



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With Your Help ...
We Will Make A Difference

Volume #166

www.gerlltd.org

May 2009

My Thoughts on Compassion

By: Patty Livingston

There is nothing like hearing about a starved horse to set my blood to boiling! GERL recently received a call reporting eight Arabians that were extremely underweight. Arrangements were quickly made to investigate. Thankfully, we found that not all of the horses were as bad as originally reported. Two were assigned a body score of three (five out of 10 is considered ideal). A couple of the others were marginal, but the rest were indeed, extremely thin.



There are several explanations for horses to lose body condition to this extent. The most obvious is that they are not getting enough to eat. Other common reasons may include extreme parasite load, low pecking order in the herd, or old age with accompanying dental problems. Some horses are simply "hard keepers". GERL and people, who truly love horses, cannot accept any of these excuses. We know that responsible horse owners successfully address these kinds of problems daily.

(continued on page 16)

Who's Who
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**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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***Please submit all newsletter materials by the
10th of each month for submission in the
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LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

I wish I were an eloquent writer like Miss. Anne, and the words would just pop into my brain and somehow, to the paper. However, as my mother would say ... if wishes were horses ...beggars would ride! You want to know what's going on with GERL and hopefully, how I write it isn't near as important as the message that I deliver. With that said, let me tell you what's going on with GERL.

First of all, every trip to the post office to get the mail makes me want to turn a cart-wheel! Our box is almost always full and I check it at least twice a week. Money is coming in from new members, renewing members, donations and the like. It is really something to get excited about, especially, since the media is constantly telling us how awful things are in the world.

We get emails and calls almost daily, asking for GERL to help place an unwanted horse or to help a family who cannot afford to take care of their horses, anymore. The surprising news is that we also have about as many people emailing or calling us because they want to foster or adopt a horse! In the past 30 days, we have found great "forever" homes for three horses, with two additional adoptions pending. In fact, we have more people wanting to adopt than we have horses for adoption. What a nice problem to have!

Our newsletter is looking great, wouldn't you agree? Our newsletter editor, Betty Evenson, is doing a wonderful job and we're getting compliments about it all of the time. Newsletters are only as interesting as the variety of people writing the articles. And, we need more variety. Perhaps you've experienced your own horse rescue? If you have any interest in writing an article about your horse story or experience, we'd love to hear from you. Articles are due by the 10th of every month.

Our membership drive competition is being led by our VP, Ken Archer, who currently has brought in 33 new members at the time of this writing. Ken can sell ice to Eskimos, so, this hasn't surprised the rest of us, who are trailing behind. Ken's daughter, Shannon Marler, is running in second place with 19 new memberships and I am in third place with 12. There are several others who have 1 or 2 new members to their credit, but they're going to have to kick it in gear to catch up! The contest ends on May 1st and the winner will be announced at The Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride. The prize is \$100 and Ken will add another \$100 if anyone is able to beat him!

Speaking of Ken's daughter, Shannon contacted PetSmart and acquired the form to request grant monies for GERL. Believe me, the form was NOT a piece of cake. I compare it to preparing your income taxes ... long form. I just want to recognize Shannon for her support and her tenacity. Look for updates on the outcome of the grant request in future articles.

There's so much going on with events to attend ... we approach each like a hurdle, one by one. The Poker Ride was a great success and raised over \$1,400.00, despite the rain. The following weekend, Donna Pieper and Keith Fleming represented GERL at the Harbin's Park grand opening. Then, there was the new Pulaski Prison Equine Impound ribbon cutting ceremony down near Hawkinsville. The weekend after that, Marge Mabey and our new intern, Katie Lawrence, and I tended a booth at the Animal Rescue Fair at Wills Park. The following weekend, Anne Ensminger, Leisa and David McCannon and Sylvia Mooney worked a booth at The Stock Market's annual flea market in Conyers. Next on the agenda is The Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride, coming up the weekend of May 1 - 3. And, between all of the events, we're picking up hay and feed and delivering it to some new horses in need. We're meeting Vets to pull blood and give shots; we're doing whatever it takes and everything in between.

This is quite an exhausting schedule, as you might imagine. It takes many volunteers to make all of this happen. And, let me say this ... about that ... it could also be a fast track to burn-out if the burden is not shared. We are always receiving invitations for GERL to be represented at a function or to speak to a club or organization. I promised myself I would dedicate due diligence to increase the number of volunteers. I hope you will help me by giving just a little of your time and volunteer to do something to help GERL. With YOUR Help ... We're Making a Difference!



WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS

George Abercrombie	Conyers	Ken Archer
John Barnett	Loganville	Ken Archer
Tiffany & Greg Bergdorf	Roswell	Donna Pieper
Britt & Melisa Bowen & Family	Loganville	Shannon Marler
Dustin Braswell	Danielsville	Ken Archer
Wallace & Dallas Brittain	Alpharetta	Patty Livingston
George & Barbara Bullock	Fairburn	Donna Pieper
Kim "Raven" Butler	Douglasville	Rita Benfield
Dan Chalker	Stapleton	Tammis Pennington
Adriana & John Clark	Atlanta	Shannon Marler
Ondrea Culp	Woodstock	N.Fulton Feed Store
Steve & Pam de Lyra	Dawsonville	GERL
Karen Duncan	Hoschton	GERL
Scott & Cathy Embry & Family	Douglasville	Shannon Marler
Kathy Evans	Savannah TN	Patty Livingston
Jimmy Farlow & Family	Jonesboro	Shannon Marler
Darryl Farmer	Monroe	Ken Archer
Ed Fincher	Loganville	Ken Archer
Erin Fox	Woodstock	Shannon Marler
Billy & Alison Garrett & Family	Loganville	Shannon Marler
Ray Gary, Jr., Atty. at Law	Acworth	Shannon Marler
Linda Gettle	Cartersville	Shannon Marler
Jill & Chuck Hannon	Loganville	Diana DeMoss
Jim & Amy Hogan	Marietta	Shannon Marler
Allen & Nicole Holsomback	Covington	Ken Archer
Jayne & Laura Horton	Kennesaw	Shannon Marler
Bill Hughes & Family	Atlanta	Shannon Marler
Rusty Hutton	Flowery Branch	Ken Archer
Sherry Jones	Thomson	Nicki Thigpen
Stephen & Brooke Khodabakhsh & Family	Loganville	Shannon Marler
Sharon Kitchens	Social Circle	Ken Archer
Michael Kramer, Attorney at Law	Marietta	Shannon Marler
Gerald & Arline Livingston	Palatka FL	Patty Livingston
Fred Lowery	Forest Park	Ken Archer
Michael Marsh & Family	Marietta	Shannon Marler
Thomas Mason	Loganville	Ken Archer
Eddie Mathis	Madison	Ken Archer
Michael McChesney, Attorney at Law	Marietta	Shannon Marler
Jennifer McCloskey	Aurora CO	Ann McCloskey
Jeanette McElhannon & Family	Bethlehem	Lynn McMinn
Cindy Modrell	Conyers	Ken Archer
Ed & Brittany Nolan & Maddy Naman	Savannah	Ken Archer
Darrell & Melanie Quakenbush	Commerce	Patty Livingston
Susan & Paul Reid	Social Circle	GERL
Brad Sauls	Covington	Ken Archer
Ronnie Schmucker	Grayson	Ken Archer
Jimmy Seagle	Powder Springs	Ken Archer
Kenny Shull & Family	Alpharetta	Shannon Marler
Matt & Jessica Smith	Buckhead	Shannon Marler
Mary Stearns, P.C.	Marietta	Shannon Marler
Charles & Linda Stephens	Winder	Ken Archer
Ashley & Morgan Stuart	Canton	Shari Spokes
Nathan Swope	Monroe	Ken Archer
Trampus Walker	Hiram	Shannon Marler
Barry Weatherby	Grayson	Ken Archer
Ken Yeager	Atlanta	Ken Archer
David Yoon	Loganville	Ken Archer

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
With Your Help ... We Will Make A Difference



Thank You For Renewing Your GERL Membership

George Abercrombie	Conyers, GA
Rita Benfield & Mike Wade	Douglasville, GA
Virginia B. Bilbo	Conyers, GA
Kathy & Lamar Chandler	Jersey, GA
Tanya & Anthony Cochran & Family	Bethlehem, GA
Elizabeth Dees	Stockbridge, GA
Andrea Elmore	McDonough, GA
Nancy Fitzgibbons	Mableton, GA
Laura Harrell	Good Hope, GA
Clifford & Jay Herrington	Monticello, GA
John & Sarah Hill	Hazelhurst, GA
Sonny & Kay Hinote	Lawrenceville, GA
Mark, Melinda & Kelsey Hulse	Covington, GA
Dan Hutchins	Davisboro, GA
Tanya & Dave Kingsley	Hillsboro, GA
Michelle & Wesley Lyle	Bowdon, GA
Lynn McMinn & Family	Monroe, GA
Eric & Cambria Moon	Buchanan, GA
Denise Mortensen	Marietta, GA
Krista Pezold	Marietta, GA
Ruth & Doug Sarrett	Madison, GA
Virginia Scarritt	Atlanta, GA
Shari Spokes	Royston, GA
Deborah Stewart	Cartersville, GA
Chatty Stover	Suches, GA
Mary Ann Topper	Dawsonville, GA
Lauren Turner	Atlanta, GA
Rick & Sue Vetsch	Covington, GA
Julia & Charlie Williams	Savannah, GA
Martha A. Woodham	Sharpsburg, GA
George & Charlotte Zubowicz	Warm Springs, GA

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**
With Your Help ... We Will Make A Difference

A Note from the Secretary's Desk
By: Anne Ensminger, Secretary

Your GERL Board of Directors was honored when we were invited and attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Reception for the new Pulaski State Prison Equine Impound Facility near Hawkinsville on March 26. This lovely new facility is a partnership between Georgia Department of Corrections and Georgia Department of Agriculture. In addition to the Decatur and Mansfield Impounds, this will make the third GDA Equine Impound Facility in Georgia where starved, abused, and unwanted horses may be taken for care and rehabilitation after seizure by GDA, from owners who have failed to properly care for them. Inmates under the supervision of GDA Inspectors are responsible for construction and maintenance of the facility, as well as care of the animals.

