



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With *Your* Help...We *Will* Make a Difference!

2012 Quarterly Newsletter

October, November & December

Second Annual Stallion to Gelding Day 2012

By Anne Ensminger

Did we have a BEAUTIFUL day for our second annual Stallion to Gelding Day held on November tenth?!! YES we did! We are happy to report that the event was a HUGE success!

I remember very well the first time I was introduced to the concept of a clinic where stallion owners would transport their horses to a central location, then each horse would be fully anesthetized before undergoing the castration procedure. After the surgery and a relatively short period of recovery from the anesthetic, the animals would then be transported back home with the owners having been instructed concerning how to provide post surgical care. My long professional history with made me doubt the Now that I have witnessed the castration past two years, I am convinced it is a safe and sound method of birth control for many horses. What do I tell stallion owners? The bottom line is that there are too many horses in Georgia, (in comparison to the number of owners willing and able to care for them). The price of horses is at an all time LOW. This can be attributed to the oversupply and the low demand. This can be simply as "supply and demand". Who could not have ownership in the past, responsible for the care of these wonderful animals. These horse owners, unfortunately, have no idea HOW to care for a horse, nor do they have the necessary financial resources. This is a very BAD situation for horses. GERL has witnessed the starvation, mistreatment, and abandonment of many of these unfortunate animals.



Drs. Dan Carter and Billy Myers of Countryside Animal Hospital pose with UGA vet students over their last patient.

surgery and anesthesia witnessed total success in over 239 stallions over the years. I am satisfied that this is an effective way to prevent foals facing an uncertain future. The bottom line is that there are simply too many horses in our COUNTRY! as a result of responsible horse ownership, the price of horses is at an all time low, directly attributed to the oversupply and the low demand. Many people, possibly enjoying horse ownership now find themselves with one or more of these

In an effort to reduce the number of horses bred and born each year, GERL is attacking the problem from the ground up. We are seeking to encourage stallion owners to geld their animals before they ever have a chance to reproduce. We are very aware that we end up financially helping many stallion owners who would geld their stallions anyway but we are happy to do that in order to reach those who, because of the cost of the procedure, would keep their male horses intact and allow them to indiscriminately produce offspring.

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Second Annual Stallion to Gelding Day 2012



It was donkey day for King Equine Service. Dr. Logan King came with 2 Vet students and his wife Melissa King. Other volunteers Nezlee Blaylock Pillow, Paulette Rae T Wallace, Kimberly Grimes Brush, Mike Rogers and others.



Dr. Cook and UGA students working on the Percheron stallion. — with Georgia Equine Rescue League at Central Georgia Equine Services, Inc.



Second Annual Stallion to Gelding Day 2012

Last year (2011), GERL paid half of the cost of gelding 98 stallions on our "Stallion to Gelding Day" in November. We were able to enlist the services of twelve veterinarians state wide to make that event possible. Each veterinarian agreed to perform the surgery for \$100.00. GERL paid half, and the stallion owner paid half. GERL also paid for the anesthetic drugs. This year (2012), we successfully enlisted the services of sixteen veterinarians and we were able to see one hundred forty one stallions castrated!

We are tremendously grateful to each of the participating veterinarians, their staffs, vet students and instructors from the UGA School of Veterinary Medicine, as well as many GERL volunteers who came together to make this possible. An additional benefit of this year's event came in the form of a researcher from Berry College, Dr. Caires, and his Research Assistant, Rachel Lemche who attended a couple of our clinics to obtain tissue for a stallion fertility project. Testicular tissue obtained during our Castration Day was collected and submitted to this project by other participating veterinarians as well.

We have several members who regularly contribute to our Stallion to Gelding Program. They embrace and stand behind our dedication to this mission. We are very grateful to each of them.



A UGA student preps her surgery case.— with Alexandria Byas, Elodie Huguet and Georgia Equine Rescue League

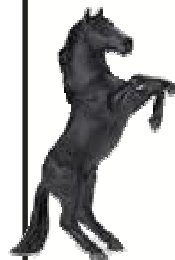
In addition, GERL is extremely grateful to have been awarded a ten thousand dollar grant from the ASPCA in support of this project. We are very pleased that an organization of such importance to animals in our country understands and agrees with our commitment to the welfare of horses, not only through rescue, but by taking steps to reduce the number of unwanted horses.

GERL plans to hold our state wide Castration Day in November of each year. The growth and success of the event will be directly proportionate to the number of veterinarians who agree to participate and accept a reduced fee for their services. We hope that each of them feels the extreme gratitude of Georgia Equine Rescue League. Below are a list of the equine vets across the state who participated:

Dr. Ava Talmage, Amicalola Veterinary Services, Canton
 Dr. Michael White, Crossroads Equine Veterinary Services, Ringgold
 Dr. Ross Kittrell and Dr. Rhonda Veit, New South Equine Medicine, Watkinsville
 Dr. Billy Myers & Dr. Dan Carter, Countryside Animal Hospital, Jersey
 Dr. Lois Lassiter, Budget Vet, Conyers
 Dr. Logan King, King Equine Vet Services, McDonough
 Dr. Wanda Thompson, Royston Animal Hospital, Royston
 Dr. Patricia Barnes, Union County Pet Hospital, Blairsville
 Dr. Jennifer Gardner, Gardner Veterinary Services, Meansville
 Dr. Charlene B. Cook, Central Georgia Equine Services, Fort Valley
 Drs. William and Jennifer Baker, Equine Associates, Hawkinsville
 Dr. Katie Lott Ellis, Jacksonville Equine Associates, Jacksonville, FL
 Dr. Robin Barrow, Barrow Veterinary Services, Social Circle
 Dr. Chandra Moxan, Barnesville Animal Clinic, Barnesville
 Dr. Melissa Henn, Shamrock Pet Care, Dublin
 Dr. Alex Greenberg, Cairo Animal Hospital, Cairo

**GERL Stallions to
Gelding Program.**

**Stallions Gelded
To Date By
GERL: 316**





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Marks on Our Hearts

By Debora Hines

This is the story of Cody and how horses that we don't even know, can touch our hearts and make us want to do more.

Cody's owners are in their middle 60's. The husband is on disability and his wife lost her job a few years earlier when the company she worked for went out of business. Living on the income from odd jobs here and there, the wife injured her back and is now unable to work. They needed help.

The horse, Cody lived in a roughly 3/4 acre area behind their home. The family believed Cody had injured his face earlier this year on fencing and was suffering from a severe infection. They had been administering Tucoprim in powder form until the horse seemed well. Months later, the infection came back with a vengeance. They tried to give Cody Penicillin shots but, by this time, Cody would not allow the upper portion of his face/body to be touched. All of this transpired over an 8 month time frame.

Because of their financial situation, they were reluctant to call a vet or ask for help until Cody's condition became critical, hence the call to GERL. I knew the moment I laid eyes on him that his condition was serious. With each breath Cody exhaled, the odor was revolting. Few things in life make me sick to my stomach; this was one of those things. Cody's face was enlarged to just below his eyes and down the jaw. He had a continual flow of purulent drainage coming from his nose, his breathing was labored. Cody was in good flesh with only a faint hint of rib beginning to show. He eagerly accepted the carrots his family offered. There were no signs of hay, only leaf litter and pecans in his pasture. I called GERL, received permission to help financially, and then called our vet to come and assess Cody's condition. I went for hay while we waited. Cody was a friendly and affectionate, very pretty Arabian / Appaloosa cross, that had grayed to white over time. He was only 9 yrs old.

Dr. Kidd arrived and her diagnosis was as I feared it would be. A massive tumor in his sinus cavities had advanced too far to be removed and would continue to grow, obstructing what little airway he had left. Cody's family had a difficult decision to make but they made the right choice that day to end Cody's suffering.

As I left, the family thanked me for coming and caring enough to help them and Cody. We hugged and I drove away. Cody has left a mark on my heart that will linger for years to come, I have no doubt. Even in the midst of pain and misery, this once beautiful creature, disfigured from his terrible infection, still chose to trust humans until that final moment. What a gift horses truly are to us.

Thank you GERL for making a difference in the lives of many horses and their owners.

Get Well Wishes for Devin Dees

Devin, your GERL family is praying for your complete recovery as you continue a lifelong and courageous battle with the hand you were dealt at birth. We know that you have had another surgical procedure recently and that you have been a very sick boy. We also pray for your father, Brian Dees, and your grandmother, Liz Dees, as they remain by your side in Intensive Care. This is not new to you, or to them. You have had multiple serious surgeries in your short life but have always bounced back and continued to be the fine young man that many of us know and love. We hope to see you back on the trail very soon!

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**Call or email for deadlines.*

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William Baker, DVM - Jennifer Baker, DVM

To report a case of equine abuse, call the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Division

Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

(404) 656-3713 or (800) 282-5852

If you would like GERL to assist with an
Equine Abuse case call (770) 464-0138

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GERL ANNOUNCES NEW FOSTER COORDINATOR!

You may remember that we just announced in the last newsletter that Cindy Farris had taken the position of Foster Coordinator from Becky Gregory. However, Cindy is having some serious health issues at this time and has had to step down from this role for a few months.

So, the search began to find someone who would be willing to jump in and help cover the position until Cindy is better. We found the guy! His name is Tommy Wilson and yes, he is related to Ruth Wilson, our Adoption Coordinator! How about that for cozy? These two roles work together very closely, which should be a great perk for GERL.

Tommy will be getting acquainted with all of the foster homes and Area Coordinators as he get himself accustomed to our system. Please welcome Tommy to his new position when he calls!

GEORGIA DAY OF THE COWBOY WITH GERL

By Eddy O'Hern—October 6, 2012

Well, we had a great day at the Georgia Day of the Cowboy. There were lots of cowboys and cowgirls, all in authentic western wear. Even the Lone Ranger showed up on Silver.

George Lilley and I got to Rock Ranch, which is west of Forsyth on Friday, Oct. 5th., to get our GERL booth set up. We unloaded Goldie, (George's Golden Haflinger) so she could get used to the area,. Once we where set up, we hitched Goldie up to the surrey and took a ride around the park. We drove through "Tiny Town" and past the petting zoo. Next came the Zip Line where kids of all ages where zipping down a line about 300 yards long from the top of a 16 story tower. We also drove past the Chuck Wagon and caught the scent of some powerfully good smelling fixings being cooked up. Friday evening we went to the Cowboy greeting dinner and had some real good beef stew, green beans, cornbread and some awesome berry cobbler. There was a western band that played all the old cowboy tunes. What a great time we had.



Saturday morning we woke up to a very heavy dew and thick fog. All of our GERL tables and table cloths where soaked so we had to wait until everything dried out before we could get our final set up completed. Our canopy had collected so much condensation that it kept dripping on us until about noon. The sun finally came out and dried everything so we where ready to go by the time folks started coming through. George set up the quick draw targets close to us in an attempt to draw more folks our way. We where able to collect \$23.00 in donations, \$61.00 in merchandise sales and \$35.00 for a new family membership. That may not seem like a lot but every penny counts. With all those Cowboys around, we had a lot of competition for folks attention. The Rock Ranch manager told us that he will be mailing a donation to GERL, so that is still to come.

