



# Turning Pointe Donkey Rescue

Quarterly Newsletter  
Summer 2005

## Hyperlipidemia and Hepatic Lipidosis (Fatty Liver)

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In the last newsletter, you were able to determine if your donkey was overweight. Although the risk of hyperlipidemia and "Fatty Liver" is present for all donkeys, ponies and miniature horses, those individuals that are obese are at the greatest risk of developing the problem. Other predisposing factors are: stress, concurrent disease, parasites, late gestation or early lactation. Concurrent diseases are often such conditions such as diarrhea, endotoxemia, kidney disease and neonatal septicemia, but any problem that causes the individual to stop or reduce their food intake puts the individual at risk of hyperlipidemia.

When hyperlipidemia occurs, the clinical signs may occur acutely and include jaundice, lack of appetite, weakness, depression that may range from mild to severe, incoordination, diarrhea, mild colic, fever, ventral swelling, and recumbency. In very severe cases, sudden death may occur due to severe fatty infiltration of the liver, rupture of the liver and fatal hemorrhage. However, one must remember that the primary predisposing problem may overshadow the hyperlipidemia.

Therefore, any time a donkey, miniature horse or pony has a reduced appetite, hyperlipidemia must be considered, monitored and treated. To determine if hyperlipidemia is playing a part in the current medical problem, serum triglyceride levels need to be measured. Normal serum levels should be less than 85 mg/dl, but may be increased to up to 300 mg/dl in healthy pregnant animals. However, if these individuals become inappetent, they are at risk of developing hyperlipidemia. Once triglyceride levels exceed 500 mg/dl, the blood/serum takes on an opalescent appearance. Liver enzyme levels will be increased; while glucose, BUN and albumin will be decreased.

Treatment is aimed at early recognition of both the initiating cause and hyperlipidemia. The sooner both are recognized, the better the outcome. It is important to keep a positive energy balance in individuals at risk (donkeys, ponies, miniature horses) of developing hyperlipidemia. If they cannot be encouraged to consume adequate calories orally, they need to be hospitalized and placed on a constant infusion of IV dextrose along with close monitoring of blood glucose levels. If an individual is not eating at all, partial parenteral nutrition may be required. If the gastrointestinal tract is normal, but the individual is just not interested in eating, a stomach tube may be placed and some nutrition can be given orally. Insulin has also been used successfully to augment therapy.

However, despite aggressive treatment, the prognosis for individuals suffering from hyperlipidemia is guarded to poor. Reports in the literature, range from 60% to 100% mortality. Therefore, prevention is the best treatment. Provide adequate nutrition, but closely monitor your donkey's body condition to prevent obesity. Provide good routine health care and promptly treat any medical problems. Finally, minimize stressful conditions whenever possible. Activity goes a long way to control weight gain. Allow your donkeys to enjoy exercise as a means to control weight gain and reduce the risk developing hyperlipidemia.

*Note:* The fall newsletter will discuss another complication of obesity - laminitis (founder)

What's New?


- Thanks to everyone who has new donkeys in their barn. In less than a year, Turning Pointe Donkey Rescue (TPDR) continues to find loving, caring homes for our long-cared friends.






Adopter	Donkey/s Name
Jill and Mike Dwyer	Eddie and Earl
Erica Calbert	Rueben
Kristin Cansiglio	Emmet and Farley
Donna Sarns	Luke, Larry Whitlow, and He's the Berries
Michelle De Lash and Susan Smith	Little Richard
Dr. Tammy Starr	Arthur
Michelle Hardesty	Jed and Dugan
Jill Grant	Cody (Myles)
Barbara Workman	Muddy Buddy
Mike and Cheryl Webber	Run and Re-run
Cammie Cavanaugh	Louise and Eeyore
Megan Ann and Ellen Reese	Duffy
Chris Wilson	Julio
Mike and Sue Accoe	Joe and Wille
Dofores Rizza	Meg

- Come visit our website!