This type of program is a first in our state. It makes perfect sense. Female inmates at Pulaski, desiring to work this detail, must go through a rigorous interview and evaluation process. Only those meeting a high standard of exemplary behavior and passing the mandatory security check are chosen to care for the horses.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was quite impressive. After a welcome from Warden Tom Chapman and posting of the colors by the Prison Color Guard, we all pledged allegiance to the flag, and an Invocation was giving by Prison Chaplain Judy Knapp. GERL friend and head of the GDA Equine Division, Mary Greene, greeted everyone and made introductions of attending dignitaries as each gave a short speech. We heard remarks from Georgia Agriculture Commissioner, Tommy Irvin, Assistant Commissioner/Georgia Department of Agriculture, Terry Coleman, and Georgia State Veterinarian, Dr. Carter Black. All of these

men are rightfully, very proud of this accomplishment.

Dr. Ivan Allen of Middle Georgia Technical College then explained that the inmates, fortunate enough to be chosen to work with the impounded horses, would leave the prison with a certificate of completion from the MGTC Veterinary Assistant Program. This represents another fruitful partnership involving the Georgia Department of Corrections' Re-entry Project, which will hopefully insure each graduate a better chance for obtaining gainful employment, once released from the prison.

Probably the most moving part of the ceremony came when two inmates, both deeply involved with, and committed to the horses, spoke about what being able to participate in this exclusive detail, has meant to them. One of the women read a poem, shared in this publication.

After successfully wielding a pair of BIG scissors, Commissioner Brian Owens, Department of Corrections, and Commissioner Tommy Irvin, Georgia Department of Agriculture, cut the ribbon. At last, the Pulaski State Prison Equine Impound Facility was officially opened.

Prison staff then served a delicious barbeque lunch and we had a chance to visit with dignitaries and inmates alike. Many expressed their gratitude to GERL for our help with the purchase of materials for building fences and shelters for the animals. Inmates have furnished all of the labor for fencing and shelter construction. The Board is happy to report that they have done a wonderful job. If not all of them are able to find work as Veterinary Assistants after their release, they can certainly make a living with their newfound carpenter skills!

*See additional Pulaski photos on the following page



Photo at Right

Commissioner Brian Owens, GA. Dept. of Corrections and Commissioner Tommy Irvin, Department of Agriculture cut the ribbon to officially open the new Equine Impound at Pulaski Women's Prison near Hawkinsville



Rescue Horse, Rescue Me

He is often simply referred to as equine,
You can call him a horse that will be fine.

He dreams of warm straw surrounded by a stable,
He dreams of running in the meadow but, today he is not able.

Tomorrow should be wet and cold and he will be too,
He limps on the front right, he has a loose shoe.

His face is different on the left side, look and you can see why,
He is missing a few teeth and his left eye.

He looks so old, walking looking at the ground,
His life is about to change for today he has been found.

He is called a rescue and is led out of the trailer,
He walks past everyone to the food from the hay bailer.

The vet takes a look and says "now he will be all right",
He lies down on the straw and beds down for the night.

He hears the word Pulaski and wonders if that's his new name,
A soft hand rubs his nose and gently brushes his mane.

She is often simply referred to as human,
You can call her an inmate that will be fine.

She made a few mistakes, got into crime,
She knows the word Pulaski, she is doing time.

She dreams of the outdoors and learning to be prudent,
Today is the day she became a student.

She passed the interview for The Equine Rescue Program,
She exits the complex and ignores the door slam.

She heads for the pasture, deep breathes, a tear in the eye,
A horse moves toward her as if to ask why.

Why are you here, who are you, what do you do,
Her eyes scan, and then focus on the loose shoe.

They meet and touch, who is rescuing who,
They depart with a demeanor that is so new.

What will become of you horse and student too,
Can we heal together and learn anew?

That life can be hard and yet worth it all,
There is a need to lean on the strong when we fall.

Leaning together both horse and mankind,
Somehow translates that all will be fine.

A pasture full of horses and students all
confined,
Lives to live and so entwined.

Days to spend and lots on the mind,
Release day is coming, I've done my time.

Time moves on yet life is better,
Horse and human facing trails no matter
the weather.

Sunny days and rainy ones too,
She has been rescued now she knows
what to do.

Rescue horse, rescue me,
Today we are both free.

**By Lonnie R. Philpot
Omega Team
K9 Search and Rescue, Inc. 02-09**

More Photos ... Pulaski State Prison Equine Impound Facility



Pulaski Prison inmates love the horses for which they care ... and the horses MUST love them!

This inmate seems to be saying to this young colt "we've both had a bum wrap so far, haven't we fella?"



Pulaski inmate shows off one of the young horses housed at the Pulaski Prison Equine Impound



Shed built with prison labor and materials furnished by GERL at the new Pulaski Women's Prison Equine Impound



GERL Adoptables

Rusty is a 2 year old Arab-cross colt with a great mind and plenty of energy. He is ready to be partnered with someone who can begin his education and work with him to become a great partner.

Nadia is a 3 year old Arab-cross filly. She is currently in training with Ed Huie for basic ground-work. Nadia will be a perfect project for someone who is interested in natural horsemanship and will take the time to make her into a willing partner.

ADOPTED



RUSTY



SPICE

Spice a 10 year old Quarter Horse mare who has never been ridden but has been a pet for all of her life. Her owner has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and Spice must find a new home. Spice is very sweet and is starved for the daily affection that she once knew. If you could use a companion horse or would like a wonderful project, please come meet Spice.