All day long there were shoot outs, bank robberies and train hold-ups! There was a whole lot of shooting going on and everyone had fun. Ole George is pretty darn good at that quick draw stuff, and he doesn't miss. I was impressed.

We started packing up around 4:00 pm and got on the road to home by about 5:30. We had a great time and will be looking forward to going back next year. George saw some old friends and he and I both made some great new ones. Next year I hope that others in GERL will join us; y'all sure missed out on a treat. Who knows? Maybe next year I will have the all black Frisian I have been wanting and I'll go to the Day of the Cowboy as ZORRO!



GERL ADOPTABLES

For adoption fees and additional information please
contact Ruth Wilson, Adoption Coordinator
(706) 342-4097 / gerladopt@gmail.com



Jessie is a 16 year old chestnut Thoroughbred gelding, 16.2 hh. This good-looking guy is sweet and loves attention; needs an experienced rider. Loads, stands for farrier.



Gable—Formerly known as “Sable,” Gable is a 3 year old bay TBx gelding, 14.1 hh. Great ground manners, stands tied nicely, yields to pressure. Handsome boy with possible hunter/jumper potential. Sweet and willing, Gable has only been under saddle a couple of months and is riding quietly. He is very smart and a quick learner. Only the best adopter will be chosen for THIS special boy!



This is Josey. He is a 25 year old appaloosa gelding, 15.3 hh. Josey is sweet and gentle, and is a great pasture companion. He is retired from trail riding, and could still be lightly ridden. Perfect for leading the grandkids around on his back!



This pretty girl is Rosie! She is the 7 year old daughter of Kyra. Rosie is a chestnut Arab, 14.1 hh. Rosie unfortunately inherited the same defect as her mother, so she is not rideable. But what a pretty pasture ornament and pet!

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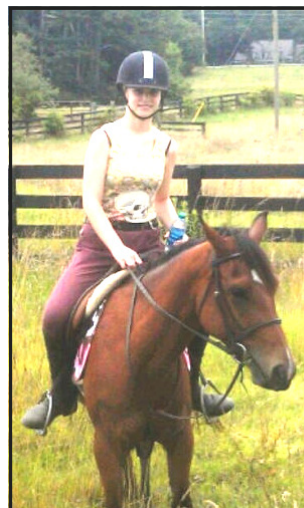
Rocky is an 11 hh yearling. He has a very sweet temperament and is an "in your pocket" pony. He loves attention and spending time with people. His is halter broken and is learning manners very well on the lead line. He is learning to stand quietly for the farrier.



Dakota is an 18 year old Tennessee Walker. He's such a gentleman and still has quite the pep in his step for his age. He was a pleasure riding horse before he was rescued, and has been ridden lightly in his foster home. (Western) He would be better for someone with experience. He is VERY sociable, and gets extremely anxious when left in his stall. He does seem to be uneasy and skiddish around men, but has no problem with women. Very sweet horse, stands well, loads well, and bathes well.



Alf is a 2 year old 13.3hh sorrel gelding with lots of personality! Will probably mature at around 14hh. He's an in-your-pocket kind of horse, and is always the first one to greet you. Alf has completed Parelli Level One horsemanship and is a very quick learner! Extremely curious and playful. Alf has recently started under saddle and is doing GREAT! He responds to pressure, backs, lunges, picks up his feet, and loads on a trailer without a problem. Level headed and has great movement with beautiful smooth gaits. Could go English or Western; lots of hunter/jumper or HUS potential. Alf will be a great horse for a teen or small adult. Whoever adopts this handsome boy will have a terrific equine partner!



Hank -- 5 year old bay QH type pony gelding, 14.1 hh. This handsome fellow is a nice quiet walk-trot pony who would make a great trail mount! He has been professionally trained. Hank needs a smaller rider; he would potentially be a good pony for a confident child.

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Meet Beau! He is a 20 year old black Tennessee Walking Horse gelding, sweet and rideable (light riding only). Beau needs a forever home with lots of love and someone to help build his confidence. He is a bit chunky in his picture, but he is getting into shape and is ready to be your best friend!



Meet Kyra! This beautiful 14 year old Arab mare cannot be ridden due to a congenital deformity of the fetlocks. But she is the sweetest pet and companion you will ever find! If you are looking for a pretty girl to love, Kyra is it!



Grayson is a 5 year old dapple gray pony gelding, 11.2 hh. He is very sweet and quiet with nice ground manners. A real cutie pie! Loads, has great feet. We were told by his previous owners that he is broke to ride, but we have not been able to assess his level of training because, frankly, he is very small.



Gracie is a 9 year old gray pony mare. Sweet, loads nicely. 12.2 hh. We have been told that she is rideable but we have not assessed her training level under saddle.



Buddy is five years old and green broke. He is a sweet boy and just needs someone who has the time and skill to finish his training under saddle. Buddy has great ground manners, loads and loves people! Buddy is a QH type.



Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipes

Christmas Loaf Cake

- ✓ 1 yellow cake mix (NOT pudding in the mix type!)
- ✓ 1 3.4 oz. box instant pistachio pudding mix
- ✓ 4 eggs
- ✓ 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- ✓ 1/4 cup water
- ✓ 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- ✓ 1 cup sour cream (you can use reduced fat)
- ✓ 1 10 oz. jar maraschino cherry halves, well drained
- ✓ 1/4 cup finely chopped pecans
- ✓ 2 TBS. brown sugar
- ✓ 2 tsp. Cinnamon
- ✓ dash nutmeg



Mix pecans, brown sugar, and spices in small bowl, set aside. Preheat oven to 350. In large bowl, combine dry cake mix and dry pudding mix. Beat eggs in separate bowl; add eggs and remaining ingredients (except cherries) to cake mix. Beat with electric mixer or by hand until smooth. Stir in cherries. Spray 2 non-stick loaf pans with cooking spray, or grease and flour two regular loaf pans. Pour batter equally into the 2 pans, sprinkle with pecan topping. Bake for 45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes then remove from pans and cool completely on baker's rack.

You can vary the types of pudding and the types of fruit used. It is DELICIOUS with vanilla pudding and blueberries. Of course the combination of pistachio pudding and cherries give it that Christmas look!

Feed Bag Recipe Submissions

Do you have a wonderful, easy recipe that you would like to share?

Putting On the Feed Bag is a new section in our newsletter and we want your suggestions.

Please submit your recipe to:
recipes@gerlltd.org

2013 GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

January 12, 2013
Annual GERL Business Meeting
Winder, Ga.

March 9, 2013
Poker Ride
Dawsonville, Ga.

Gene Fest
May 3-4 & 5, 2013
Round Oak, Ga

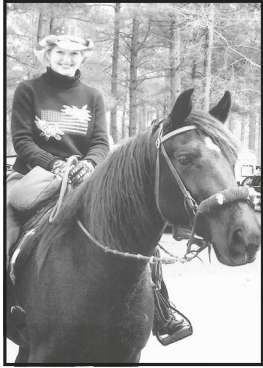
Mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these wonderful events that will benefit GERL. It's a guaranteed great time a benefit for a wonderful cause and a way to see old friends and meet new friends!

Visit our website to download flyers and directions to some of these events.



LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President



the ignorance of people who continue to be responsible for the production of more horses in the face of such an obvious overabundance.

There are over 9.5 million horses in this country and that number is increasing by three hundred thousand every year. There are no firm statistics on how many horses have been abandoned in our state or nationally, however, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is overwhelmed with reports of neglected horses. In just two months, the SPCA has dispersed their stock of hay for the entire year to rescue organizations.

Because GERL supports law enforcement and the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Division, we know firsthand what a problem Georgia is having with horses. Many law enforcement agencies are reaching out to equine rescues for help.

There aren't enough rescues in existence, including GERL, to fix the problems created by 30+ years of rampant, over production of horses! So many horses have fallen into the hands of irresponsible owners, they are suffering starvation and cruelty, and it is very frustrating to realize that the need for intervention

on their behalf cannot possibly be totally met. Please don't get me wrong, there's no better feeling in the world than driving home with two skinny horses on the trailer that have just been given a second chance at life.

The good news is that we CAN fix this problem. It's going to take some time and a lot of effort. I'd like to share with you a plan that I wrote a couple of years ago to get things turned around and moving in the right direction.

This "Get Well Plan" consists of five major parts. One does not work well without the other four. This Plan is not intended to simply rescue a few horses. We have been doing that for years and see no end to the real problem. This plan is designed to reduce the number of horses being produced, stop the cycle of neglect by making horse ownership out of reach for those who would not value them enough to provide at least adequate care, and to make equine owners who fail to provide adequate care, accountable.

Georgia's Get Well Plan:

- A. Slow down reproduction**
- B. Prosecute and Fine Abusers**
- C. Disbursement/Disposal**
- D. Financial**
- E. Education**

Details:

A. Slow down reproduction

◆ Promote Castration

- ✓ Create an annual "Stallion to Gelding" day in Georgia. Partner with University of Georgia (UGA) and the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) to invite numbers of Georgia equine veterinarians to participate in castration clinics all over the state, on the same day, at a greatly reduced price. Part of the cost of castrations at these events will be paid by Georgia Equine Rescue League. UGA vet students and pre-vet students will gain valuable experience as they participate under the supervision of their instructors or a licensed vet. Promote this event through all means available.
- ✓ Education: Introduce this program at horse shows and other equine events via information booths. Here, the public can be introduced to the concept of castration as a means to reduce the number of horses which will increase their value and eventually end the problems caused by over production. Use the GERL newsletter and website, the GDA Market Bulletin, and local newspapers to get the message out.
- ✓ Encourage law enforcement to crack down on abusive horse owners by imposing fines and using their influence to discourage irresponsible breeding practices, i.e. leaving stallions running loose with mares when the owners are unable to care for the offspring produced.

B. Prosecute and Fine

◆ Impose Fines

- ✓ Promote the enforcement of current equine abuse laws.
- ✓ Encourage GDA State Inspectors to reach out to local law enforcement to help enforce the current equine laws when there is no compliance from equine owners.
- ✓ Continue to host multi-county law enforcement meetings across Georgia to educate and train sheriff's deputies and animal control agents about our equine laws, how to gather evidence in a way that will insure successful prosecution of animal cruelty cases, basic horse handling and body scoring.

I feel like I carry my soapbox around with me most of the time. I am always eager to educate people concerning our country's horse problems. The reason I harp on it so much is that I am shocked at

- ✓ Continue to promote and emulate the current process being followed by DeKalb County Animal Welfare and Sheriff's Department to obtain restitution and impose fines for animal abusers.
- ✓ Promote and encourage the prosecution of offenders and implement probation periods during and after which offenders would not be allowed to own horses.

C. Disbursement/Disposal

◆ Triage potential impoundment equine

- ✓ Aged equine or those too young to be rideable impounded by GDA should be sent to equine rescue organizations for care, training, and eventual placement. The reason for this is that the GDA Impoundment Program is not designed to provide long term care. It is designed to rehabilitate and re-home horses as soon as possible. Aged and non rideable horses very often bring no bids at GDA auction sales.
- ✓ Create a "revolving door" program. The cost of rehabilitating a starved horse should run approximately \$600 per horse for a three month period. Horses picked up by GDA or county animal control should remain in their care for a limited amount of time. This includes GERL picking up expenses for vaccinations and castrations. NOTE: The term "impoundment" does not necessarily mean that legal steps were performed in order to pick up a horse.