Thanks to Chris Wilson, proud owner of Julio and Fed, we now have a website. We may be a little biased, but we are under the opinion that Chris did an outstanding job when she created our website. We can now provide you with up-to-date information on donkey's available for adoption, educational information and links, paperwork related to adoptions, and just fun letters on how our donkeys are doing in their new homes. In addition, if you have misplaced a newsletter and would like to review it, just check it out on the web at: [www.turningpointedonkeyrescue.com](http://www.turningpointedonkeyrescue.com)

- **Donkeys available for adoption:**

Donkey name/s	Pertinent comments
<p>Joni</p> 	<p>Joni is a young (4-5 years old), brown, standard jennet that is very sweet and appreciates any attention paid to her, but is still a little apprehensive when approaching someone that she doesn't know. However, with each passing day, she is becoming more and more social. She loves treats and readily demands her grain in the morning. Joni leads, loads and ties. She was a little worried about the farrier and for everyone's safety, she was tranquilized for her first foot trim. However, since that time she is quite comfortable having her front legs and feet handled. She is still somewhat apprehensive about the hind feet being picked up, but will allow her hind legs to be handled. For more information, contact Judy at 517-712-0506</p>

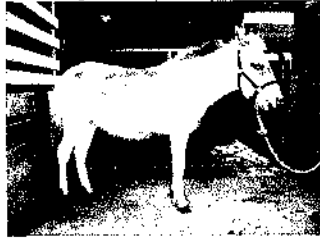
<p>Jill</p> 	<p>Jill is a shy, mature, grey, standard jennet that is about 6-7 years old. She needs someone with plenty of time, patience and an understanding of equine behavior. She leads, ties and loads, but is difficult to catch without a lot of patience and treats. She is apprehensive about her feet and legs being handled. Therefore, for everyone's safety, Jill was tranquilized for her first trimming with us - which she desperately needed. Jill gets along well with other donkeys and would make a good companion for another donkey or horse. For more information, call Judy at 517-712-0506</p>
<p>Willie</p> 	<p>Baxter</p>  <p>. Willie and Baxter are two standard geldings that were donated to TPDR as their owner was leaving the state and was unable to take them along. They need to be adopted as a pair and go to a home that has plenty of equine experience. Baxter is a very nice donkey, but is reluctant to be caught. While Willie tries to dominant the situation</p>
<p>Polly</p> 	<p>Polly is a very sweet, 20-year-old, mini jennet that came to us very thin with a very rough hair coat. With a lot of good green grass, and deworming, she is coming along nicely. She needs some dental work, which will be done shortly now that she is looking better and gaining weight. She gets along with everyone, loves treats, and would make a great companion for another equine senior citizen. She is a dream to work around as she leads, ties, loads easily and is good for the farrier. For more information, contact Judy at 517-712-0506.</p>
<p>Ruth</p> 	<p>Ruth is a gorgeous black standard 6-year-old jennet. Ruth has a kind heart, but it is so overshadowed by her fear and distrust of humans that she MUST go to a very patient, kind, loving, knowledgeable home. One must be able to give her unconditional love with out any expectations. For more information, contact Sharon Windsor at 517-623-0000</p>

Raven



Raven is a beautiful, standard, brown jennet that has a temperament to match. She came to the rescue from a kill pen at an auction and through the devoted care of the rescues president, MSU veterinarians, and many generous financial donations, Raven today is doing very well. She will likely always have problems with her left front leg, but with proper foot care gets around without trouble and loves to run and play with her turn-out buddies. For more information, contact Sharon at 517-623-0000

Cloudy



Cloudy is a 3 year old, spotted red roan gelded mule that is about 11 hands. He leads, ties, is very good for the farrier, and would make a great driving and/or riding prospect. However, like many mules, he is not too thrilled with injections, but does not kick or bite - just tries to leave the scene. For more information, call Tia at 810-797-2229

Rod Stewart



Rod Stewart is about a 9 month old, spotted, standard gelding that TPDR rescued from an auction. Rod and his companion, Meg, were huddled against the wall of their pen at the auction and were visibly shaken by their surroundings. TPDR purchased both Rod and Meg. At his foster home, with each passing day, Rod is becoming more loving and self assured. May his spirit remain "Forever Young" For more information, contact his foster mom, Sue Snyder at 269-209-3578, or email [ssnyder@waltersdimmick.com](mailto:ssnyder@waltersdimmick.com)

Levi



Levi is a 2 year old spotted gelding. He is 47 inches tall. He comes when called, loves attention. Levi leads and ties. Levi was not handled his first 2 years, and in a very short time he has become a very social donkey. Levi will make a great trail donkey someday. Levi is currently living with a llama, 11 lambs, 7 ewes, and a Donkey. Levi needs someone who will just take a few minutes with him, to get to know him, and he will warm right up to you. For more information, contact Toni for more info @ 269-792-1438 or 269-838-5551

Oh Woe Are We!