Ms. Greenway is very low key. Nothing frazzles her - neither cars, tractors, deer, 250 lb. hogs, nor noises. She looks like a standard bred horse - a tall bay with only a star of white. She loads, halts, and loves to be gently groomed. At 12 years old, she should come along quickly and will probably be suited for someone who wants a gentle mount.

For adoption fees and additional information please contact

Donna Pieper
GERL Adoption & Foster Coordinator
(404) 797-3333 / gerldonna@bellsouth.net



MISS GREENWAY

A Day in the Life of a GDA Equine Inspector

By: Robin Easley, Field Supervisor

An equine inspector for the Georgia Department of Agriculture is one of the most arduous, but rewarding occupations a horse lover can imagine. The Equine Health Field Staff is responsible for enforcing the laws of Georgia that pertain to equines. These include the Humane Care for Equines Act, the Animal Protection Act, the Equine Act of 1969, and the Dead Animals Disposal Act. They are also the primary response team for equine in disasters and provide presentations to promote public awareness of issues within the equine community. The term "equine inspector" encompasses many vocations. An inspector is a horse wrangler, a little bit police officer, a little bit lawyer, a secretary, a photographer, part veterinarian, a professional driver, a little bit of a counselor, a rescue worker, a handy man at the barns, and above all a teacher.

The inspectors not only spend hours out on the road each day doing inspections, they face the endless mound of paperwork, including report writing, filing, labeling photographs, and accounting for every min-

ute and mile. The day to day challenge of dealing with negligent horse owners must be met with compassion, creativity, and tenacity. Inspectors must be cautious in dealing with equine of unknown behaviors, yet confident enough to try to lay hands on them for an accurate assessment. They must be brave enough to drive onto a property not knowing what is waiting for them, armed only with a badge, a cell phone, and a camera. Some individuals they face are receptive to what the inspector has to say, others greet them with open hostility, occasionally even a weapon. Inspectors are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, rain, snow, sleet, or shine. Some of them have worked by telephone while on vacation. Inspectors become very "territorial" in regards to their cases. They feel a sense of responsibility for the horses they try to ensure have food and water each day.

We will be bringing you various articles highlighting our equine inspectors' days in the field. They are a true representation of a real day in the life of a GDA Equine Inspector. None of them do this job for the money, the hours are long and there is no glory. We all clock in each day because of our love of the horse and for the satisfaction that at the end of the day, we made a positive difference in the life of an equine.

A Day in the Life of a GDA Equine Inspector

By: Courtney Farnon, Inspector

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Originally, I had planned on making this a short day due to having to work two horse sales this weekend and trying to save hours to work with Paula next Tuesday. Just goes to show: don't ever try to plan your day with this job!

I started out going all the way up to Dalton to meet Paula to get her box of permanent Coggins tests for the Highway 20 sale tomorrow. Since I already had a standing appointment to do a stable inspection at Berry College, I researched the most direct route from Dalton to Rome (not exactly close by!). After finishing a stable inspection for 88 horses, I worked a new complaint on an emaciated mare in Rome. The owner told me he was on disability and could not afford to get a veterinarian to look at the mare; nor could he afford to feed her more than a small amount of feed once a day. I told him he had to either feed the horse adequately so that she would gain enough weight to be in adequate body condition or else he would have to sell her or give her away.

I made my way north again to Ringgold for a complaint on an owner tethering their horses in the front yard. This drive alone took well over an hour and then

I could not find the horses because there was nothing but a road name given. I stopped and asked some ladies at a hair salon and luckily they knew the owners. The owners had two fat miniature horses in a pasture that they occasionally tied out for a couple of hours to eat grass. Couldn't help but wonder if this was really worth the 2 ½ hours when I have so many other very critical cases.

Next, I traveled south again to Bartow county to check for compliance on a violation I left for not burying a horse that had been lying out for three days. The horse had been buried; what a relief.

My last case of the day was anew complaint on a horse that a gentleman had sold to some people and the horse had "lost 500 pounds" since he sold it. The horse was thin, but I think 500 pounds is a stretch. Come to find out the complainant never received his money from "selling" the horse, so he is upset. I will have to keep an eye on this one. Maybe the horse's quality of life will improve with my intervention and a little education for the new owner. Eight hours and 235 miles later, I finally have time to stop and take my lunch break. So much for a short day! So goes a day in the life of an Equine Inspector.

(see more Life As ... on page 12)

**If Your Name Is Listed Here, Your Membership Is Due For Renewal!
This Will Be Your Last Newsletter Unless You Renew.**

Debbie Busbee
Ann Cofield
Marcella Donahue
Patty Gale
Diane Kirby
Susan Lang
Kelly Lockerman
Sharon & Richard Wilson

Thomaston, GA
Buford, GA
Duluth, GA
Rincon, GA
Greensboro, GA
Roswell, GA
Athens, GA
Jefferson, GA

Please continue to support GERL ...

Junior Membership \$15 (12 and under)

Single Membership \$25

Family Membership \$35

Business, Club, etc. \$50

***Membership form is on the last page of this newsletter**

Please mail your check to:

**GERL
PO Box 328
Bethlehem, GA 30620**



Please Help

Please send
proof of purchase seals
from bags of any
Southern States feed to

Ginny Scarritt
4835 Kendall Court
Atlanta, GA 30342

Ginny is collecting them
for GERL
and we will receive money
for everyone she sends to
Southern States.