◆ Make horses more marketable

- ✓ Locate and utilize foster homes where young, green broke or untrained horses can receive appropriate training to ensure that they would be less likely to again end up in a rescue situation.
- ✓ Create a "Train the Trainer" program where local horse trainers are solicited to go to the prison impound(s) one day per month to teach the prisoners in the equine program how to train the impounded horses, making them more marketable. Also solicit local horse trainers to go to the non-prison impounds to work with the horses there. NOTE: this idea is currently on hold.
- ✓ Create a new program similar to "Road to the Horse" – Invite local horse trainers to participate in a weekend event where they demonstrate their abilities in a contest atmosphere, with an audience, to determine the best trainer using impounded, untrained horses.

D. Financial

◆ Grants

- ✓ There are many grants available from many different sources that would help pay for some of the programs offered by GERL to help horse owners. Look into what is available and apply.

◆ Donations

- ✓ Promote GERL and the Georgia Department of Agriculture's (GDA) Equine program to bring more visibility and perhaps secure more funding and donations.
- ✓ Request donations for hay during the summer months when hay is being cut.
- ✓ Request use of dry storage facilities where hay can be stored.
- ✓ Request donations for other needed items for horse care.

◆ Fundraisers

- ✓ Create a "Georgia Road to the Horse" weekend fundraiser with training demonstrations, publicity and examples of different equine breeds, etc., to give more visibility to the plight of horses today and to benefit the various programs being offered to horse owners.
- ✓ Other fundraising ideas should be discussed.

E. Education

◆ Educate the public on caring for equine

◆ Educate the public on the need for castration

- ✓ Sponsor information booths at all equine events to promote encouragement of castration and less breeding of equine.
- ✓ Use the State of Georgia's "Market Bulletin" to get the messages out.
- ✓ Consider using billboards (donated, if possible) to call attention to the problems caused by an overabundance of horses in our country

◆ Educate County Law Enforcement and Animal Control Agencies

- ✓ Encourage their involvement in equine abuse/neglect cases in their county.

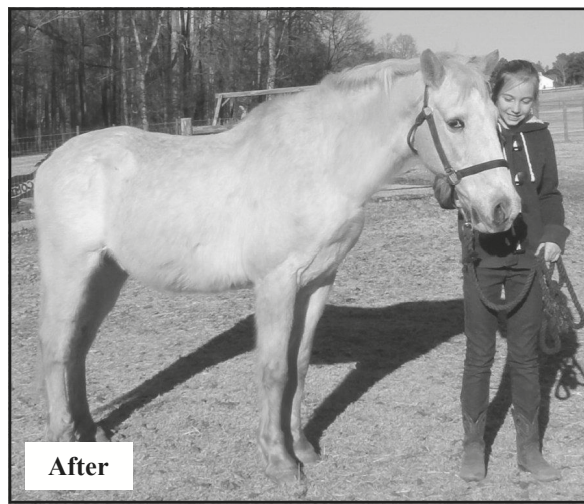
GERL is already busy implementing many of the items listed in this plan. Our newsletters are full of announcements concerning low-cost castration clinics, availability of crisis intervention funds which temporarily help horse owners in need, educational and financial support for law enforcement and animal control agencies, and of course, all possible support for the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Equine Division. And, let me say this about that...this is a long-term plan that we hope other rescues and equine organizations will embrace as a path to make Georgia a shining example and Georgia's horses, the winners!

Feed A Horse Program

Starved and neglected horses impounded by the Georgia Department of Agriculture need your help! Donations will be applied directly towards feed and hay for impounded horses. Currently, the cost for rehabilitating a horse is approximately \$150 per month, per horse.

Make your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation through the Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. "Feed a Horse" program. We need your help so that these horses can live.

Get involved! Ask your friends, family, co-workers and others to help raise money to feed the horses!



I would like to make a donation of:

- ☐ \$150.00 per month for 4 months to rehabilitate one horse.
- ☐ \$600.00 one time donation to rehabilitate one horse.
- ☐ \$_____ per month to help rehabilitate the horses.
- ☐ \$_____ any donation is gladly accepted!

**"Feed a Horse"
Program**

www.gerlltd.org

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Make check payable to:

GERL

Mail to: P.O. Box 328

Bethlehem, GA 30620

THANK YOU!

***Your donation is
tax deductible!***

Update on Lobo and Tyree

By Anne Ensminger

How surprised and delighted I was to receive an email this week with news of two horses GERL held in our Foster Care Program for quite some time. The email was from Shirley Guhl. She and husband, Bob, lovingly cared for two geldings on behalf of GERL, for much longer than they had bargained (with never a complaint).

The beautiful grey and bay geldings were purebred Arabians and well past the age when they should have had some training but this is often the case with rescue horses. People continue to breed their horses just because they have a stallion and a mare. These people rarely have a plan for the future of the resulting foals. When Lobo and Tyree came to GERL, they had experienced very little handling. Thankfully, they had kind dispositions and, if not asked to do anything that they found frightening, they were safe for Bob and Shirley to pet and enjoy having around the farm.

Just as GERL was forming a plan to get some professional training for the two horses so that they might be adopted, along comes Robert Chambliss! He was an answer to the prayers of everyone associated with these two geldings.

Robert is a very experienced horseman. His family owns and operates Sunburst Stables near Clarkesville, GA. Robert and daughter, Jessica, are avid endurance riders and everyone knows that Arabians make the BEST endurance mounts. He and Jessica had both horses under saddle within days of their arrival at his farm. They have gone on to officially adopt both horses and successfully compete with them in their beloved sport. Tyree (now called Slinky) is Robert's usual mount and they recently completed a 50 mile endurance ride where the horse did great.

Bob and Shirley have kept in touch with Robert since he adopted the two geldings and recently paid a visit to his farm

when they were in the area. They could not have been more pleased with the condition of the horses and their progress under Robert's training and care.

It is Robert's feeling that both horses are gentle enough for a beginning rider at this point and Shirley (who is near the "senior citizen" milestone in life), has it on her "bucket list" to ride each of them. Be sure to send pictures, Shirley!



Farewell to Volunteer Coordinator, Jacquelin Twiss

It seems we are always saying thank you and goodbye to someone with whom we have enjoyed working closely. As sad as this is, we must just be grateful that they were willing and able to find and share the time they have already given to GERL. This is the case with Jacquelin Twiss who was not only our Volunteer Coordinator for a time, but also our Merchandise Coordinator. A special bonus that GERL received through Jacquelin was the added services of her husband, Phil.

Jacquelin is quite an organizer and, in that way, she was perfect for both jobs for which she was responsible. In addition, both Jacquelin and Phil are very good "hands" with a horse and spent many hours, over several months, working with one of our more difficult foster horses.

Unfortunately, most people have many obligations which must be met before they can give time to volunteer activities. A busy school teacher, Jacquelin also has a husband, home, horses, and dogs for which to care each day. When she realized that her GERL activities were taking more time than she could afford to give, she felt forced to resign.

Jacquelin, both you and Phil will be missed. We are happy that you will remain members of GERL and we greatly appreciate your help for the time we were able to enjoy.

GERL is actively seeking a replacement for both the Volunteer Coordinator and the Merchandise Coordinator positions. Volunteers are the very backbone of our fund raising events and we cannot be successful without them. This is an extremely important job.

Our GERL trailer must be kept stocked with merchandise which includes several styles and colors of tee shirts, sweat shirts, hats, and jackets. To see that this is done, is the job of the Merchandise Coordinator. It is our intention to separate these two jobs in the future.



Ladies Polo's
S-XL \$18.00
XXL \$20.00
White,
Light Blue,
Yellow Haze,
Heather



Men's Polo Shirts
S-XL \$18.00
XXL \$20.00
White, Light Blue,
Yellow Haze, Heather
Grey



Youth Sweatshirt Navy
M-XL \$15.00



**T-Shirts - 100% pre-shrunk
cotton. S-XXL All sizes \$10.00**
Blue Spruce, Cactus Green
River Blue, Khaki



**Ladies contoured fit, cap
sleeve, ribbed T. 90% cotton,
10% poly. S-XL. \$10.00.**
Deep Heather, Raspberry,
Black



Adult Vest Black
13.5oz., 100% spun
poly. Lycra trimmed
armholes and hem.
Front pockets. XS-XXL All
sizes \$27.00



Adult L.S. T's 100% pre-shrunk cotton.
S-XL \$15.00 XXL \$18.00
Black, Cobblestone, Chocolate
and Cardinal Red



Ladies Denim L.S. Shirt,
6.5oz., 100% cotton.
S-XL \$25.00
XXL \$27.00
Stone Wash Blue



Men's Denim L.S. Shirt,
with front pocket,
6.5oz., 100% cotton.
M-XL \$25.00
XXL \$27.00
Stone Wash Blue



**Otto 6 panel, low profile
caps. \$15.00**
A MUST HAVE!!
Dark Olive, Pumpkin,
Light Pink
Dark Brown (not shown)



**Ladies contoured feminine
body. Super soft 1 by 1 baby
ribbed knit, 5.8oz. 100%
combed ringspun cotton.**
Chocolate, Navy, Pink and
Light Blue.
S-XL \$16.00 XXL \$18.00



**Adult T-Shirt Horse
Logo 100% pre-
shrunk cotton.**
M-XL \$12.00
XXL \$14.00



**Youth T's. 100% preshrunk
cotton. Grey is 90/10. S-XL
\$6.00 - Royal Blue, Black,
Heather Grey**



Horse Logo
**Ladie's Combed Ringspun
T- Shirts**
S-XL \$12.00
XXL \$14.00 - XXXL \$16.00
Iris, Banana, Pink, Cantaloupe

Visit our website to place an order: <http://www.gerlltd.org>

Happily Ever After: Matt and Pistol

By Ruth Wilson, Adoption Coordinator

Several years ago, when my dear friend Matt was just two, I gave him his first horse. Jake was an aged bay Appaloosa gelding; he was a sweet old guy who had taught many a kid to ride. He had done 4H shows and saddle club shows, summer camp, lessons and trail rides, and he was ready to retire. Little did Jake dream that he had one more career move in his future! Matt decided at a VERY early age that he wanted to be a rodeo cowboy. So Jake became his “roping” horse. Roping, for a three year old novice cowhand, consisted of Jake being led by Matt’s dad up to the roping dummy, and Matt roping the “calf” then jumping down off Jake and proceeding to “tie” said calf. All the while, Jake stood calmly during the action.

When Matt turned four, the pair did a Junior Rodeo. Then, just a few months ago, Jake died of old age. Matt was devastated. Not only had he lost his good friend, he had lost his roping horse. What was a young cowboy to do? It’s not just any horse that is quiet enough for a kid to ride and rope off his back! Every time that someone mentioned Matt’s loss, Matt would interject, “Yeah, Jake was my ropin’ horse, you know.”

