



HOOFBEAT HERALD

Issue 6 March 2025

President's Ponderings

Hi Heavy lovers.

It's March already. I hope you all had a great February and managed to escape the heat. I hope it rained where you live while at the same time sending thoughts to those up north who just got more than they could contain. Did you solve Clyde's puzzle? I think there may be a few people out there, ready to argue but see the explanation at the end of this issue.

February was a bit sad as we waved Bekky and Chief on their journey over the rainbow bridge. We were unable to help them any longer as their conditions were deteriorating fast. Both had severe heart murmurs and some serious dental issues.

There are still some calendars available. Considering two months have now passed, if you would like one at the reduced price of \$20 each including postage, you can order through our website.

<https://www.heavyhorseheaven.com.au/product-page/2025-hhh-calendar>

Look -
there's
me!!



Diesel checking out the calendar

The Web Shop

...and while you're in our webshop looking for your calendar <https://www.heavyhorseheaven.com.au/shop> have a look at the other merchandise available. The proceeds of sale of everything you see goes against HHH expenses.

If you spend \$50.00 in the shop we will throw in a "I Support HHH" Bumper Sticker. For orders over \$100.00 you can re-home a free squishy.

<https://www.heavyhorseheaven.com.au/product-page/i-support-hhh-bumper-sticker>



Show your support for HHH and the difference they make in the lives of so many big souls.

<https://www.heavyhorseheaven.com.au/product-page/hhh-squishy>



Take your stresses out on this cute little Clydesdale. Squish him as hard as you like. He won't mind.



Hey!! Do you like my polo shirt? I've stretched it a bit, and it's faded over years and years of paddock wear, but you can get your own nice new black one from the HHH Shop and it will look like this:



Or wow - a matching cap!



Rescue Roundup (Or “ins” and “outs”)

Before we go to “Ins and Outs”, this poor little guy is Loki, a rising 7-year-old (foaled September 29, 2017). He is a truly special horse with a heart of gold. He's located three hours west of Brisbane, but sadly, suffers from severe Queensland itch (sweet itch). Despite his owner’s best efforts the midges are relentless, and his skin remains in a distressing state. After exhausting all options, his very sad owner has come to the difficult decision that he needs to move south, away from the intense QLD itch climate. Karen will put youi in touch with the owner if you are interested in helping out.



Ins

There were no new guests received in February.



Outs



Kazz is thrilled to announce that Raddison (left) and Barky, our two handsome geldings, have been successfully matched with their perfect forever family – Barb and Jeff!

A huge thank you to those that applied and showed interest in giving these deserving guys a loving home.

I am confident that they have found an incredibly loving family where they will thrive. I wish Barky and Raddison, and their new family all the best for a long and happy future together!

For those who were not successful this time, please don't be discouraged. HHH frequently has horses in need of loving homes, so please keep an eye on our website and social media for future announcements. Thank you again for your support and for opening your hearts to these incredible animals.

Karen Hood

President and Founder

HHH – Where their new life begins.



There may be more candidates ready to go to their forever homes soon so watch this space.

Taking the Leap

"Taking the Leap," our regular Hoofbeat Herald column dedicated to the responsibilities of rehoming an HHH guest, continues with this second instalment. Here, we'll delve into the financial commitment required before you take the 'leap' and offer a forever home to one of our guests. I am not trying to scare you off, just making sure you fully understand the 'heavy' responsibility you would be taking on.

Welcoming an HHH guest into your life is incredibly rewarding, but it's a major undertaking. The financial implications are substantial, so it's crucial to fully understand the costs involved.



The Leap

Initial Costs:

- **Lifetime Lease:** While much lower than purchasing a horse, lease fees can vary from \$1000 to over \$2,000 depending on the training/experience of the horse. This fee assists HHH to recoup some of the costs associated with the care given to our guests while they are here.



Fees can vary

- **Transportation:** You'll need to arrange and pay for transporting the horse to its new home. Costs vary depending on distance and transportation method.

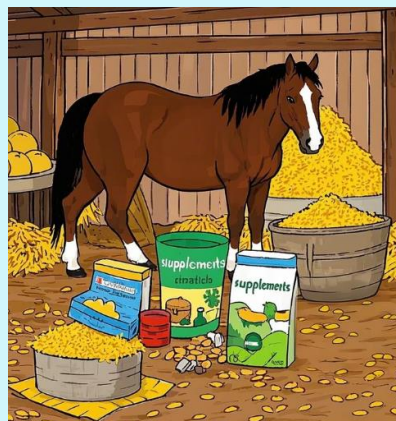


Ongoing costs:

- **Agistment:** If you don't have your own property, you may need to agist. Costs vary widely depending on location and the level of care provided.