**Thank You
Dr. Ken Marcella**

for providing our membership with such
informative articles each month.

See page 18 for this month's article



ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?

A Day in The Life of a GDA Equine Inspector

By: Equine Inspector Patty-Jo Sanchez

On Sunday 3-1-09 I got an e-mail containing photos of one of my open cases. The sender stated that there was a horse down and the owner was there with the horse. The horses in the pictures appeared to be very thin with body scores of 2's. The last time I was at that location was at the end of October and the horses were body scores of 5's and 6's. I planned to go out on Monday, but was snowed in due to the snow storm over the weekend.

On 3-3-09 I got up at 4:00AM made coffee, checked e-mails, fed horses and dogs, and got ready for work. 7:00AM I pulled out of my drive way, and yes it was still dark out. At 8:00AM I got to the location of the complaint. Upon arrival I could see a few thin horses from the road. I went to the owner's house, but no answer. I entered the property to inspect the horses. I came up on a young dead horse that had a strong odor. I walked up behind the barn and could see a very thin mare and foal in with the dead horse. By this time I started getting a sick feeling. In the round pen next to the mare and foal was a thin horse, body score of a 1, lying in the cold wet mud. It appeared to be dead. Now I am getting different emotions: fear, sadness, and anger. Then the horse that I thought was dead moved its leg. Yes, I jumped out of my skin!

I called my supervisor to inform her of what I had seen. I called Animal Control and the Police Department, because I did not know what kind of people I

may be dealing with. I went back to my truck to calm down. I had so much anger and so many tears because at that time I wanted the person who was responsible for these horses to pay for his crime. Animal Control arrived, but the police Department never showed up. We walked around the property looking for more horses and taking photos. My supervisor arrived along with other Equine Inspectors with trailers in tow, and a state veterinarian to examine the horses for possible impoundment. A total of nine horses were impounded from this location due to starvation. As we were loading the horses, the local media showed up asking questions. Due to Department policy that all media inquiries go through the press office, we were not allowed to answer their questions, although we would really like to be the voice for the horses. The owners kicked them off of the property.

Thank goodness I had an inspection warrant, so we had the right to stay and take the horses. As the horses were examined and loaded, the excuses came pouring out followed by the blame game. The owner blamed the caretaker. The caretaker blamed the feed company. The county blamed me. I reminded them that I am responsible for 11 counties on a daily basis, not to mention having to cover counties for other inspectors when they are out. So it came down to who is to blame for the horses not receiving adequate humane care – the owner. The nine horses taken from this location are currently at the impound barn, gaining weight everyday. They patiently await their fate, hoping for the day to come that they can move on to new, loving homes, with a family to care for them.

(see more Life As ... on page 28)



**A
Horse Lover's
Catalog**

(800) 332-9251
thebarndoor.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our apologies to Marei Hunter who was actually the author of "Elf - the Christmas Miracle?" in last month's newsletter. Robin Easley was credited with this article.

Thank You Merial

for providing products to help
keep our rescue horses healthy!



Dear GERL

I had an open house at my farm this past weekend and set out donation jars for GERL. Here is a check for what we raised.

Thank you for all that you do for so many horses.

Jennifer Gibson
& Everyone at T-Jay Farms

Editor's Note: Can Anyone Help?

GERL received a generous check from Jennifer M. Gibson and Everyone at T-J Farms. Unfortunately, the note, nor the check, had an address and Jennifer is not in the GERL database. I would really like to acknowledge this donation and thank them. If anyone knows Jennifer Gibson, please give me a call at (770) 464-3348. Thanks, Anne Ensminger

**Our Thoughts And Prayers
Are With You**

Marty Paulk
as you continue your battle with cancer



**CTHA Fun Show
Saturday, May 16th
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Classes and fun for everyone!

Halter, English, Gaited, Western Pleasure,
Running, Trail & other classes.
*\$5.00 per class.

Silent auction open to all
Riders and spectators will take place.
Bidding will close at 3:00 p.m.

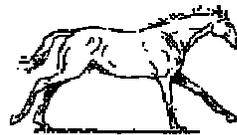
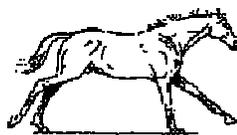
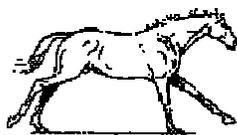
For Fun Show info
Jo Beasley (770) 869-0926
Mike Maguire (770) 983-9058

**Scavenger Hunt
Sunday, May 17th
9:00 a.m.**

Find hidden items along the trail.
Whoever sees the most items and has the
Most points wins!

\$100 for 1st Place
\$75 for 2nd Place
\$50 for 3rd Place

For Scavenger Hunt info
Debbie Crowe (404) 316-7956



THANK YOU O. LEE MOON WATSON MILL BRIDGE PARK MGR

Many of you know that Lee Moon retired as Manager of Watson Mill Bridge State Park as of April 1st. Any equestrian that has ever met Lee knows how great he is and how much he has done of the equestrian trail riders at his park.

Lee ... We can not begin to thank you for all you have done for us (and everything you tried to do for us). Please, know that YOU have made such a difference and we will forever be grateful to you!