Pistol Pete was a red roan appaloosa gelding who had spent his whole life as a trail horse. He was the one, you know the kind, who was the “extra” horse. If anyone wanted to ride with his family, they saddled up Pistol. He was a good all-around horse, not spooky, and gentle enough for anyone. He and his two buddies, Josey Wales and Jesse James, came into the GERL program a few months ago. Two of the trio were being fostered by a friend of mine. I went to evaluate their suitability to ride, and I fell in LOVE with Pistol. We brought him to our farm to help get him ready to find his new family. We soon discovered that Pistol had decided he liked being retired. He was stubborn and slow, but he had such an endearing personality that we couldn’t get mad at him! We just figured he would be happiest in a forever home that didn’t require a whole lot of get-up-and-go!

Matt’s grandmother, Marcia, was heartbroken for Matt, and she had been keeping an eye out for a suitable “roping horse” for him. Of course no one could ever take Jake’s place, but she wanted Matt to have a horse of his own again. She saw Pistol on the GERL website and immediately noticed his striking coloring – another Appaloosa! She called me and asked, “Ruth, is the horse named Pistol still available?”

I replied, “Marcia, not only is he still available, he’s here at my farm.”



They brought Matt out for a ride, and he and Pistol got along well! After being led around a bit, Matt rode all by himself for a couple of turns around the arena. He twirled his lasso and roped the mounting block and the barrel, while Pistol stood quietly. On the way home, Matt said to his mother and grandparents, “He’s like Jake, he lets me rope and he’s sweet too. I wanna buy him someday!”

That was on a Saturday. That Monday was Matt’s fifth birthday, and I had the privilege of delivering his surprise gift from his grandparents – Pistol! Matt came running out of the house to greet me as I drove up, and then Pistol whinnied from the trailer. Matt froze in his tracks – the look on his face was priceless!! He was thrilled to have another “roping” horse. When his grandmother signed the adoption contract, Matt listened carefully to all the requirements, and then HE signed, too! Now the pair will be practicing for their future in rodeo. What a great match, and a happy ending for Matt AND for Pistol!



Video Shoot with Dallas McCade of KICKS Country Radio

By Patty Livingston

On October 15th GERL Treasurer Diana Kelsey and I hooked up the GERL cargo trailer and headed over to the Decatur Impound barn to meet with Mat Thompson, Georgia Department of Agriculture Equine Manager, and Dallas McCade, well-known DJ at KICKS Country radio station 101.5. Dallas had offered to do a video for GERL in hopes of giving more exposure to the plight of horses today and what GERL is doing to help. The video shoot idea originally came from the wonderful supporters and friends of Cork-Howard Construction Company, Denyse Brackett and Janine Powell, who have been instrumental in helping GERL, along with Dallas. The new video was prepared and uploaded to the GERL website within the week of the shoot. Rett Thompson is the genius who turned the rough draft into the video we have today! Thanks to Rett and Dallas for an awesome video!

Check it out on our home page! www.gerlltd.org



Patty Livingston, Dallas McCade, Mat Thompson, Diana Kelsey, Paula Sewell (GDA Inspector) and Jessica Holthaus (GDA Outreach Specialist) pose for a picture before the video shoot started.

Please Help! GERL receives money for the following ...

Please save Proof Of Purchase
seals from bags of these
Southern States feeds ...
Legends, Triple Crown & Reliance

and send them to:
Ginny Scarritt
4835 Kendall Court
Atlanta, GA 30342



We Need Your Help! Auction Items are Needed.

We have upcoming events that will
include auctions.

We need you to help by donating auction
items. These items can include new or used
tack, home décor items, gift certificates, etc.
Remember... our auctions are only as success-
ful as the items that we have to offer.

Do you have a beach house? A cabin rental?
Do you have a timeshare that you do not use?
Perhaps you would consider donating a few
nights or a week for one of our upcoming auc-
tions? It's tax deductible and benefits a great
cause.

Thanks You In Advance For Your Support!

If you have items to donate or
have additional questions please contact:

Sue Wrensen / (770) 331-6947

swrensen@comcast.net

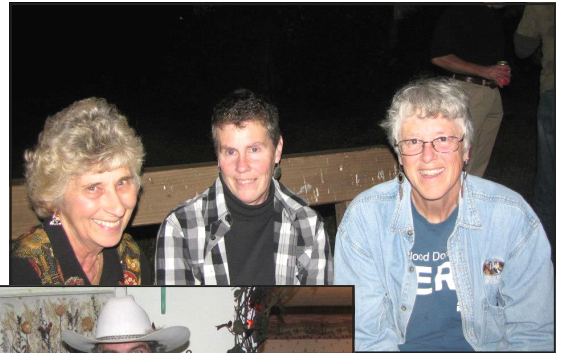
GERL Christmas Party in Bethlehem

By Patty Livingston

We had a wonderful evening for the GERL Christmas party that was held at my home in Bethlehem on December 8th. I had been busy for the previous two weeks putting up Christmas lights and decorations and getting everything ready for the party. Thomas Threatt agreed to be in charge of the bonfire, along with handyman extraordinaire, Russell. They kept wood on the huge fire throughout the evening. God sent a few small showers throughout the evening to wet the ground around the fire and keep things safe. We didn't want to have to invite the Bethlehem Fire Department!

Everybody brought a covered dish and we had our fill of the best food in town! There were a lot of new faces at the party this year and they had never been on my Festival of Trees Tour. So, I gave several tours through my house to show off the eight trees that were all decorated in different themes.

We also had many of our faithful friends who come every year, as well as several of my neighbors who I had invited. A good time was had by all!



GERL Board Approves \$3K for Equine Shelter for Murray County

The Georgia Equine Rescue League Board of Directors recently approved a three thousand dollar donation for the Murray County Animal Control to help with the construction of a shelter for their equine facility. A nearby tree is the only shelter that they currently have for their horses.

GERL President Patty Livingston was first contacted back in June by a Murray County Animal Control officer requesting help with feed and vet care for some horses they had recently impounded. During the conversation they mentioned that they didn't have a shelter for their impounded horses and wondered if GERL could help. They wanted to grade out a plot of land where the shelter would be located before getting back with us about going forward with plans.

You might remember that GERL furnished a metal carport and panels for the City of Adel's Animal Control a couple of years ago to complete their equine facility. We feel it is a good use of funds to help support law enforcement in their quest to enforce Georgia's equine laws. If they're going to impound a horse they need a decent facility to temporarily house them. And, GERL is happy to help!

Farewell to Roma

Many of you are already familiar with Roma, an aged Buckskin Quarter Horse that has graced the pages of the “Adoptables” page of the GERL newsletter for the past couple of years. Roma came into our program in November of 2010. She lived with foster mom, Linda Fears, of Jackson up until a few months ago.

Roma was a grand ride in her day. In fact, the original owner told us that she used to barrel race her. You may remember the story of Roma’s owner who was going into a nursing home because she was in the mid-stages of Alzheimer’s and had also lost her home to foreclosure. It was a very sad situation and the saving grace was the fact that her child-like mind had not actually understood what was happening.

Roma was recently moved to Cindy Farris’ farm in Monroe. She had previously foundered and was very susceptible to bouts of lameness. She had begun to spend a lot of time lying down and had become so lame in the last few weeks that she could barely walk from her paddock to her stall, anymore. We all knew that the time had come for Roma to cross the rainbow bridge. Horses have a way of telling you when it’s time. I hope that Roma is running again, and who knows? Wouldn’t it be something if that little old lady was sitting in the saddle one more time?



IT Factor

By Beth Eavenson

This issue’s IT factor horse is Alf and he has the IT in every sense of the word! Alf is a three year old grade pony. He stands at 14 hands and has beautiful conformation. His look and flowing movement would make him a natural for hunter under saddle, hunter jumper, equitation, or any number of disciplines. With his curious nature and friendly, in your pocket personality he is one of the most charismatic equines I’ve ever met. All of that help make him a joy to train.

I’ve had the pleasure of fostering Alf since March. Since his arrival, Alf has had extensive ground training and desensitizing. He has successfully completed Parelli Natural Horsemanship level one and is currently progressing through level two. Alf leads, bathes, ties, loads, trailers, and stands for the vet and farrier. Thanks to Parelli he also responds to pressure, backs, lunges, and plays all 7 of the Parelli games. We’ve started lunging him over ground poles and small jumps too.

In the last few months, with the help of my instructor, I’ve started Alf’s under saddle training. Alf now accepts the blanket, saddle, and girth without a fuss and can do anything saddled. The next step in his under saddle training is to accept a rider. Alf is already well on his way to completing this step

too! I’ve already mounted him twice and he’s never offered to buck or act out in any way.

This smart boy just needs his forever home and someone to love him. He’s so willing and such a quick learner that he will be very easy to finish your way! As long as he’s here I’ll be continuing his training. Alf is available for adoption to the perfect home.



The “IT” factor is a pop culture term used to describe the indescribable. It’s that intangible element that makes some people stand out from the rest. It’s that special little somethin’ that makes folks take notice. Horse people know that certain horses have the “IT” factor too!

GERL Invited to ACTHA Ride

Written by Lynne Robinson Yates

In October, GERL was contacted by Courtney Meckley, an Equine Inspector with the Georgia Department of Agriculture. She was going to be handing out GDA brochures at the November 3rd ACTHA ride in Rome and she thought GERL might want to set up an informational booth. Of course, we are always happy to get the word out about GERL, so I made plans to go to the ride.

ACTHA stands for American Competitive Trail Horse Association. They have ride hosts all over the country who sponsor trail rides. The basic premise of each ride is 6 miles, 6 obstacles and 6 judges. The obstacles are things like going through water, stepping over obstacles and lots of other options. Every ride host chooses a charity to receive some of the proceeds from the ride. The ride on November 3rd was held at Bar-B Farms in Rome, GA. Kat Barbe, the ride host, invited several equine-related organizations to set up informational booths. In addition to the GDA and GERL, Sara Reams was there representing the Horses and Warriors program which operates at the Calvin Center in Hampton, GA. This program provides equine therapy to veterans.

After the ride, a delicious barbeque lunch was served, after which the prize ceremony began. There were several prizes available, in addition to the prizes for the winners of the trail ride. One was called “most patriotic” and the couple pictured here won that contest. They also had riders bring their dogs and dress them up in costumes. There were several prizes for the dogs, ranging from “cutest” to “most energetic”.



After lunch, it was time for some games, including bobbing for apples....but instead of the children bobbing, it was the horses. The riders had the opportunity to practice riding through some obstacles set up in the riding ring. Everyone stopped by the GERL booth to pick up a newsletter and to find out about GERL. It looked to me like everyone had a great time, including horses, adults, kids and dogs. I had the opportunity to meet a great group of people and I look forward to attending more ACTHA rides. You can find out more about ACTHA by visiting their website at <http://www.actha.us>.

Thank You For Your Donation

Erica Gilmer
Felicia Brown
Barbara Argo
Mark & Wendy Benevides
Keep Covington/Newton Beautiful
Tim Hoon
Meghan Cameron

Thank you, Susie Hansen, for helping us help the horses! Your donation was applied to cancer surgery for our foster horse, Pistol!

Thank you, Ed & Sara Merritt, for your donation toward the care of our foster horse, Rocky!