- **Feed:** Horses need a constant supply of hay, grain, and potentially, supplements. The feed costs will depend on the horse's size, breed, and activity level.



- **Veterinary Care:** Regular veterinary check-ups, vaccinations, worming and dental care are essential. Unexpected vet bills can also arise due to illness or injury.



- **Farrier Care:** Hoof care is an ongoing expense. Matt (**Matt Fordham Equine Hoofcare Professional**) Says depending on the horse, its workload, and it's environment, hoofwork is generally recommended every 4-6 weeks. He said some horses can go 8 weeks but he would recommend no longer than that.



- **Other Expenses:** These may include bedding, grooming supplies, tack, and equipment.



Additional Considerations:

- **Horse's History:** Rescue horses often come with unknown histories, which can make it difficult to predict their future needs and potential health issues. (HHH will give you a history of the time the guest was in care but cannot always know their full history).



- **Rehabilitation:** Some rescue horses may require rehabilitation, which can involve additional costs for specialised feed and/or treatment.



- **Training:** If the horse requires training, you'll need to factor in the cost of lessons or hiring a professional trainer.



Tips for Managing Costs:

- **Research:** Thoroughly research the costs associated with horse ownership in your area.
- **Budget:** Create a realistic budget that includes all potential expenses.
- **Emergency Fund:** Set aside an emergency fund for unexpected veterinary bills or other unforeseen costs.
- **Insurance:** Horse insurance can help manage veterinary expenses.

Disclaimer: HHH is not affiliated with any of the insurance companies listed below and does not endorse any specific provider. These links are provided for informational purposes only to assist your own research

- <https://www.petcovergroup.com/au/horse-insurance/>
- <https://petmemorialaustralia.com.au/horse-insurance-australia/#t-1666479234827>
- <https://fitton.com.au/types-of-equine-insurance-coverage-options-in-australia/>
- <https://www.au.marsh.com/sport/equestrian-australia.html>

Giving a forever home to a rescue horse can be a wonderful experience, but it's crucial to be financially prepared for the commitment. By carefully considering all the costs involved, you can ensure that you're able to provide your new horse with the care and attention it deserves.

Support Stable

I know I said I would bring you some titbits from a committee member this month, but between the holiday season, the weather (good and bad) and the fact that I was too plain slack to get on with it – well it didn't happen. I'm aiming to make up for it in April's edition with two – yes two committee member chats.

Making a Difference at Heavy Horse Heaven

The ranks are swelling with another new volunteer welcomed this month. Every little bit is appreciated.

Thank you to everyone that gave up time to assist in February. You know what they say about many hands making light work, so the more the merrier.



Join the HHH Family

If you, or somebody you know, would like to come out here on Sundays and connect with like-minded people; and also benefit from hanging with these big softies,



you can apply directly through our website: <https://www.heavyhorseheaven.com.au/volunteer> Alternatively contact Karen at info@heavyhorseheaven.com.au



Did you know?

Stringhalt.

In my interview with Diesel in the first issue, he mentioned “a whopper case of Stringhalt”. (If you didn’t receive the first newsletter, checkout the link and have a read).

https://www.heavyhorseheaven.com.au/files/ugd/3a8c2e_013219424bfd4066958006fad1ac4fd9.pdf

I read an Insta post from a vet that said: “Recently, we have seen a surge in cases of Australian Stringhalt in the Riverina and Canberra region.” I decided to revisit this. Since there is a plethora of information out there I have aimed to give a simple overview. See the references at the end for more comprehensive data if you’d like to know more.

What is it?

Stringhalt is a condition that affects a horse's walking. It messes up the signals between nerves and muscles in their hind legs. This makes their legs jerk up high, sometimes like goose-stepping or hopping. It's not painful itself, but it can cause other issues.

Like what?

Stringhalt can cause laryngeal paralysis, muscle atrophy, difficulty standing, affectation of the forelimbs and neck, and just the force of stomping on the ground can cause secondary injuries).

What causes it?

Two types exist:

- Australian Stringhalt: Eating certain weeds, like flatweed or dandelions, causes this. It often affects many horses together. The most common cause of stringhalt in Australia is Flatweed. Humans eat this in salads and it closely resembles the Dandelion.



- Classic Stringhalt: The cause is unknown. It usually affects one leg and might happen after an injury.

What are the signs?

- Jerky, high-stepping hind legs are the main sign, especially when walking. Other signs:
- Legs lifting very high
- Muscle loss in the leg
- "Bunny hopping" gait (both legs)
- Worse symptoms in cold weather, during exercise, or when excited.