Enjoy your well deserved retirement - we will miss seeing you on a regular basis at the park, however, I understand that we can expect to see you at our future equestrian state park work days - so that's great!

Take care - know the horse folks love you and thank you!

Sincerely,

Gloria English
GA Equestrian Trail Riders



Lee Moon enjoying a ride at Watston Mill on Diane Ayres' horse, Winston

Editor's Note: During the last Watson Mill work day the volunteers had an appreciation ceremony for Lee. CTHA, Kel-Mac Saddle Club and Madison County Trail Riders presented a plaque to Lee. Lee's most notable phrase during his thank you speech was "I mean this from the bottom of my heart ... the past 10 years or so, working with the equestrians, has been the highlight of my career".

On October 10th CTHA will be holding a Poker Ride and silent auction with proceeds benefiting the Watson Mill Bridge trail system. The full day of activities includes trail riding, an auction, great food, live music and much more. Mark your calendars as you will not want to miss a day of great fun for a wonderful cause! For Poker Ride details and reservations contact Linda Layman (706) 429-7776 or ls1horse@windstream.net and for campsite or stall reservations (should you wish to spend the weekend) please contact Jody Brooks jstage@hehodge.com.



The Kentucky Derby

An event since 1875 and the first jewel in the Triple Crown of Thoroughbred horse racing ... the Run for the Roses is held annually on the first Saturday of May.

Dear Georgia Rescue League,
I'm Caitey a little girl
who is 8 and I love horses.
I dream of having one.
But I have enough
money to take care
of one. I have a lot
of horse stuff. I went
to your webpage March
29 and said, "Oh I wish
I had enough money."
Please look on the back.

Please write back.



My Thoughts on Compassion

(continued from the cover)

It is hard for us to understand how horse owners can watch the condition of their horses deteriorate to this extent and not take action to correct it, or find other homes for the animals. While it is difficult not to judge others, believe it or not, we often find that many of these people actually love their horses. Health problems, loss of a job, unexpected debt, or divorce can cause pain and embarrassment to proud people. Occasionally, ignorance is a factor.



When dealing with these people, we must keep in mind that it is the horses

that are important, not our feelings. A good friend of mine often says, “When you have your hand in a tiger’s mouth, move very carefully”. Trying to accomplish what is best for the horses sometimes means that we must be humble as we react to each situation individually. And yes, we must learn to have compassion. Situations may vary, but losing our “attitude” before approaching each, is essential to success.

I have learned the importance of this kind of approach to owners of horses needing our help. We must be successful in establishing an amiable relationship with these owners so that the horses will benefit. I believe that a soft, understanding approach will ensure our success, in most cases. It is the only way that we were able to negotiate the voluntary release of these Arabians.



(continued on the following page)

My Thoughts on Compassion (continued from the previous page)

Whatever the reason for the horses ending up in a condition which has attracted our attention, we must not make their owners feel as if we are sitting in judgment if we hope to accomplish a successful intervention. I believe we must keep the GOAL in mind as we go toward it softly.

So, I guess I said all of that, to say this...if you ever come across a situation where your blood starts to boil, just remember to make the decision to have compassion and control your personal feelings. The horses will be the winners!



GERL is pleased to announce that Dr. Bill and Dr. Jennifer Baker of Equine Associates, LLC in Hawkinsville, GA will be joining our long time veterinary advisors, Dr. Ken Marcella and Dr. Billy Myers on our Advisory Board.

A Nutritional Approach To Arthritis Treatment

By: Kenneth L. Marcella DVM

In recent years we have been made increasingly aware of the many benefits of some foods and nutritional supplements for both horses and humans. Drinking a solution of activated charcoal is touted as a means of detoxifying the liver. Licorice jelly beans have beneficial antioxidant properties, cocoa beans and related chocolate products are the richest source of magnesium found in nature and may be beneficial in treating heart disease and hypertension. Shark cartilage, sea weed or kelp, and all sorts of oils are now in many horse supplements. Green tea can boost the immune system and maintain heart health and probiotics are all the rage in equine nutrition. While this is all well and good there seems to be no end to all the medical advantages being attached to relatively common foods for both horses and humans. Next thing you know we will be feeding our horses soybeans and avocados to prevent arthritis! Well, actually-yes.

Osteoarthritis is a common disease affecting both humans and horses and varying forms of this condition can be seen in the young, in performance athletes and in the aged. Arthritis can develop secondary to conformational defects that create an imbalanced load-bearing on joint surfaces. It can be seen following a traumatic event involving a joint and/or related structures and arthritis can occur due to the repetitive use and overuse of a joint- a "wear and tear" injury. Many different drugs, medications and therapies are available for the treatment and prevention of arthritis but the number of nutritional products being used in this fashion is increasing.

Recent work done at the Gail Holmes Orthopedic Research Center at the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine focused on the use of a special part of avocados and soybeans as a means of treating arthritis. Dr. Christopher Kawcak and other research veterinarians looked at a specific fraction of the oil from these plants and investigated its ability to reduce experimentally induced arthritis in horses. This specific fraction is called Avocado-Soybean Unsaponifiable (ASU) and denotes the part of the oils from these plants that cannot form soaps. Most oils from plants can be mixed with lye to produce soaps. A small percentage (less than one percent) of the oils from soybeans and avocados cannot be used in this way and that portion is the ASU. Oils that have this particular property generally have health benefits as well.