Dude – one year old, miniature gelding  
 Pal – one year old, miniature jennet  
 Dexter – one year old, miniature gelding  
 Toby – one year old, miniature gelding

Found in a rear pen at the sale bar, these four little waifs had travelled many miles to reach their destination. They were in a frightful condition both physically and emotionally. When TPDR first saw them, they were ravenously devouring the poor quality hay provided by the sales barn. It was evident to TPDR that these four babies were unfamiliar with a kind human touch. Their panic at being approached was very evident. They are currently living with TPDR's president. Thru' the efforts of TPDR's veterinarians, Sharon and their new foster homes, they are on their way to recovery both emotionally and physically. For more information, contact Sharon Windsor at 517-623-0000.

- TPDR appreciates the support of all our members. Their generosity and selflessness in improving donkey welfare is extraordinary. Benefactors deserving special praise & thanks are:

<b>TPDR Supporter</b>	<b>In appreciation for:</b>
John Hodson	Donating postage; also collected donations at his business for Raven's care.
MI Mule and Jack Assoc.	For their generous financial donation
Mike Accoe	Donation of Kent Feed
Tia Bonkowski, CPA	For volunteering to keep the TPDR financial records and her tireless effort of visiting potential foster homes and coordinating the website information
Melissa German	Providing legal assistance
Ellen Dahlstet	Her continued generous support of TPDR on multiple fronts.
Doreen Tousley	Making Arthur's feet beautiful before going to his new home.
Martha Spees	Foster home for Polly
Perry Miller	Finding donkeys in need and donating board for the donkeys until they could be brought home to TPDR
Chris Wilson	The development of our website, which is outstanding!!
Bill Lute	His continuing & greatly appreciated support of TPDR..
Dana Nuest, DVM - IN	Her surgical expertise and helping us create "new & improved" donkeys ready for adoption.
Leah Patton	Her continued support of TPDR with her poetry and excellent layouts for the advertisements placed in the Brayer.
Chuck and Lynn Ward	Locating Cloudy for the rescue
Eileen McKee	Transportation and fostering of Dexter and Toby
Toni Jones	Fostering and socialization of Levi and transportation of TPDR donkeys to their new home
Tracy Hunt	Financial donation
Kaleena Smith	Scrapbook for the Stallion Expo – at the MSU Pavilion
Amy Sharmon-Burgdolf	Fostering Pal
John and Beth Zaro	Financial donation

Phil and Cynthia Knapp	Opening their barn to initially foster Polly, Joni and Jill when they first arrived
Ken and Carol Strobel	Financial donation
Dierdre Hunt	Donation of pottery donkey items for sale by the rescue

➤ Thanks for donated donkeys:

Donkey donator	Name of donkey
Kathy Rolf	Ruth
Lori Dobbelaire	Baxter and Willie

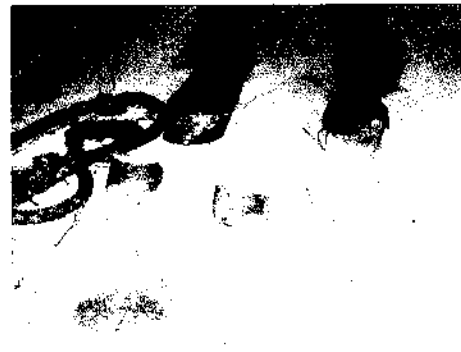
- Thanks for visiting our booth at the Stallion Expo in E. Lansing this spring. We had a very successful expo with being 9 donkeys adopted.
- Make sure to visit us at the North American Horse Spectacular in Novi - November 11-13, 2005. We are looking forward to being in the new Expo Center – so, please come visit us!
- Do you have a desire to help and some extra time?
  - Are you a great organizer with some extra time? We are in need of a volunteer coordinator.
  - If you have several hours to help *man* the TPDR booth and “talk donkeys” to Expo visitors, please call Sue at 269-209-3578.
  - Enjoy working with equine and have an extra stall or two? Consider becoming a foster home for a donkey that may need a temporary home prior to adoption.

With a sad heart!



It is with a sad heart that we say goodbye to our beloved friend and donkey owner, Mary Lou Daniels. On July 7, 2005 Mary Lou lost her brief fight with cancer. Her gentle, kind and compassionate nature will be remembered by all she touched during her all too brief stay on earth. Anyone wishing to make a donation in remembrance of Mary Lou should make it to the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division-Gratiot Area, P.O. Box 30280, Lansing, MI 48909.

➤ What a Rescue is all about!