Ileal Impaction Colic in Horses

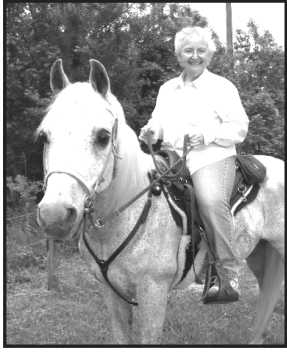
*Rhonda Veit, DVM
New South Equine Medicine*

Impaction of the ileum is one of the most common causes of colic seen by field practitioners in the southeastern United States. The ileum is the distal end of the small intestine, which attaches to the cecum, the most proximal portion of the large intestine, on the right side of the abdomen. Think of the gastrointestinal tract and the ileum as a flexible and muscular tube: when an ileal impaction occurs, the ileum becomes blocked or clogged with feed. The muscular ileum continuously contracts around the blockage, trying to push it into the cecum. The ileum continues to distend, stretching the walls of the gastrointestinal tract and causing abdominal pain and outward signs of colic, such as rolling, kicking or biting at the flanks, lying down, and depression.

Ileal impactions have long been associated with both Coastal Bermuda grass hay and tapeworm infestation. A study published in 2002 by researchers at North Carolina State University found that, among hospitalized surgical colic cases, horses fed Coastal Bermuda hay were 6 times more likely to develop an ileal impaction requiring surgical correction. Horses that had not been treated for tapeworms in the four months preceding surgery were four times more likely to develop an ileal impaction. In private practice in the southeast, virtually 100 percent of ileal impaction colics are associated with the feeding of Coastal Bermuday hay. Failing to deworm horses for tapeworms combined with the feeding of Coastal Bermuda hay is likely to further increase the risk for colic. Since horses are exposed to tapeworms on fall pastures, and we also begin to feed hay around the same time, the combined risk of ileal impaction is high for horses in Georgia in the fall and winter months. While Coastal Bermuda hay can be an excellent source of nutrition and fiber for horses, it should be fed judiciously. Horses on round bales of Coastal Bermuda hay are very frequently seen by equine veterinarians for colic within 24 hours after the round bale is introduced. Square bales are considerably safer because the intake can be controlled. It should also be noted that, for reasons we don't entirely understand, some individual horses appear to be intolerant of Coastal Bermuda hay and develop impactions regardless of the type of bale fed.

To further decrease the risk for ileal impaction, always deworm horses with a dewormer containing praziquantel in the fall and winter months. This is typically given after the first frost: the praziquantel will kill any tapeworms living in your horse, and the frost will kill any tapeworm larvae growing in the pasture, thus eliminating the risk for tapeworms until next year.

The prognosis for ileal impaction colic is very good if it is treated correctly and early. While examining your horse for colic, your veterinarian may pass a nasogastric tube to determine if there is reflux (i.e. fluid and undigested food) accumulating in the horse's stomach and small intestine. The presence of a large volume of reflux indicates obstruction of the small intestine. If the blockage is caused by an ileal impaction, your horse will likely need to be hospitalized for intravenous fluid administration, pain medication, and continuous removal of the reflux via nasogastric tube until the impaction is resolved. Intravenous fluids are administered at 2-3 times the maintenance dose in order to over-hydrate the horse and deliver fluid into the intestine to soften the impaction (mineral oil and other laxatives cannot be given to refluxing horses since they will come right back up through the nasogastric tube.) Sometimes horses present with what appears to be a partial ileal obstruction caused by Coastal Bermuda hay. If these horses are not refluxing, they can sometimes be treated with pain medication and fasting. However, horses that repeatedly "break through" pain medication despite an appropriate fast should be immediately reevaluated. Horses can't vomit, so if reflux fluid is not removed from their stomach with a nasogastric tube, they can rupture the stomach or small intestine, a fatal complication. The take home message is this: if a horse is given Banamine or mineral oil and remains colicky or becomes colicky again within 12 hours, he needs to be evaluated by your veterinarian for hospitalization and or surgery. It is uncommon for horses to have to go to surgery for ileal impactions, but it can and does happen. The vast majority of horses with ileal impactions make a complete recovery within 12-24 hours with appropriate medical therapy. The key is to catch it early!



A Note from the Secretary's

By Anne Ensminger

I expect that anyone interested in reading this newsletter, shares my special fondness for horses. Not only do I love the way horses look, but I also love the way they smell. I love to be around them any time. They have played a major role in my life. To become an active

member of GERL was a natural path for me. While the experience has been generally rewarding, there are parts of my GERL duties that I dread. Answering the phone lines tops that list.

From the very beginning, GERL has maintained a phone line where people can call to report or talk about almost anything having to do with horses. We offer advice on how to feed or otherwise care for horses of all ages and body conditions. We assist callers in reporting cases of starvation or abuse to GDA or their local Animal Control Department. Sometimes people want to know where they might buy a horse (truly RARE) or they might inquire about adopting a GERL rescue horse or they may be seeking a boarding facility. Most often, however, they want GERL to take a horse that they no longer want, or can no longer afford to keep.

As much as I would LOVE to be able to get the address from each of them, quickly hop in my truck and trailer and hurry right over to get their horse, that is simply not possible. If GERL took every horse that the owners wanted to "get rid of", we would soon be totally overwhelmed and our resources completely depleted. We must carefully consider each case presented.

Last week I took a call from a very sweet lady who had owned a mare for over 20 years. The horse is now well into her thirties and has only a few teeth. She has to be fed a very specific diet of senior feed, beet pulp, and alfalfa soaked in warm water. This family has recently lost their home and their car and has been forced to move in with relatives. The old horse was left in the care of a former neighbor who has a large pasture. Unfortunately, the mare cannot effectively chew grass, therefore she is losing weight. Terribly worried about her old friend, this lady called GERL. Well, we know from experience, that to take on a horse of that age, requiring that degree of care, it would be nearly impossible for us to find even a foster, much less, an adoptive home.

This is one of those times when we are forced to think with our heads and not our hearts. Having loved this horse for over twenty years, it was the feeling of the GERL Board of Directors that, since her family MUST come first, that it may be time for this owner to face the fact that this horse has lived a wonderful life and that it is her RESPONSIBILITY to see that the mare experience a dignified and easy end to life.

An offer from GERL to pay for euthanasia and burial of her horse was quickly and totally rejected....understandable....that is never an easy decision. After multiple tearful calls between us over the next several days, I am relieved to be able to report that the lady was able to locate a boarding facility near where they are staying and form an agreement with the stable owner

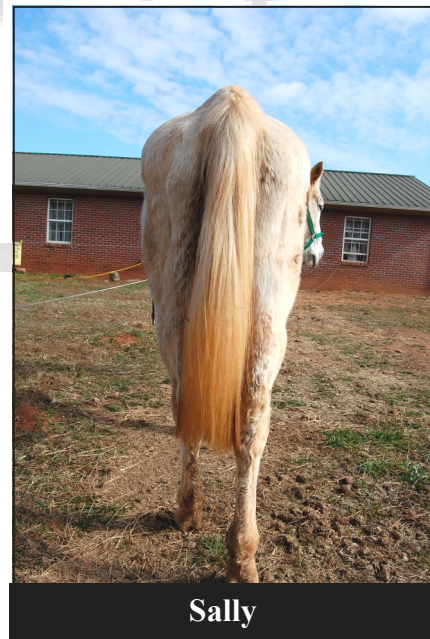
to do stall work in exchange for board. Perfect! This experience confirmed my thoughts that it often requires some digging to find a solution. A solution is almost always available to those determined enough to find it. I hope it is not "hard hearted" of me to feel that, in cases such as this, that the owners of these horses should be the ones to do that digging. Things have a way of working out and this worked out beautifully.

You'll love this one. A "young male horse" wandered into the front yard of an elderly gentleman. Being a caring soul, he caught the horse and tied it to a tree. He actually canvassed the neighborhood to try to find the owners and then called Animal Control. Upon realizing that he was stuck with this horse, he finally got around to calling GERL. After learning that he actually has no right to GIVE this horse to anyone, since it is not legally HIS horse, and after forgiving the horse for kicking him in the knee, the man decided that he would keep the colt and continue to try to find its owners. To help him in his effort, GERL agreed to buy feed for the little horse for a period of time. An account was set up with the local feed store and GERL was full of hope that this case would also work itself out in the end.

One week later, we received a call from a large horse and cattle farm in the area, letting us know that the same little horse had showed up on their property. The feed store, knowing our arrangement with the elderly man, advised them to call GERL. You see how people will do us? The old gentleman never even bothered to call and let us know that the horse had escaped or he had decided to simply let it go. Sigh.....

Anyway, the feed store account is now closed and this story has a precarious ending. The folks at the cattle farm thought the colt was really cute so they turned him in with their yearling colts and he is getting along just fine. They promise to care for him and continue to search for his owner. Too good to be true, you say? Miss Anne, where is your faith? GERL will continue to check on this colt.

Next story.



Sally

...Continued on page 24

...Continued from page 23

Another case that recently came to GERL through the call lines sits heavy on my heart. This one has to do with another aged horse and I fear the outcome will not be as pleasant because the owner has only a short history with the mare. In other words, I fear he does not care enough to go to much trouble on her behalf. The case involves a distant neighbor of mine.

He relates that as he was leaving Walmart one evening several months ago, he stopped to visit with a man he knew. The man asked if he liked horses. He told the man that his 12 year old daughter had been wanting a horse. Long story short, Sally, a 25+ year old white mare was tied in his back yard within hours. The family knows nothing about caring for a horse, especially an OLD horse. The husband went to Tractor Supply the next day to buy materials for a makeshift electric fence.

When I first realized that these sub-division dwellers were keeping a horse in the back yard, I knew it was not going to be a good thing. Sure enough, as time has passed, there is not a sprig of grass left in the yard and the poor mare is slowly losing weight. I am not the only concerned observer. I am told that in response to calls about the mare, GDA, as well as Walton County Animal Control has been to the property more than once. I am also told that the horse owner has threatened to just shoot the mare to get law enforcement authorities "off of his back".

I was recently able to reach this man by telephone to talk about the situation. This owner's story is a common one. He has been laid off from his job and the family is having difficulty keeping their rent paid and food on the table. He told me

that they had bought the last hay they intended to buy for the mare that very day. When asked what he had done to try to re-home the mare, he had no answer other than to say that two people had turned her down because of her age. Surprise, surprise. To me, this is truly heart breaking. Where does this man's MORAL and LEGAL responsibility for this horse end? Will he take suggestions offered by GERL concerning how to find a new home for his horse? I expect he would greatly prefer that we just come over to his house and get her so that he will never have to think of her again.

What is the end of this story? I wish I knew. GERL's "official" position is that this man should continue to receive citations which will eventually lead to prosecution if this mare's body score continues to decline. It would be our strategy and hope that citations would motivate him to get in there and WORK to find another home for the mare. For right now, the owner is continuing to care for the mare and GERL is paying for her feed. This arrangement is in place only because I begged my fellow Board members to agree to it. They were only hesitant because we are well aware that as long as there is feed and clean water available when the authorities call on this horse, they will leave without taking any action. No citation will be left. Their hands are tied.