ASU has been studied in humans for over 10 years. Dr. E. Maheu and a group of researchers from the

Hopital Cochin in France reported in 1998 in the journal *Arthritis and Rheumatology* that a soybean-avocado oil product (ASU) produced significant improvements in symptoms in 164 patients with knee arthritis. Dr. Maheu concluded that "ASU treatment showed significant symptomatic efficacy over placebo in the treatment of osteoarthritis", with patients becoming more functional and requiring less medication for pain relief. The equine study done by Dr. Kawcak used a carpal (knee) joint arthritis model as well. Horses were evaluated for lameness, response to joint flexion, and swelling along with a number of tests that were done on joint fluid and cells from the affected joint. Those tests showed that there was a significant reduction in the erosion or destruction of cartilage and an increase in synthesis or production of certain articular cartilage factors. Dr. Kawcak's research findings were somewhat different than those of earlier human researchers in that ASU in horses did not decrease clinical signs of pain as it had in humans but there did appear to be a joint protective effect with its use. "These objective data", concluded Dr. Kawcak, "support the use of ASU extracts as a disease-modifying treatment for management of osteoarthritis in horses". Because only a small amount of the soybean or avocado is oil and only 1/100th of this oil is ASU, and because ASU must additionally be stripped from certain fibers to improve its ability to be absorbed when ingested, it is not possible to simply feed your horses soybeans and avocados. As continued research is done on these unique plants it is likely that ASU will be incorporated into more supplements and be easily available to horse owners.

But the nutritional treatment of arthritis does not stop with ASU. Many other plants and products are being used or investigated for use in treatment and prevention of joint degeneration. Omega -3 fatty acids have been shown to improve joint function in people by supporting cell membrane structure and reducing the expression of certain cytokines which are cellular components of the inflammatory response seen with arthritis. These fatty acids are found in highest concentration in fish oil but flaxseed oil also contains high amounts of omega-3's and is much more palatable to horses.

(continued on the following page)

A Nutritional Approach To Arthritis Treatment

(continued from the previous page)

Curcumin is a component of the plant Turmeric. This plant, in the ginger family, is a natural anti-inflammatory agent and inhibits both COX-2 and lipooxygenase enzymes which are major factors in pain production in arthritis. There were 256 papers published last year investigating the use of turmeric in various medical conditions and a study published in Arthritis and Rheumatology in November 2006 looked at the effectiveness of turmeric in the reduction of joint inflammation and recommended this supplement "as a possible treatment for the alleviation of arthritis symptoms". The parent plant, ginger, has also been similarly investigated. In a study of 240 human patients with knee arthritis there was a significant reduction in pain and decreased joint swelling with its use because of reductions in COX-2 enzymes and suppression of prostaglandins (another tissue inflammatory agent). While not currently "main stream" yet, there are many equine herbal products that contain ginger and turmeric (turmeric is a main component of many curry products as well). Capsaicin, derived from red pepper, reduces inflammatory cytokines and piperine, a component of black pepper, enhances the blood concentration, the bioavailability and the absorption of curcumin. These products have been combined in topical rubs for the treatment of arthritis in horses.

There are other plants and components currently being investigated as arthritis treatments that range from orange peel, tangelos, and grapefruits, to bee pollen and the stinging nettle leaf. Some of these areas of research may prove useful and some may not but the number of products available for use in the horse for arthritis treatment and prevention is certainly increasing. Informed horse owners should be aware of these developments and utilize the best arthritis treatment options possible, being sure to include proven nutritional supplements when they become available.

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The Stock Market Does it Again!

By: Anne Ensminger

Last Saturday (April 4th.) was a beautiful day and it was a good thing because that was the day that the spring flea market was held at the Stock Market in Conyers. An unbelievable assortment of merchandise was offered and good natured "dickering" was encouraged. There were even puppies and kittens for adoption. Stock Market owner, Marilyn Crabb has sponsored this event for several years and has always donated the proceeds to GERL. This year was no exception but it was the first year that GERL actually participated with a GERL booth.

Leisa McCannon, Sylvia Mooney, and Steven Neal joined me as we arrived early to set up. We were very surprised at the turn out! I think we were the last to arrive and we were lucky to find a spot. Later in the morning we were joined by Patty Livingston, Ken Archer, and his wife, Susan. We all enjoyed telling many folks who stopped by, about GERL and the work that we do. The number one comment from the folks who viewed our picture boards showing horses before and after rescue, was "How can anyone do that to a horse"?! I have been asking that question for years but still have no answer



A Bit of “Oneupsmanship”

By Anne Ensminger, Secretary

When GERL decided to hold a membership drive with a prize of \$100 for the person who recruited the most new members, our Vice President, Ken Archer set out, with great determination, to win. That is how Ken Archer operates. As his own personal challenge to the rest of us who lack such natural determination, he offered to add an additional \$100 to the prize for anyone who signed up more members than he did.