**RUTH** is a gorgeous black standard 6 year old jennet that was donated to TPDR with multiple problems. The most visible were her extremely over grown feet, the most serious and also the invisible problem is the fear she carries with her from past cruelty. TPDR's farrier Jan Chieffi solved Ruth's foot problems, the problems that beautiful Ruth carries in her heart will more than likely never fully resolve. At Ruth's trimming, Judy Marteniuk, DVM administered a tranquilizer/pain medication and Ruth's extra feet had to be removed with an electric saw before Jan could attempt to trim her feet. The tranquilizer was administered to Ruth for the safety of Ruth's caregivers and Ruth. Ruth will need to be tranquilized for her trimmings in the near future, but with time may or may not become trusting enough to be trimmed without medication. For the past year, Ruth lived with some very kind people who tried their best to gain her confidence and trust, but were unfamiliar with donkeys and were afraid that she would hurt them. The grandfather in Ruth's last family, who was a World War II veteran would visit Ruth daily. He would tell her stories of his time in World War II. But Ruth would not listen. She would stand at the far corner of her pen, never once looking at him. She was remembering her own war stories. Ruth has a kind heart, but it is so overshadowed by her fear and distrust of humans that she **MUST** go to a very patient, kind, loving, knowledgeable home. One must be able to give her unconditional love with out any expectations.

#### Letters Received:



Hi Sue,

I sure hope I did this right and you get these pictures of Cody with my oldest grandson Brennen. I had 2 of my grandsons for the weekend and it was the first time they had seen Cody....they too fell in love with him. My youngest grandson Jordon (3)(Brennens little brother) is afraid of the horses as well as the ponies, but because Cody is so mellow, he was not afraid, he actually told me he "loved" Cody!! So maybe in time we can get him to ride Cody, when we get him saddle ready. He is doing great and I fall in love with him more everyday!!! He loves for me to just sit and talk with him, he seems like he can't get close enough. I thought the one day he was gonna get right in my lap!!!

Have you talked at all with the Webbers? How are they doing with Run and Rerun? I'm sure after a few days they were feeling more at ease and getting into Equine ownership!! What a great life it is! Everyone I know is sending me Donkey jokes, so I have decided to collect them!! Some of them are really funny, and they mostly make the donkey sound like the intelligent creature that he is!

Well, I will let you go. I sure hope I did it right and these pictures get to you, they are so cute.

Cody sends his love and donkey kisses!!!

Jill

Hi Sue:

Just wanted to update you about "our little Buddy!" I can't begin to tell you how wonderful he is and he is everything we could have ever wanted. For the first two days in the pasture, he and Pooh were in the same pasture together. And on both days, together, they managed to get the gate pulled off the hinge and escape into the big pasture with the others. Never, never have any of the animals managed to do this. Buddy appears to be the resident "magician donkey."

Today, I let them all out together, a little worried about Bubba, 40" of party pony, with an attitude and also head of the herd. Well, he finally realized that Buddy was a trained martial arts donkey and can take care of himself, and besides that, its harder to get to two than one moving target.

Buddy and Pooh are bonded. Pooh is showing Buddy all around, whenever you see Pooh, everyone knows that Buddy is only two steps behind! My daughter referred to them as bookends because they are always together. At night, Buddy even runs into Pooh's stall. Tomorrow they will begin rooming together.

As much as I love all my animals, Buddy has brought something special to our home. He is such a happy sweetie. We just love him!!!

He comes to his name, he doesn't bother anyone unless provoked, which is happening less and less. Cowboy, the quarter horse, likes to play and tease him, Candy with issues, our little mare, just fusses over him and keeps Bubba at bay, and, of course, Pooh.

The ending of the story is that Pooh finally has his Buddy and Buddy has a home where everyone treats him "special". I can honestly say, Buddy was meant for us and If there are truly miracles, than Buddy coming to us is truly a miracle.

Love is meant to be passed along and the love you and your family gave Buddy is coming full circle to us. Thank you so much for our little Buddy. Talk to you soon. Barbara

*Sue,*

*Hope you have been enjoying the nice spring weather. All our snow, except for snow banks, is now gone. It is sooooo nice.*

*Wanted to let you know that everything here is fine - the donkeys are great! We took a walk yesterday, 2 donkeys, 1 horse and 1 goat. Beetle got a little "rodeo" - trotted and kicked a little, totally his idea. Was funny, he is just feeling good. Saw him lay down for the first time yesterday and take a nap. They both seem very comfortable.*

*Both Beetle and Millie stare at the cabin if they think it is time to be fed and we have not accommodated them yet. My husband loves Millie. She will walk anywhere with him and he is trying to teach her to talk on command. My husband has worked on both of their feet, with no problem. We are really, really enjoying them.*

*Will keep you posted! Have a good week.*

*Becky Curtis*