Since I last shared GERL Phone Line stories with our readers, not much has changed. There are hundreds of problems concerning the needs of horses presented to GERL in this way each year. These are only a few of the many recent ones that have caused me to lose sleep.....Patty Livingston won't let me have my phone taken out.



Sally



18th Annual POKER RIDE

TO BENEFIT THE
GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE, LTD.



Saturday - March 9, 2013

**Dawson Forest
Dawsonville, GA**

**Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
the ride begins at 10:00 a.m.**



Lots of Prizes Awarded!

A donation of \$25.00 includes lunch and one poker hand. **GERL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE 1 EXTRA HAND AT NO ADDITIONAL COST (JUST SHOW US YOUR GERL MEMBERSHIP CARD TO DRAW YOUR EXTRA HAND).** Additional poker hands are available to all for a donation of \$5.00 per hand. **You must show us your horse's negative coggins test** at the time of registration. Water is available on the trail, but not at the trailer area. *WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU BRING WATER FOR YOUR HORSE!* Please call Diana Kelsey @ 770.267.0867 or diana@gerlltd.org for further information. Come ride against horse abuse and help us raise money for the starved and abused horses in Georgia. **ALL PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AT 2 PM!!!**
***Dawson Forest has a \$7 trail fee. If you do not have an annual pass you will be required to pay an additional \$7 for this ride. GERL will collect this fee and forward it appropriately.**

***Directions** traveling Hwy 400 North from Cumming. Go through lights at Hwy 369 / Hwy 306 and Jot Em Down Road. Go left on Dawson Forest Road at Dawson Premium Outlet Mall. Cross Hwy 9 and follow signs. Go through gate and turn right into Dawson Forest parking lot.

Lee Arrendale Prison Auction, An All Around Good Day!

By Linda Kundell

I was talking to my brother the other day and I happened to mention that I was going to prison the next day. Happened to mention is quite right. I dropped it in the conversation to see if he was paying attention to me. He talked for about 30 seconds and then said, "What did you just say?" After I explained that I often volunteer as an active member of Georgia Equine Rescue League to help with fund raising, his comment was, "For just a second I thought that the police had finally caught up with you for your youthful pranks!" It's a little late for the police to get me for the water balloon drop when I was 14 years old!

Traveling together, Jeanne Barsanti and I left my house about 8:30 A.M. on the morning of September 22nd. We eventually found ourselves on Rt. 441 and were instructed by our little talking machine to turn on Willingham Road. GPS's are wonderful, however, in this instance; it told us that we were there, when we weren't. We stopped at a Dollar General Store and the clerk said that we couldn't miss the prison and that it was ½ mile or so down the road. Well, she was right. It was definitely a prison and we definitely couldn't miss it. All the wire and brick practically shouted, "PRISON"!

We still hadn't found the auction site. We were aimlessly driving around the property and actually hoping that a policeman might stop us and inquire, "What the heck are you doing"? We finally spotted a policewoman and asked her for help. She didn't know where the auction was being held but gave us a number to call and the man who answered was able to give us directions so we finally got there. By then, the other volunteers had the GERL information booth, t-shirt sales display, and the flea market already set up. Hamburgers and hot dogs were cooking on the grill and it smelled wonderful. Yes, we were late but we jumped right in to help where needed.

I was happy to have time to look at the denim shirts. I had wanted to buy one so put one in my size aside. People were milling around our area and many asked questions about GERL. Some bought GERL merchandise, and some found great bargains at our flea market. There was no doubt that EVERYONE was irresistibly drawn to the delicious smells coming from our grill. We eventually sold out of food but I don't think anyone left hungry.

When a GDA Horse Auction begins, everyone associated with the rescue of the horses being offered, is full of excited hope that they will all go to good homes. These horses have already known the "other kind" of home so we pray and keep our fingers crossed. On this day, all six horses were purchased by only two people. One person bought four and the other bought two. The gentleman who bought four horses must have planned to buy horses because he had his stock trailer ready to take them home. The other man came to the sale with no trailer or even a halter! The GERL Flea Market was able to supply a couple of halters and lead ropes but he had to make arrangements to rent a trailer to get his new horses home.

I spoke with both of the buyers and got the feeling that these horses were going to good situations. It had been a good day. We had perfect weather and enjoyed making many new

friends. Volunteering always gives me that "warm and fuzzy" feeling. Jeanne and I got home without using the GPS!!



You just never know what you're going to see over at the Arrendale prison auctions!



GERL volunteers finish setting up the T-shirt booth at the auction



GERL volunteers pose with Larry Sheffield, Matt Thompson and Captain Dennis Gallman.

GERL Speaks to Cobb County 4H Horse and Pony Club

Written by Lynne Robinson Yates

When I became an Area Coordinator for GERL, I soon realized how important it is to get the word out about this fine organization and the work that they do. To that end, I searched for my local 4H club on Facebook and found the Cobb County 4H Horse and Pony Club. I left a message introducing myself and offered to give a presentation about GERL. Within a few days, my phone was ringing and Rosemary Giordano called to take me up on my offer. Rosemary is the leader of the club and she was happy to give me the opportunity to tell the members all about GERL.



The first thing I had to figure out was how I was going to show the power point presentation that Patty Livingston sent me. Rosemary told me that the meeting would be in the barn and there would be no power. I decided to go “low tech” and I simply printed out the slides. I also thought the group might like to learn about body scoring, so I printed out some information from the internet and took it with me. Finally, I ordered a few weight tapes and planned to give them to the group to show

my appreciation for being invited to speak.

That evening was a rainy night, so the meeting was moved to a house on the property. Even though there was power available, I went with my “low tech” presentation. The members were very interested in the stories I shared with them and asked lots of great questions. Then, I did a demonstration with the weight tape. There was no horse available, so one of the girls volunteered to be the “horse” and we used the tape to weigh and measure her.

After my presentation, two of the older girls gave presentations about proper grooming brushes and techniques and also about different types of bits. I also learned that they were working on a project to send gloves to victims of Superstorm Sandy. Everyone had donated gloves and they planned to write cards saying “From our hearts to your hands”. I hope they learned as much from me as I learned from them.

I appreciated the opportunity to spread the word about GERL. If you are involved with a school, club, or civic organization and would like for GERL to give a presentation, please let us know.



Buddy is Back with GERL!

Unfortunately, things didn’t work out with Buddy’s recent adoption by Tonya Cantrell and he was returned to his original foster home at Patty Livingston’s back in early November. Buddy is five years old and green broke. He is a sweet boy and just needs someone who has the time and skill to finish his training under saddle. Buddy has great ground manners, loads and loves people! Buddy is a QH type. Check him out on the GERL Adoptables page!



After The Auction

Written by Lynne Robinson Yates

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ARRENDALE IMPOUND AUCTION SECOND CHANCES SALE



LEE ARRENDALE EQUINE CENTER, ALTO, GA

Over the past year, as I have met people at GERL fundraising events and at GDA auctions, I often get asked the same question, “What happens to the horses that are purchased at GDA auctions?” While there is no way that can answer that question for all horses sold at GDA auctions, I decided to try to answer it for as many as possible.

The GDA has 4 equine facilities in the State of Georgia. One of them is at Lee Arrendale Prison located in Alto, GA. Lee Arrendale has an equine program that is run in conjunction with the GDA. The program is staffed by inmates who train and care for the horses. The inmates receive valuable skills and the horses receive the care and attention they so badly need. Once the horses are rehabilitated, they are sold at auction.

There was an auction on September 22, 2012 at Lee Arrendale.

There were 7 horses up for auction that day and there were 3 winning bidders. One person bought one horse, one person bought 2 horses and a couple from Jasper, GA bought 4 horses. I personally met each and every winning bidder and it seemed to me that all of the horses went to good homes.

The couple that bought 4 of the horses at the auction are Richard and Louise Naylor. I exchanged contact information with Louise and I recently went to visit the Naylor's and the 4 horses from the auction. What I found was a picturesque farmhouse, beautiful new barn, large fenced pastures, incredible mountain views, and eleven very happy horses.

Richard and Louise own Mountain View Stables in Jasper, GA. It is an all event facility perfect for weddings, parties, reunions and other events. They purchased the beautiful property in 1993, spent a couple of years renovating the farmhouse and then became permanent residents in 1995. They didn't originally plan to own horses, but were approached by neighbors about using the pasture. They loved having the horses on the property and decided to get a few of their own. They now own eleven horses, all obtained through rescue organizations.



At the auction in September, they bought Gypsy, Dalton, Annie and Cowboy. Gypsy is a 16 year old bay mare. Dalton, now named Red, is a 4 year old sorrel gelding.



Annie is a 12 year old registered TWH paint mare and Cowboy is an 18 year old paint gelding.

...continued from page 28

I have no idea what kind of life these horses had before arriving at Mountain View Stables. It is probably safe to assume that they have suffered some form of neglect or abuse; otherwise they probably would never have been in the possession of the GDA. Their bad luck changed when they were purchased by Richard and Louise and transported to this beautiful farm with the immaculate barn and beautiful pastures. There is plenty of water and feed and hay and love.

There were seven horses already in residence when the newcomers arrived. They were kept in a separate pasture for a few days to give everyone time to get acquainted. The two groups now stay together in the same pasture and everyone gets along. Louise did tell me that the newcomers from the auction do tend to keep to themselves. They did accept Cameo into their group. She is a 3 year old mare who has fallen in love with Red and the feeling seems to be mutual.

I want to thank Richard and Louise for allowing me to visit them and spend time with their horses, dogs and cats. They have also become members of GERL and I hope to see them soon at a GERL event. It is obvious to me that these horses are well cared for and get lots of love and attention. I urge you to check out their website at <http://www.mountainviewstablesga.com>. If you are planning a special event in the Jasper area, give them a call at 706-253-6867. If you see Gypsy, Red, Annie, or Cowboy, give them a wave from me.



Thank you for your Donation

Denyse Brackett
Lisa Bryant
P. Garrity
Larry & Betty Altman
Lisa Casey
Tiffany Bowen
Lisa Casey
David Rape
Gary & Jeana Mullen
Chris & Karla Vaughn

Chris & Dawn Forman
Jeanne Barsanti
Anne-Marie Arnold
Eric Mullis
Karen Stubbs
Denise Arnold
Liz Lapidus
Tim Miller
Rob & Kathy Russell

Thank you, Nancy Fitzgibbons! Our horses continue to benefit from your generous donations!

Thank you, Mid Ga. Mini Horse Driving Club!

Thank You For Your Foster Homes

Greg and Tiffany Bergdorf / Fostering Lucky
Keely Ryan / Fostering Hank
Ryan McCarthy / Fostering Star
Michelle Williams / Fostering Kyra & Rosie
Cindy Farris / Fostering Angel
Heatherlee Hammonds / Fostering Rocky
Lester and Diane Aradi / Fostering Beau
Ann Murphy / Fostering Lizzie
Patti Henry / Fostering Josey
Alicia Mohr / Fostering Dakota

Beth Eavenson / Fostering Alf
Jackie Moore & Leslie Lambert / Fostering Vandy
Anne Ensminger / Fostering Honor
Debora Hines / Fostering Crystal
Susan Prugh / Fostering Jessie
Ruth & Tommy Wilson / Fostering Gable and Payday
Kim and Dan Smith / Fostering Spook & China
Patty Livingston / Fostering Grayson and Buddy
Tamma Trump / Fostering Twilight
Leslie & Ernie Gassman / Fostering Cody and Gracie

With *Your* Help...We *Will* Make A Difference!

Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award And the winner is.....

This award is presented every year at our Annual Fall Fest event, in honor of a wonderful lady who exemplified the title of GERL cheerleader. Marty Paulk lost her battle with cancer 4 years ago, but she will always be remembered through the offering of this award.

This year, Andee Rogers was the surprised recipient. Andee is in charge of our Facebook page, she fields all the questions that come in through Facebook and keeps all of our “friends” up to date on the happenings at GERL!

Thank you, Andee! I know Marty would be pleased with our choice!!



Kel-Mac Saddle Club Supports GERL

By Linda Kundell

The officers and volunteers of Kel-Mac Saddle Club work year round to be sure that show people have a safe and fun time at our shows. The money that is raised from the shows is donated to worthy causes. Patty Livingston and Anne Ensminger came to the Kel-Mac Awards Banquet on December 9, 2012. We had a wonderful dinner at Bonner's restaurant in Buckhead, GA (the real Buckhead near Madison, not in Atlanta since I'm not sure that they could handle our dress code of t-shirts, jeans and cowboy boots). At this banquet we awarded trophies to winners in various show classes and presented cash donations to selected recipients.

Each year we put on four shows, two in the spring and two in the fall. This year we had a good turn out since all the shows were in good weather (The year before it rained at every show!). Consequently, we had more money to donate to equine causes. At our October meeting, when we made the decisions of who the recipients should be, the first name that came up was Georgia Equine Rescue League. GERL is an organization that I am especially pleased to help. When we gave the first check to Patty a few years ago we asked for it to be spent on feeding horses, but now that the Stallion to Gelding program is in place, we support that project. At this year's banquet we gave GERL a check for \$2,000. Patty thanked the crowd of over one hundred people for the club's support. She told them that last year nearly a hundred horses were gelded and this year almost a hundred and fifty were gelded. What a success story that program has become! As horse people we are proud that we can support the efforts of GERL.

We had Patty and Anne come to a meeting this year and talk about GERL's mission and activities. Kel-Mac Saddle Club is grateful that there is an organization like GERL since we all love horses. Kel-Mac has been putting on shows for 37 years to raise money for good causes. We hope to see Patty and Anne every year.

GERL also supports Kel-Mac. Ruth Wilson, GERL's adoption coordinator, showed her horse for the first time at Kel-Mac shows and received two year-end awards (we're proud of you Ruth!!).



Teresa Akins, Treasurer, and Susan Powell-Walton, President of Kel-Mac, present Patty Livingston with a check..

DAY OF THE HORSE TRACTOR SUPPLY BYRON GA.

15 SEPTEMBER 2012

By Eddie O'Hern

We had a great day at Tractor Supply for the "Day of The Horse". The turn out was a very good one and everyone had lots of fun. Peach-Valley Stables was there giving pony rides and drew in a lot of folks. Thanks goes out to the McKinney's for helping make the day a huge success.

Tiffany Bowen brought 2 horses and George Lilley had Goldie there. Goldie is always a crowd pleaser. Their 3 horses needed to have their hooves trimmed so we made a demonstration to the public out of it and the demo had a lot of folks looking on and asking questions about GERL. When Steve, the farrier, was finished with the trimming he donated the \$70.00 that Tiffany owed him to GERL. Thanks Steve for your generosity!

We had \$77.00 in sales and a total of \$509.65 in donations.



The donations where as follows:

\$305.00 From Mid G Mini Horse Driving Club that folded and donated the amount left in their funds. Thank you MGMHDC

\$183.00 from the donation jar at Goldie's pen (\$70.00 of which was from Steve the farrier). \$21.00 from the donation jar on the front table

All in all we had a wonderful time talking to the public and educating them to the existence of "The Georgia Equine Rescue League". We had many folks interested in taking applications for memberships and some that took foster home applications as well.

So we grow "One Step at a Time"

Eddy O'Hern
Vice President GERLLtd



FRIGHT FEST 2012

Our 18th annual Fall fundraiser was held on Oct. 19-21st at Dawson Forest in Dawsonville, GA. It is amazing to think that GERL has been doing this for 18 years! Economics have slowed attendance, but not the wonderful fun we have with friends, new and old.



Becky Gregory

Volunteers are the core of our fundraisers. We would like to thank Jaye Herrington for making all of the arrangements for this ride – and making sure that everything was delivered when it was supposed to be. She was up late at night making sure tables got covered and decorated and that everything was going smoothly and early to rise every morning to get the coffee going for everyone! Jaye, thank you so much for stepping up!

Anne Ensminger and Dorothy Thomas are always in the registration area ready to sign in all of our campers. This is an ALL DAY job on Friday and they *hardly* complain at all! They are there with their smiling faces to welcome everyone and fill out endless pieces of paperwork! Thanks you two; please don't quit!!!



Linda Kundell

It is a challenge to set up a 3 day ride at Dawson Forest. There is no power, no water, no pavilion, and no kitchen. We have to rent a tent, generators, heaters, tables, chairs & potties. We are so grateful for the worker bees that show up on Thursday to help set up tables and chairs, then unload trailers full of GERL merchandise and auction items. Bob Thomas graciously provides a water tank for our campers to use for their horses and mules. Thank you, Bob!



Dorothy Thomas and Anne Ensminger

task (all year round) and the major money maker for the horses. Fright Fest auctions brought in \$2,364. LaVon Kern is our Salesperson Extraordinaire – she runs the Flea Market fearlessly! This Fest Flea Market brought in \$734 in sales. Sue and LaVon, give yourselves a pat on the back and a hug! You are the best!

GERL always has an assortment of t-shirts, sweatshirts and caps available at our fundraisers. We sold \$979 in merchandise! Thanks to all that continue to support GERL in this way! We would also like to thank all of the volunteers that set up the merchandise and sold, sold, sold!!!

Food is always an important part of any camping trip, and we like to eat! We love our potluck dinner on Friday night! So much great food, so little time! This year Allen Orr of Loganville served us a fabulous breakfast Saturday morning, cooked chicken and BBQ all day and served a wonderful dinner Saturday night. We love him!

Sunday morning Jaye and volunteers fixed a lovely breakfast with fruit, cereal, biscuits, bacon and other yummy stuff!



Ray Ziebell

FRIGHT FEST 2012

Fright Fest wouldn't be Fright Fest without our courageous campers coming out in costume for our judges! The winner in



Caleb Norris, Trevor Sargent, Jonah, Eva Laslie

the adult category was Jack Pesserillo dressed as an old woman and he won a \$50 gift certificate. We had so many great costumes this year, right down to the dogs! The winner of the youth category was Trevor Sargent and Caleb Norris, who dressed as army soldiers. They each won \$5. Eva Laslie won second prize! She was a beautiful princess on her regal mount! Eva went home with \$5 and a new shirt! Debbie Crowe won our campsite category and won a \$50 gift certificate! Thanks go to everyone who participated!

Friday night after potluck we had a Bingo game – always a lot of fun. We had 4 winners and they all received a nice shirt from our store! Then there is the traditional game of “Screw Your Neighbor”. No, it's not what you think, it's a card game! After all was said and done, Sue Wrensen took home the pot that night. We are certainly out to entertain all!



Eva Laslie

We would like to say a special “Thank You” to Sammy LeVert and his wife, Marie. Sammy delivered the message at Cowboy Church on Sunday morning. It was very touching and emotional, after a very emotional weekend. You guys mean so much to us. Thank you!

The worst part of a camping trip is packing up to go home, and this ride was no different! Thank you to everyone that helped us (that means you, Umberto) set up and break down the camp. I think we would still be there if you hadn't pitched in! We would also like to say Thank You, Linda Kundell. You drove 100 miles round trip for two days to help wherever you could. Now THAT'S a wonderful volunteer!!



Jessica Crowe

When the dust settled, GERL had raised \$3,700 for starving, abused and neglected horses in Georgia! As Patty always says, “Better than a sharp stick in the eye!”.

Thanks go out to all of the participants and volunteers that made this ride so great! GERL looks forward to seeing you at our next three day ride in Round Oak, Ga. on the first weekend of May! Happy trails!



LaVon Kern & Buster

News From the GDA

This is Freedom, now known as Phoenix, 5 year old Sorrel Thoroughbred type gelding. Standing at 16.2 hands and a body score of a 1. He arrived at the Decatur Impound in July 2012. His arrival weight was 863.

Freedom was a shy kinda guy and was glued to his pasture mate. Slowly he started coming around, with the help from Decatur employee, John and all the wonderful volunteers. He began to overcome his shyness and he became a bit curious.

After his weight began to pick up, he was evaluated and was transported to Mansfield. Soon he was ready for some work under saddle. He was prepared for the "Halloween" Sale at Mansfield and there, his new owner found him! Love at first sight! Ariel was looking for a big gelding and there he was!



This is Freedom now with Ariel out for a quiet afternoon



As a convenience you can
renew your membership on
our website using PayPal...

<http://www.gerlltd.org>



Thank You For Donating To Our Feed A Horse Program

Erik Wittenzellner
Kit Duncan
Shirley Thomas
Carol Royer
Lynn Garrett
Candy Moore

Honorariums

In honor of Gamble by Lenore Threlkeld

Thank You For Donating To Our Stallion to Gelding Program.

Sarah Hill
you are ever faithful! Thank you!

With *Your* Help...We *Will* Make A Difference!

Memoriams

In Memory of:

Dr. Christine Gustafson by Anita Immele
John Pitcock, animal lover by Carolyn Roddey
Toni Khano by Holly Dennis
Jordache by Charles & Linda Stephens
Mike Medlock by Joanne Medlock

Our sympathies go out to the Edmondson family for the loss of their precious "Lily".

In memory of Jiggy, kind friend and companion of Sammy & Marie Levert. GERL would like to express our sincere condolences for your loss. Thankfully, we will all be joined together again one day!

In Memory of Frank Mann:

Friends from the Mansfield Barn
Joyce Holland of Smyrna, GA
Tanya Kinsley of Hillsboro, GA
Susie Bond of Social Circle, GA
Perry & Sandra Bailey of Kingstown, RI

GERL Volunteer of the Quarter

By Anne Ensminger

Our featured volunteer this quarter is Lynne Yates. Although Lynne has been involved with GERL for a relatively short time, she has jumped in neck deep. Not only has she accepted the Area Coordinator position for Cobb and surrounding counties, but she is first to volunteer to help with any event with which GERL might be associated. Any time there is a need for a GERL ambassador, Lynne Yates is there!

In spite of the fact that Lynne does not own a horse, or have an opportunity to ride them any longer, she wants to be involved with making certain that horses receive the care they deserve. Therefore, INVOLVED, she IS! She has done farm inspections for potential GERL foster and/or adoptive homes, and has actually helped find a home for at least one horse. In addition, Lynne has already organized and tended more than one GERL Information Booth. Although Lynne feels that she is just beginning to learn about the organization, she is passionate about getting the word out concerning the needs of the many unwanted horses in our state.

