



HOOFBEAT HERALD

Issue 5 February 2025

President's Ponderings

Hello everyone. What a big start to 2025 already!

We have had swinging gates this month as we welcome a few newbies into our care. We've also started pondering over applications for re-homing this month and it's a been a 'heavy' task (see what I did there). Beginning with Duncan, for whom we received a mountain of applications, we continue to assess against all the criteria to make absolutely sure our guests go to homes and families that are the best possible 'fit' for them. We have two more ready for re-homing but they are a package. They are Barky and Raddison – see the "Outs" section for details. There will also be more re-homing candidates available very soon – watch the Facebook page and our website.

There are still some calendars available if you would like one. Proceeds go to HHH. You can order through our website.

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

The calendars are \$25 each including postage.



Submissions for the March newsletter are due by Sunday, February 23rd 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>

Rescue Roundup (Or “ins” and “outs”)

February was a whale of a month for “ins and outs”. Our first new guy is the Handsome Duke. Duke sadly has a degenerative ligament condition called Degenerative Suspensory Ligament Desmitis (DSLSD). This month’s “Did you Know” has more information on this awful condition.

Ins

So Duke as already noted is a very handsome big guy. He is a 15 yo Bay Clydesdale – see isn’t he handsome?!? We will be keeping him as comfortable as possible for as long as possible. He has enjoyed some body work and aromatherapy with the amazing Sinead McCann.



HHH Duke

Duke was followed a bit later by Ellie, Marnie and Stollie.

Ellie is a 9 yo Clydesdale Mare standing 17 hands. As you can see, she looks pretty regal just no crown or throne.



HHH Ellie

Marnie is an 18 yo Clydesdale Cross and is a pretty champagne in colour. She is a little smaller at 15 hands, but she brings with her a son Stollie. He is like most teenagers these days, a tad taller than his mum coming in at 17 hands.



HHH Marnie



HHH Stollie

Then, just as you thought it was safe to shut the gates, along came Bozo! His face doesn't match his name, does it? He looks very intelligent and serious, and Kazz says he is very well-behaved, so Bozo doesn't really fit for me, but hey I don't name the guests. (Hmm there's an article for next month – might be a very short one).



All the newbies have received gushings (it is sooooo a word – I just made it up) of love and attention from the manicurist extraordinaire and hoof care guru Matt Fordham from **Matt Fordham Equine Hoofcare Professional** <https://www.facebook.com/MattFordhamEquineHoofcare> (who most of you will know from this angle



and in-depth loving from the beautiful and amazing Sinead from Boyne Equine Health. <https://www.facebook.com/boyneequine>



The faces say it ALL

Outs

So this section is called “ins AND outs” and though we ultimately have to say goodbye to all of our guests one way or another, even when it’s a happy ending for our re-homed guests, parting is such “sweet sorrow”. (Thanks William for allowing me to use your phrase). Duncan was a favourite here and acquired a few befitting nicknames. (But he’s asked for privacy and I’ll only divulge one - Spunky Dunky, Slam Dunk, Duncasaurus – oops – that’s three – oh well 🤔)

After much ruminating and chin-scratching, Duncan was paired with his forever home humans Frank and Nikky -



HHH Duncan



Off to a great start – I see trust here 🤍



There he goes!



Sigh – my forever home 🤍

So now it's time to find a forever home for some more guests. This time it's a little different as we have two guests ready who we would love to go together. HHRaddison (22yo Clydie x TB 16.3hh) and HHHBarky (20yo Australia Draft 16.1hh).

These sweet boys are so well-handled and well-behaved. Both are fantastic to float, feed, and farrier and ADORE people. Raddison is saddle and harness trained but he would not be up for any hard work. Some light trail rides and light harness work would be OK. Barky is great at long reining and loves going through obstacle courses – he is not saddle-trained. Barky can be a little iffy being caught some days, and other days he's all over you like a heavy horse on molasses cake!!

If you would like to give these two boys a caring and kind home, please apply via this dedicated link <https://forms.office.com/r/pVNPkKJx6U>

Their fee will be \$1500 for the both of them and you will need to come and meet them before decisions are made. We do not rehome site unseen.

Our guests are rehomed under a signed Deed. We are happy to send you a copy to read before you make your decision. Email to info@heavyhorseheaven.com.au

Karen Hood

President and Founder

HHH – Where their new life begins.



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

Taking the Leap

“Taking the Leap” is a new regular section of Hoofbeat Herald that will discuss the responsibilities of providing a new forever home for an HHH Guest. This first chapter will give an overview of considerations. From next month, we will explain the “whys” with a more specific focus – starting with “Financial Resources.”

So, before you leap to give a home to an HHH Guest, honestly assess your ability to provide for their long-term needs and consider the following:

1. **Financial Resources:** Feeding, veterinary care, equipment, unanticipated costs.
2. **Facilities:** Adequate pasture, safe sheltering, secure fencing, and access to water.
3. **Time Commitment:** Daily care, exercise, social interaction, and health monitoring.
4. **Long-Term Commitment:** Lifespan, future circumstances.
5. **Personal Suitability:** Experience, physical capabilities, emotional readiness.

Important Note: If you're considering providing a home for an HHH guest, it's crucial to:

- **Thoroughly research the breed:** Understand the specific needs and characteristics of your potential new family member.



- **Visit HHH:** It is a requirement to meet your new pal first, but also take the time to learn about their history and temperament.



