite challenging.

Back by popular demand we had Nancy Johnson judging the hunter ring. Nancy always brings kind encouragement to the riders and is very well received. We're keeping our fingers crossed to have her back in 2016.

Additionally we were again treated to a visit by the Lancaster Mounted Police Unit at the show. They even participated in the trail challenge, naturally choosing the advanced course. These men in blue and their mounts certainly know how to have a good time. The horses were given a bag of horse treats and the officers a food voucher. We certainly appreciate their willingness to support LAPS and needless to say they are a huge hit wherever they go.

For all us the biggest surprise of all came in the form of a smallish package. The High Point Rescue Horse Award went to a former LAPS pony named Story. We were delighted to present the beautiful crystal trophy to an adorable horse rider team. Big thanks to Kristy Schaeffer for adopting Story and placing her in your lesson program. She certainly has proven her worth in more ways than one.

The day rounded out with the drawing of the blind auction raffles containing some truly excellent prizes donated by various businesses.



Many thanks to all who volunteered, gave of their time and talents, and helped to make the show a truly fun event, in particular our wonderful show manager, Stephanie Gernert of Crossroads Tack Shop in Quentin for without her we could not even hope to pull something like this together. Please watch our Facebook page LAPS Pennsylvania for the announcement of the upcoming 2016 show. We would be extremely grateful to anyone wishing to sponsor a class for these kids. Good Times in 2016!

# 2014-2015 Remembrances

## *In Honor Of*

All Volunteers by Ruth Sullivan  
Jan A Mattson by Robert Mattson  
Bella & Tera by Deborah & William Kirkner  
All my wonderful 4 legged friends by Dr. Katherine Mack  
Nancy Botella for all the work you do by Carol Warner  
Tiffany Raikowski-Happy Birthday your loving Aunt Marion Hampton  
Cecilia Grimes, who lost her best friend Blaze by Mary Beth Werzalis, Carolyn Hoots and Lori McHugh  
Tiffany Raikowski's 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday by Marion Hampton & Edward Raikowski  
Dancer, to my faithful friend and partner by Sandy Collins.  
Seamus and Sunny, the longest serving members of Philadelphia Saddle Club by Betsy Bowden.  
Ludwig's Corner Riding & Driving Club, who supported LAPS when they dissolved their organization. They closed their books by sending us a last donation.

## *In Memory Of*

*In Memory of Martha Colvin By*      *In Memory of Dorothy B. Simpers By*

Harriette Emerson  
Keystone Valley Fire Department  
Elisa & Greg Kanaskie  
Sandra Hartshorne Wood  
Pikeland Construction, Inc  
Pat Cook

Sharon A. Goldie  
The Simpers Family  
Priscille & Edward Dolor  
Roses in Winter Seniors Club, Joyce Hahn  
Craig G. Smucker, M.D.

## *In Loving Memory Of*

Roy Kessler by Pat Bradstreet  
Anabel Barnett by Lisa Griegel  
Nina Donohue Crawford by her sister Susan Bonomo  
Marilyn Duer by Dressage at Devon  
Manny & Barney by Fred & Lillian Danziger  
Parbol by Jane C. MacElree  
My best friends Bonnie & Shadow by Mary Koechert  
River-goodbye sweet boy and gallop free by Maija Ray  
Penny-Sarah & C J Martin's polo pony by Candy Ayers  
Skip, owned and loved by Judy Hagan by Linda MacDonough.  
Vandy Flower, Always in my heart. I miss you so by Linda Fuchs.  
Martha Colvin's beloved horse Sugar by elisa and Greg Kanaskie  
Rig Red, the bravest, strongest, truest partner and friend a rider could have had, with love Jennifer Yoder.  
Serinna, Kate Gerz's wonderful white Arabian, loved & treasured throughout 16 years by Alice Myers

Dr. Jack Levengood by Neil & Barbara Howard  
My daughter, Sandy Weible by Fran Weible  
Maryanne Boyle and Lady by Pat and Vince Boyle  
Sandy Weible, my daughter, by Fran Weible  
Dear Sam by Dorothy B. Simpers.  
Teddy by Albert Corrao  
Greta & Mikey by Glenn and Cheryl Sweeney.  
Shedba by Michael & Shiron Paul  
"Tim" beloved dog of Jane Rankin by Cinnie Griswold  
Prego, Alfonso and Lui by Beverly Roaof

## Driving Clinic

On August 8th LAPS hosted a driving clinic given by National and World Pairs Driving Champion, Lisa Singer. Lisa very graciously spent half a day at her farm with driving enthusiasts of all levels. Safe to say, all who were there left with lots of hands on knowledge, including a heavy emphasis on safety in the sport of driving. Thank you to Lisa. We look forward to more clinics like this in the coming months.