This lady is not one to sit back and wait for something to happen. She made her own "booth box" which contains everything needed to make a presentation on behalf of GERL. She has been instrumental in assembling information so that others will be able to do the same. Lynne is always willing and anxious to write for our newsletter or for any other publication which calls attention to the work of GERL. She writes beautifully and always presents GERL in the most positive terms.

It was the "brain child" of Lynne Yates to have our Area Coordinators write a short biography to be posted on the GERL Website. In this way, those who visit the site can get to know the AC in their area as well as learn more about the duties of ACs in case they may be interested in becoming one. Of course, Lynne's bio was the first to be submitted and it can be seen on our site at www.gerlltd.org.

In addition to all of this, Lynne Yates is one of the nicest people you could ever meet. Always positive, she spreads that attitude anywhere she goes. Everyone looks forward to working beside Lynne at every opportunity!



WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS



New Member	Referred By	From
Denise Arnold	GERL	Norcross, GA
Judy Claborn	GERL	Monticello, GA
Shalee Cooper	Debora Hines	Pelham, GA
Lewis & Jennifer Eberhardt	Patty Livingston	Dacula, GA
Chris & Dawn Forman	GERL	Decatur, GA
Carol Harper	Sheila Ogle	Madison, GA
Steve & Maria Land	Becky Gregory	Loganville, GA
Laney Marable	GERL	Bishop, GA
Sherry Marshall	GERL	Dacula, GA
Patricia Mayson & Family	Dr. Reese	Monroe, GA
Alicia Mohr & Family	Website	Grayson, GA
Jeanie Norton	Debora Hines	Cairo, GA
Brannon Reeves & Family	Ruth Wilson	Madison, GA
Howard & Candy Thompson	GERL	Byron, GA
Dante & Claudia Tomaselli	Ray Ziebell	Kennesaw, GA
Chris & Karla Vaughn	GERL	Gainesville, GA
Nancy Witham & Family	GERL	Stockbridge, GA
Clay & Lindsay Harrison	GERL	Jefferson, GA
Robert & Lori Griffith	Website	Lithia Springs, GA

If you have any questions about when you need to renew contact: Diana Kelsey; diana@gerlltd.org or 770-267-0867.

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R-E-S-P-E-C-T

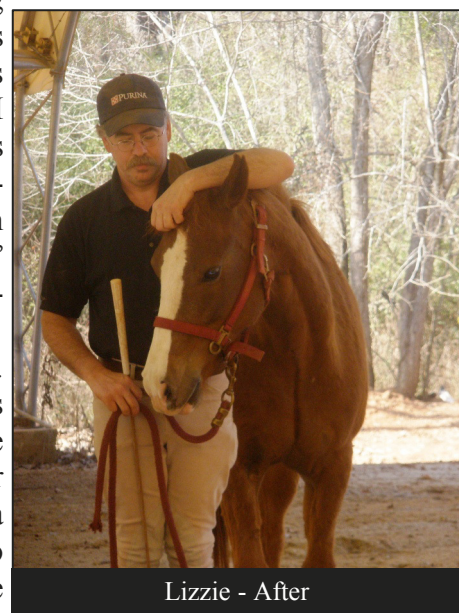
By Ann Murphy

I am new to GERL....just received my second horse. I loved bringing Star, the mustang gelding to a good weight and a good attitude. He was very bothered by insect bites (which is common in Georgia for horses that were born in the West, as he was). He is now in Alpharetta and I trust, doing well. When he came to me he was very thin and his hooves were in poor condition. He was however, disrespectful of my space, turning his behind and his shoulder into me, and jerking his head away when I would halter him. I am a Parelli student and in addition to being "nice" to him I taught him that even when you don't feel good you must be respectful.



Lizzie - Before

Now I have Lizzie, a cute little mare. She is in good condition but also has respect issues. In just several weeks she has made a lot of improvement. Her previous foster home had brought her a long way and I am hoping to get her to be adoptable. I think sometimes we want to do so much for our animals, especially those that have been mistreated, that we don't demand respect. After all, it is a relationship, a two way street. The horse has responsibilities just as we do. I look forward to playing with Lizzie and hope to continue my relationship with GERL for a long time to come.



Lizzie - After

RENEWALS DUE FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2013

JANUARY

Dee Allen
Barbara Bendzunas
Danny & Jody Brooks
Teresa Brown & Family
Bob Burris
Lou & CeCe Calli
Sharyn Canady & Family
Pam Carter
Judy C. Close
Penny Cogdill
Bob Cooper
Amy Cox
Carol Doeffinger
Anne Ensminger
Janine Marie Gosselin
Marie Greer
Robert & Becky Gregory
Kathy Hansen
Nick & Patty Howard
Penny Kwirant & Family
Arlene Livingston
Patty Livingston
Chuck May
Sarah Pallas
Tammis & T.E. Pennington
Robyn Placek & Family
Lee & Kim Raines & Family
Marie Simrod
Amy Sperrazza
Carl & Jean Strickland
Bob & Dorothy Thomas
Thomas Threatt
Hannah Walker
Bob & Margaret Wallace
Becky White
Debbie Whitworth



FEBRUARY

Rosa Allen
Susan Allen & Family
Nelson & Barbara Argo
Amy Aronson-Friedman
Natalie Baddour
Art and Elizabeth Bartlett
Judy Berringer
Elaine Bishoff
Bill & Pamela Blass & Family
Evelyn Braile
City of Homerville Police
- Dept./Animal Control
Roy & Amie Close
Deborah Dickinson
Donald & Beth Dillard
Libby Driskell
Rick & Alice Enix
Sheri Fennell
Marian Finco
Mark & Lynn Garrett
Ernie & Leslie Gassmann
Chip & Joan Grant
Susie Hansen & Scott Harris
Andrea Harper

MARCH

John & Kathy Basnar
Terry Berglund, Oh Horse Sit!
Virginia B. Bilbo
Cheryl Bray & Family
Gail Carmody
Lamar & Kathy Chandler
Judith Clark
Margaret & Jeffrey Clower & Family
Suzanne Economopoulos
Gary & Barbara Edwards
Katie Lott Ellis
Gloria English
Verleen Flaig
Kay Fletcher
Sandra Freeman
Marcia Geraci
Bob & Shirley Guhl
Lee Hager
Bobby & Catherine James
Sherry Jones
LaVon Kern
Tom & Karen Komatz
Greg & Cindy Massey & Family
David & Leisa McCannon
Boyd McLocklin
Mary Jane McNeill & Family

David & Gina Hendrix
Clifford & Jaye Herrington
LeAnn Householder
Angela Hughes & Family
Faye Kent
Karen Kight
Bill & Wanda Lane
George Lilley & Family
Joray Lockridge
Sherry Massey & Family
Cami Miranda
Ute Moore
Ken & Brenda Owens
Carol Paige, Precision Barn Builders, LLC
Susan Prugh & Family
David Scudder
Jim & Jeanne Shelhimer
Jennifer Smith & Family
Linda Stallings
Terry & Tina Turner
Jill Williams
Susan Wis & Family
George & Charlotte Zubowicz

Butch Slate & Cheryl Moreland
Steven B. Neal
Beulah Newton
Eddy O'Hern
Carole Paige
Krista Pezold
Donna Pieper & Keith Fleming
Gail S. Posey & Family
Cheryl Pritchard
Beth Scarborough
Ginny Scarritt
Martha Shepherd
Robyn Smith
Alice Stagg
Linda Stringer
Ava Talmage, D.V.M., Amicalola Veterinary Services
Nancy Tyndal
Carol Upshaw & Family
W.R. & Jean Vandeventer
Althea Walker
Valerie Warburton
Larry & Pam Webb
Ashley & Marilyn Whitener
Dick & Kay Wrobel

Meet Grayson

By Patty Livingston

Grayson came to GERL, the result of a call for help from one of the officers at the Gwinnett County Animal Shelter. His owners weren't starving him, though he was a little thin, and they hadn't broken any laws...yet. But the officer had learned that they were returning to their home country of Mexico and since they were unable to find him a home, they were going to leave him behind (supposedly) without care. I agreed to meet the officer at the location to take a look at the pony. She had already told me that he was a stallion and that immediately got my attention. I'm going to go out of my way to make sure that stallions don't slip through the net to someone who might breed them.

As I got out of my car and walked towards the barn I couldn't help but notice that the two horses that were grazing nearby were also stallions. We entered a large stall and there stood the cutest gray pony munching on his hay.

While I was taking a few pictures of him we heard a horse coughing in the next stall. Uh Oh! You know what that means? There's got to be another stallion in the adjoining stall. We left the pony's stall to go to the source of the coughing and sure enough, there stood the most magnificent gray Quarter Horse stallion I had seen in a long time. This horse was nice! About that time, a young man appeared at the barn and told us that the gray stallion we were looking at was already sold and would be going to his new home soon. I asked him a few questions about the gray pony and learned that he didn't have a new home to go to because of his size. He wasn't big enough. He told us that the pony didn't have a name, but he was five years old and broke to ride. I could see the white spots on both sides of his withers that proved he'd carried a saddle and a good bit of weight at some point in time. He was quiet and I liked him, immediately. The boy agreed that he would meet me after school the following day and I would come back and pick up the little gray pony.

The next day I arrived at the run-down farm that I rec-

ognized had once been a show place in a different time. I got out and the boy came out to meet me. We walked back to the stalls and I was thinking that this was this pony's lucky day. I was going to take him to a new life where he would be loved and he would certainly have a name! I thought about it on the drive back home, feeling very good about the good deed that had been done. By the time I reached my farm I had decided on a name. He would be "Grayson" and I tried it out a few times and he seemed to like it just fine.

I got him settled into his new pasture and he really enjoyed being free, I think. I have never seen him go into the barn to which he has free access. I guess when you've

looked at four walls for an extended period of time you tend to appreciate the outdoors more. In fact, after putting him in the pasture he moved to the other side and wouldn't come near me or my neighbors who came over to check out the new arrival. He was very wary of us and I wondered if I was going to have a problem catching him.

That evening I served a half a scoop of sweet feed and a flake of alfalfa mix hay to my new ward. He wouldn't

come near me, even when I stood there rattling the feed around in the bucket. After I left his pen he walked over to the bucket of grain and started munching down. I didn't need to worry about him after that. He was waiting at the gate for me to feed him the next day. He loved the feed and it was obvious it was something that he had never had. I couldn't help but admire his manners. He did not display the typical "pushiness" that most horses will display at feeding time. I also couldn't help but notice that he has great feet. They were trimmed to perfection when I picked him up and have stayed that way. We don't really know what kind of horse Grayson is. Some have suggested that he may be a Paso mix just because of the shape of his head, but I haven't noticed any special gait when he trots or runs. He is 11.2 hands and weighs approximately 600 pounds. We have not ridden him to assess his training yet. I immediately scheduled an appointment to get him gelded after he arrived at my farm and we have been letting him re-cooperate and just be a horse. Stay tuned for more updates on Grayson!



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