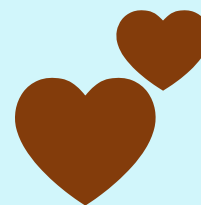
- **Consult with experienced heavy horse owners and professionals:** Seek advice from veterinarians, farriers, and experienced heavy horse owners.



Bringing an HHH guest into your life can be incredibly rewarding, but it's a significant responsibility. By carefully considering these factors, you can ensure you're making an informed decision that's best for both you and them.

A Happy Ever After Story at HHH

This is a typical scenario at HHH. The former guest has asked to remain unnamed for his privacy.



Support Stable

Making a Difference at Heavy Horse Heaven

This space is usually reserved for the special, rare, unique, selfless, generous, and downright extraordinary individuals affectionately known around here as 'the vols.' They dedicate their time, enduring both searing heat and freezing cold, to provide love, patience, and affection to our heavy guests. This care is truly special and deeply appreciated.

This month, we planned to chat with some of the committee members. However, we'll postpone the interviews until after the holiday season has completely subsided and everyone has returned to their normal routines.

Join the HHH Family

You know by now that volunteering with Heavy Horse Heaven isn't just about helping heavies with needs. It's as much about experiencing the incredible satisfaction of making a positive impact on their lives.

Ready to Get Involved?

Contact Karen at info@heavyhorseheaven.com.au or apply directly through our website to join this merry band: <https://www.heavyhorseheaven.com.au/volunteer>





Did you know?

Degenerative Suspensory Ligament Desmitis (DSLID).

What it is:

It's a painful and debilitating disease that affects horses.

Ligaments are stretchy bands that connect the bones. They keep the joints stable to allow movement. Horses have one called the suspensory ligament, and it's important for supporting their fetlocks (joints above their hooves). It's like a sling that keeps their legs from bending too far.

Sometimes this ligament gets messed up in horses. It's called Degenerative Suspensory Ligament Desmitis, or DSLID. Basically, the ligament starts to break down and weaken over time.

Symptoms:

- Lameness: Lameness can develop gradually, often affecting both front legs, both back legs, or even all four.
- Dropped Fetlocks: their fetlocks appear to sag or drop downwards.
- Uncomfortable Movement: They may have difficulty getting up and down, exhibit stiffness, or avoid certain movements.

Cause:

- Genetics: Some breeds are more predisposed to DSLID, but it can occur in any breed.
- Age: Older horses are more susceptible to developing the condition.
- Overuse: Strenuous exercise or heavy workload can increase the stress on the ligament.

Treatment:

While there's no cure for DSLID, veterinarians can focus on managing the condition and improving the horse's comfort. This may involve:

- Rest: Allowing adequate time for the ligament to heal.
- Pain Medication: Administering pain relievers to alleviate discomfort.
- Therapeutic Interventions: Utilizing therapies such as massage, cold therapy, and shockwave therapy.
- Supportive Shoeing: Employing specialized shoeing to provide additional support to the leg.

Prognosis

DSLID can be a challenging condition to manage. In some cases, the disease may worsen over time. In severe instances, humane euthanasia may be necessary.

References and further reading:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Degenerative_suspensory_ligament_desmitis

<https://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/lab/corl/dslid-information-page/>

<https://www.petmd.com/horse/conditions/musculoskeletal/degenerative-suspensory-ligament-desmitis-dslid-horses>

<https://madbarn.com/degenerative-suspensory-ligament-desmitis-in-horses/?srsltid=AfmBOorXAYZqYGUabsQE6u3yW5UmvuRvGEDx1wGT1e-crknQgnhxFoBH>

continued on last page...

February Reader Puzzle

$$\img alt="horse" data-bbox="61 116 158 174"/> + \img alt="horse" data-bbox="271 116 368 174"/> + \img alt="horse" data-bbox="484 116 581 174"/> = 30$$

$$\img alt="horse" data-bbox="61 347 158 405"/> + \img alt="hooves" data-bbox="271 347 368 405"/> + \img alt="hooves" data-bbox="484 347 581 405"/> = 18$$

$$\img alt="hooves" data-bbox="61 571 158 629"/> - \img alt="boots" data-bbox="271 571 368 629"/> = 2$$

$$\img alt="boot" data-bbox="61 791 138 849"/> + \img alt="horse" data-bbox="251 791 348 849"/> \times \img alt="hooves" data-bbox="454 791 551 849"/> = ?$$

Next Month

We may have some more guests ready to move on to their forever homes. We'd hoped to share some views some committee members this month but circumstances and all-round availability got a little in the way. We will bring you some committee views next month.



Insta: @heavyhorseheaven

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/heavyhorseheaven>

<https://www.heavyhorseheaven.com.au/> Email:

info@heavyhorseheaven.com.au

Heavy Horse Heaven – Where their new life begins. ABN 44 633 482 954

References and further reading on DSLD:

<https://thehorse.com/1124890/updates-on-dsld-in-horses/>

<https://bmcvetres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1746-6148-2-12>

<https://practicalhorsemanmag.com/health/understanding-degenerative-suspensory-ligament-desmitis-dsld/>

<https://content.scootboots.com/blogs/blog/what-is-degenerative-suspensory-ligament-disease-and-what-can-i-do-about-it-scoot-boots>

<https://equipodiatry.com/news/dsld.htm>