

Herd on the Street



An Update on the Police Horses You've Helped through The HOOFS Fund

Fall 2008 Volume 1, Issue 1

The HOOFS Fund is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that supports the health, safety, and well-being of police horses.

Receive HF updates by e-mail. Drop us a line at: hoofsfund@gmail.com

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Protective Pads for USPP Horses

The HOOFS Fund completed its first project to support the health and well-being of police horses by providing the U.S. Park Police (USPP) with 12 new, hi-tech saddle pads designed to protect horses from back injury.

The horses were serving in an intensive, 10-week session in the spring conducted by the USPP Horse Mounted Unit in Washington, D.C. Several of the 12 officers enrolled in the class were new to riding. During the first week, USPP Lt. Stacey Collins contacted the HOOFS Fund for assistance, writing, "Knowing how much the horses will be ridden over the next several weeks, and knowing the concern your organization has for the comfort and well-being of the horses, I was wondering if [you] would be willing to support the purchase of gel pads"

Within a week, the HOOFS Fund had partnered with pad manufacturer Supracor and, using funds donated by our supporters, delivered 12 new



saddle pads to the unit, which normally retail for \$200 each.

The pads (top right) are made with the same material used to prevent pressure sores among burn patients. They distribute weight evenly over the horse's back, absorbing shock and allowing good air circulation so the horse stays cool and comfortable under saddle. The pads will also be used in the spring 2009 class. Lt. Collins said that the pads were used every day and the horses "definitely benefited" from their use. Among the horses who served in the class were Bernie, Big Mac, Bing, Commander, Custer, Dancer, Easy, Hughie, Jackson, Jaguar, Moxie, Newcastle, Noddy, Pacific, Pearl, Sandie, Walker, and Winchester of the USPP as well as Buster, Cheyenne, and Tattoo of the Maryland National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division.



At graduation, Lt. Stacey Collins, left, with Board member Sarah Streicker.

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Remembering Buddy

Ocean City, Md., is mourning retired police horse Buddy, euthanized October 6 due to an inoperable leg injury. Buddy had just retired in August after nearly



16 years. He served as a "faithful and loyal partner" to many officers during his distinguished career, and the chief promoted him to sergeant at his retirement. Buddy was about 27 years old. [Learn more about Buddy at www.hoofsfund.org](http://www.hoofsfund.org)

Outreach Effort at Virginia Gold Cup

A special thank you to all the donors whose generous contributions helped make the spring raffle a success:

a.k.a. spot, Arlington, Va.

Anonymous, Arlington, Va.

Cameron Greene Designs, Arlington, Va.

Cleveland Park Wine and Spirits, Washington, D.C.

Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Washington, D.C.

Rock Creek Park Horse Center, Washington, D.C.

Tolosa Winery, San Luis Obispo, Calif.

TSNY Baltimore

Virginia Gold Cup Association, Middleburg, Va.

Hundreds of people visited the HOOFS Fund tent at the Virginia Gold Cup races in May where we increased awareness about our efforts to help police horses and raised funds through our spring raffle.

A dozen generous individuals and businesses donated goods and services worth more than \$800 to make the raffle a great success. Burke Florist in Fairfax, Va., donated a stunning flower arrangement for the table, and several volunteers pitched in throughout the day to sell raffle tickets and answer visitors' questions about police horses.

Held the first Saturday in May in the heart of Virginia



HOOFS Fund Secretary Pamela White with volunteers Annie Gagliardi and Sarah Dorsett.

horse country, the Gold Cup steeplechase races are a tradition in the Washington, D.C., area and attended by over 45,000 people. This was the second year the HOOFS Fund had a presence at this important sporting

event. Special thanks are due to the Gold Cup's executive director, Ms. Diane Jones, and development director, Ms. Katie Snyder, who have warmly welcomed and promoted the HOOFS Fund at the races, even donating tickets for the fall International Cup races to our raffle.

The HOOFS Fund would like to thank everyone who responded so generously with their donations, time, and support, and we look forward to the 2009 Virginia Gold Cup. Planning will begin soon after the New Year. We can use your help! If you would like to assist or contribute to the effort, please contact us at hoofsfund@gmail.com.

Turn Out Recent HOOFS Fund Activities in the Community

VOLUNTEERS HELP THE HOOFS FUND In our first year, several individuals have donated their talent and effort to the HOOFS Fund, including Scott Antonides, Lea Caruso, Sarah Dorsett, Peter Feather, Annie Gagliardi, and retired U.S. Park Police mounted officer James Watson. Thank you for your support, hard work, and dedication to the horses!

MARCHING IN MARDI GRAS HOOFS Fund volunteers outfitted three U.S. Park Police horses with extra-large beads specially ordered from New Orleans

and marched with the officers and their festive mounts in the annual Mardi Gras Parade in Arlington, Va. Along the way, we pitched both beads and the HOOFS Fund, urging spectators to "Pony Up for the Ponies."

DEO VOLENTE FARM SHOWS SUPPORT Late last year, Jimmie and Jacki Jones invited us to an event at their northern Virginia farm where they urged their guests to support our efforts. The Joneses, who own several horses, are longtime supporters of the U.S. Park Police Horse



Jack, Stonewall, and Karat wait for the start of the Mardi Gras parade.

mounted unit and the volunteers program that is dedicated to the care of the horses. Thank you Jimmie, Jacki, and friends!