How is it diagnosed?

Vets watch the horse walk and check for other problems. They might do a test to check nerves and muscles.

How is it treated?

- Australian Stringhalt: Stop the horse from eating the weeds. They often get better, but it takes time.
- Classic Stringhalt: There's no cure. Vets might give medicine or suggest supplements. Surgery might help.

How can I help my horse?

- Good food: Give your horse the right food and maybe supplements (ask your vet). Avoid lucerne.
- Less stress: Keep your horse calm.
- Bodywork: Gentle massage can help.
- Exercise: Slow, careful exercise is important. Talk to your vet about a plan.

Will my horse get better?

- Australian Stringhalt: Most get better after stopping the weeds, but it can take time.
- Classic Stringhalt: It's harder to know. Some improve, some don't. Surgery might help.

What should I do?

Talk to your vet if you think your horse has stringhalt. Many horses with mild stringhalt can still live happy lives.

Here are links to some footage showing HHHDiesel not long after his arrival at HHH. Be advised some may find it distressing to view.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile/100064718917163/search/?q=stringhalt>

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/stringhalt>

<https://www.facebook.com/heavyhorseheaven/videos/706608973066334>

This is footage of HHHAngus. His affectation was a little different to that of HHHDiesel

<https://www.facebook.com/heavyhorseheaven/videos/1812576912167760>

References and further reading:

<https://www.southwestequine.com.au/stringhalt/>

<https://ourimbahvet.com.au/ourimbah-vet-blog/australian-stringhalt-in-horses/>

<https://www.petmd.com/horse/conditions/musculoskeletal/stringhalt-horses>

<https://ceh.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/health-topics/stringhalt-equine-reflex-hypertonia>

<https://www.msdivetmanual.com/musculoskeletal-system/lameness-in-horses/stringhalt>

<https://www.yourvetonline.com/stringhalt-in-horses/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stringhalt>

March Reader Puzzle

Where's Diesel?



Ha ha ha – just kidding 😊 Diesel isn't in the picture.

This is Diesel



March Reader Puzzle – The real one ...(or two - bonus for me being mean 😏)

Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter or number.
 Try to decode the message. The phrases both come from this newsletter

Taking the Leap

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				Q																					

	E								
G	Q	M	L	J	I	U	E	B	

Y	E

K	K	K

		E		
B	Z	Q	C	F

U	E	F	J

R	J	Z	P

			E
M	U	S	Q

U	C

				E					
U	E	L	P	Q	V	U	D	M	R

	E								
P	Q	G	Y	P	V	U	E	B	

Did you Know

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
F																									

							A		
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	A					
K	F	T	E	O	Q	R

February Reader Puzzle Solution

$$\begin{array}{c} \img alt="horse" data-bbox="81 98 164 146"/> + \img alt="horse" data-bbox="258 98 341 146"/> + \img alt="horse" data-bbox="435 98 518 146"/> = 30 \\ 10 \quad 10 \quad 10 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \img alt="horse" data-bbox="81 221 164 269"/> + \img alt="two horseshoes" data-bbox="258 221 341 269"/> + \img alt="two horseshoes" data-bbox="435 221 518 269"/> = 18 \\ 10 \quad 4 \quad 4 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \img alt="two horseshoes" data-bbox="81 363 164 411"/> - \img alt="two boots" data-bbox="238 363 321 411"/> = 2 \\ 4 \quad 2 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \img alt="one boot" data-bbox="81 491 144 539"/> + \img alt="horse" data-bbox="241 486 324 534"/> \times \img alt="two horseshoes" data-bbox="411 486 494 534"/> = 41 \\ 1 \quad 10 \quad 4 \end{array}$$

Solution:

One horse = 10

Two horseshoes = 4

Two boots = 2

One boot = 1

Therefore One boot + One horse X Two horseshoes = 41

The order of operations dictates multiplication first so it's: One horse X two horseshoes plus 1 boot.

It's not 42 or 44 (both of which were popular answers)

Next
Month!



We may have some more guests ready to move on to their forever homes. Again, my apologies for not bringing a committee member to meet you. Watch this space in April.

The newsletter has become quite popular so we figure it's time to make it look a little more professional – watch for the new format in April.



Submissions for the April newsletter are due by Friday, 28/03/2025 at 12:00 PM (midday).

Between issues keep up with what is going on via our socials. Insta: @heavyhorseheaven FB: <https://www.facebook.com/heavyhorseheaven>



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info@heavyhorseheaven.com.au

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