

A Note From Camp Lookout

Recently Camp Lookout has received some negative press regarding the care of some of our horses.

We would like to share the facts, our sources of these facts, and invite those with further concerns to contact Don Washburn, Director of Camp Lookout, for further conversation.

Over the past 12 years, we have cared for 5-8 horses at any given time.

Our Veterinarian, Dr. Michael White (out of Ringgold), sees our horses a minimum of 2 times a year. He is also in conversation and consultation with our staff on how to deal with other issues as they arise. We also have a farrier who provides care of hooves (and at times other issues he is certified to treat) on a regular 6-8 week cycle.

Our staff, along with several volunteers, care for our horses.

Several of our current 7 horses are aging, and one had several health issues since we acquired them through a lease program, which turned out to be a purchase.

This year, three of our horses had problems keeping on weight. We took the following actions:

- Consulted with our vet.
- Fenced in new pasture area to separate from the stronger horses and provide better grazing. This also provided the opportunity to rotate fields being used to keep healthier grass for grazing.
- Provided prescribed amount of senior feed two times a day.
- Provided hay, water, and mineral blocks.
- Made sure all fields had natural shelter provided by trees.

A complaint of concern was registered with the State of Georgia Agriculture (this is the agency that looks over these concerns). An agent from the state of Georgia and Walker County made an onsite visit. They concluded the horses were not abandoned, abused, or neglected. The State of Georgia representative supported the above description, that the horses had plenty of trees for shelter, plenty of grass for grazing, as well as hay, water, minerals, and supplementary food.

Our vet was scheduled for an evaluation of the horses that same week. He was also scheduled to provide their immunizations, worming, and general check-ups. Again, we had already been in conversation with Dr. White about the weight issue.

The State Representative suggested a horse rescue as an option for their care. This special place could give the horses of that age and health conditions more focused attention and help them with their weight loss issues. It was our decision to pass these horses on to a rescue.

We decided this was a good option for these animals. It would be a place where they would receive more specialized care and aid in their recovery if possible. We contacted the horse rescue facility and inquired if they were interested; we were not ordered to surrender the horses. Again, our care for these horses, as witnessed by the State Agriculture Representative and our Veterinarian, is in line with what most horses receive. As well, both of these experts (when asked after the negative press came to light) supported their statements that there was no neglect, abandonment, or abuse of these horses.

If you have further questions, please contact Don Washburn at don@camplookout.com or (706) 820-1163.