[For upcoming events, visit www.hoofsfund.org](http://www.hoofsfund.org) or follow us on Twitter.

Police Horse Profile: Newcastle (USPP)

Meet Newcastle, a handsome Irish Draft/Thoroughbred bay who helped anchor a spring 2008 training class in our nation's capital for new mounted officers.

Foaled in 1994 and donated two years ago to the United States Park Police (USPP) in Washington, D.C., Newcastle stands over 16 hands and is a former fox hunter. He was one of the stars of the USPP's "musical ride" performance at the 2007 Virginia Gold Cup and at the 2007 America's Cup of Polo at Historic Morven Park in Leesburg, Va.

Newcastle was ridden by several different officers from Maryland, D.C., and the Republic of Georgia during the

10-week class at Edgewater Stables, a USPP facility in Washington's Rock Creek Park. The HOOFS Fund donated 12 Supracor pads for Newcastle and the other horses to wear during this class. The special pads helped cushion the horses' backs and prevent saddle sores.

The individual horses in the



Newcastle with HOOFS Fund Vice President Diane Sullenberger.

department have different roles based on their strengths and weaknesses. Some are patrol horses. Newcastle does not patrol, but his strength and stamina mean he is well-suited to train new riders.

Newcastle is a favorite among volunteers at the stables. He's very happy for the carrots and likes it when they brush his mane and tail and gently rub the area around his eyes. He prefers his personal space and is not keen on other horses stalled next to him. His ground manners are a work in progress, but he is well-schooled, responsive, and reliable under saddle.

[Read more profiles of police horses at www.hoofsfund.org.](http://www.hoofsfund.org)



Newcastle, left, performs in the USPP "musical ride" at the Virginia Gold Cup in 2007. Next to him are Easy, center, and Big Mac.

Dear Friends of the Police Horses ...

The five of us who make up the HOOFS Fund Board spend many mornings taking care of horses for the U.S. Park Police (USPP). Along with other volunteers, we help feed them, clean their stalls, pick their hooves, and massage, bathe, and groom them. We also make sure they get turned out, and, when time permits, we exercise them in the ring or on the trails of Rock Creek Park.

We've also had opportunity to learn about police horses working in other law enforcement agencies. Our experience has given us a unique—and still expanding—perspective on the horses'

lives and needs. This is what informs and shapes our vision for the HOOFS Fund as we work to raise private dollars to enhance the living and working conditions of police horses in the USPP and beyond.

We have learned firsthand that many law enforcement agencies—and the horses serving in them—face the same budgetary challenges that confront our schools, firefighters, and military. The animals working to keep our communities safe need a voice, and, sometimes, they need monetary support—for equipment, supplies, facilities, and, at times, even

food. The HOOFS Fund is here to help provide both voice and funding.

Across the country, a handful of "booster" or "friends" groups in cities like Los Angeles, Houston, and Indianapolis fundraise for local mounted units. But they are few and far between, and only the HOOFS Fund is positioned to help horses working in local as well as federal law enforcement agencies, such as the USPP.

The HOOFS Fund is working to assess the number and needs of police horses nationwide. A regional census we conducted earlier this year

found nearly 100 horses across seven agencies in D.C. and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs. (The USPP herd is the largest and fluctuates from 35 to some 50 horses.)

Currently there are some 100 police agencies in the U.S. using horses. With your continued support, we will begin to fill out the picture on their lives, and then help ensure that they receive the resources they need.

Sincerely,

The HOOFS Fund Board
Melissa Junior, Colleen Marzec,
Sarah Streicker, Diane
Sullenberger, Pamela White

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Board of Directors

Colleen Marzec, President

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Pamela White, Secretary

Sarah Streicker, Director of Development

Equipment Donated to Republic of Georgia

The HOOFS Fund donated \$850 worth of horse-grooming tools to a newly formed police-horse unit in the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

HOOFS Fund Development Director Sarah Streicker presented the tools to two Georgian officers, Master Sgt. Levan Pantsulaia and Sgt. Irakli Markozashvili, at their graduation in May from the U.S. Park Police (USPP) horse-mounted training program.

Most of the tools were donated by Oster to the HOOFS Fund, and the others were purchased using contributions from HOOFS Fund supporters. Oster manufactures a line of high-



The horses and officers of the Georgia unit.

quality brushes and other grooming tools for horses.

The idea to help the Georgians came about after the State Department contacted USPP looking for an expert in mounted policing. A USPP officer was sent to Tbilisi, Georgia, in 2007 to evaluate the new mounted unit and found that their needs included basic equipment, such as hoof picks and other grooming tools for the horses.

The Campaign for Clean Stalls

Nov/Dec 2008—The HOOFS Fund has agreed to help USPP professionally clean and disinfect stalls at their largest barn in the Washington, D.C. area—the Edgewater Training Stables. As many as two dozen horses live, work, and train in the aging facility. Help us ensure good sanitation practices and reduce the threat of infections for the police horses at Edgewater. Please donate today!

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