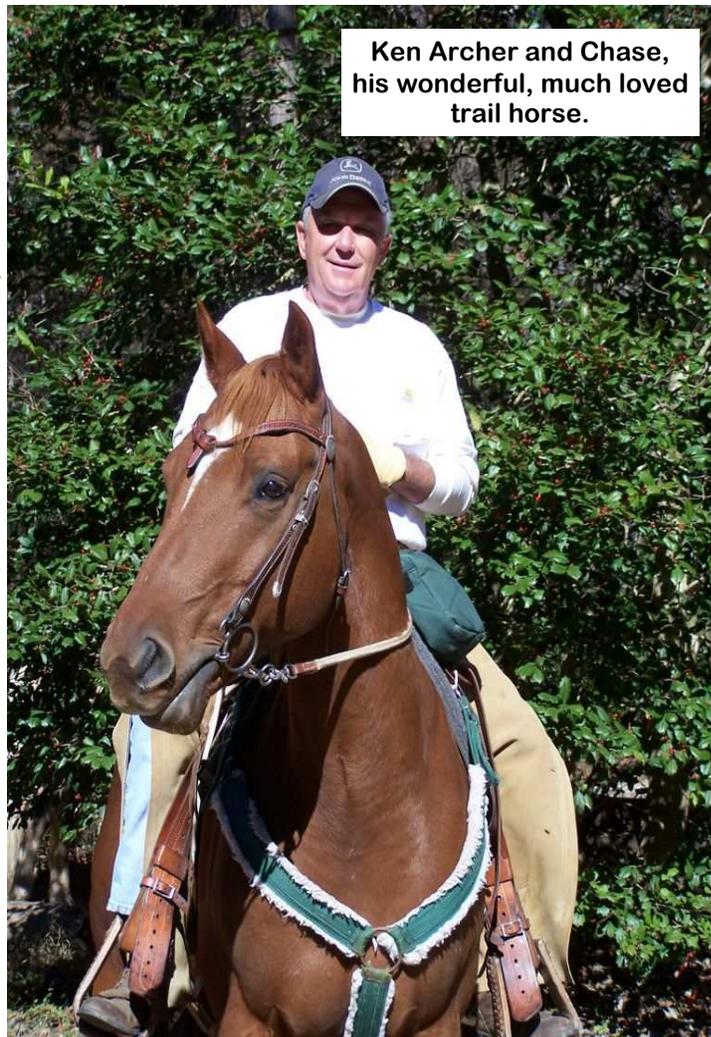
The contest has resulted in some fun, friendly, and spirited competition, not to mention, many new GERL memberships. Predictably, Ken has enjoyed a comfortable lead ... or so he THOUGHT. Quietly in the background, his daughter, Shannon Marler was busy signing up new members “on the quiet”. As they say, Shannon is an apple, which has not “fallen far from the tree”.

Last Saturday, “by hook or by crook”, Ken learned of Shannon’s plan to “knock his socks off” and, without explanation or ceremony, drove straight to Wal-Mart. There, he approached perfect strangers, handed out newsletters and told them about GERL, as he asked for their help. The human spirit cannot be explained or deigned.

I do not know how long Ken was there, or exactly how many of those kind people responded to his pleas, but he came home with enough new GERL memberships to, once again, put him in the lead to win the \$100 prize!

Perhaps the next time you see Ken, he will tell you about an Asian man he approached who was delighted to help because he loved horses ... loved to EAT them! Oh, dear, Ken!

Anyone who knows Ken Archer is certain that his motivation has nothing to do with the prize. It is all about winning, and more importantly, doing a good thing. We hope you know how much you light up our lives, Ken.



Ken Archer and Chase, his wonderful, much loved trail horse.

**Please Make Note of
GERL’s NEW ADDRESS**

**GERL
PO Box 328
Bethlehem, GA 30620**



**Thank You For Your Donations
And Continued Support**

Nancy Fitzgibbons - Mableton, GA

Marshia Milam-Medford - Covington, GA

Krista Pezold - Marietta, GA

Adriana & John Clark - Atlanta, GA

Kenny Shull - Alpharetta, GA

George & Barbara Bullock - Fairburn, GA

Kathy Evans - Savannah, TN

Linda Gettle - Cartersville, GA

Trampus Walker - Hiram, GA

Michael Marsh & Family - Marietta, GA

William DeFelice - donation through Symetra

Doris Davis - Good Hope, GA

Chatty Stover - Suches, GA

Bill Simpson - Monroe, GA



Donations in Memory Of

Tulsa
by Randy Hutton

Gene Ensminger
by Annette Raybon &
The Paulding Co 4-H Horse & Pony Club

Gene Ensminger
by Liz Dees

Kay Gann
by Chuck & Jill Hannon

Maxine
by Melody Sorrells

**Thank You For
Your Change Jars**

Tack's Fifth Avenue
Cumming, GA

The Stock Market
Conyers, GA

Southwind
Cumming, GA

GA Farm & Ranch Supply
Fayetteville, GA

Thank You To Our Foster Homes

Anne Ensminger
for fostering Rusty

Harriet O'Rear
for fostering Miss Greenway

Jean Long
for fostering Lucky

Thank You To

Marge Mabey
for donating 4 metal chairs
for GERL event booths

Steven Neal for donating a laptop
computer and a 22" flat screen monitor
to be used for presentations
in event booths

Donations in Honor Of

JoAnn Hitman
by Joel & Alice Stagg

Sue Vetsch for her tireless work for the
good of the equine industry
by Ruth & Doug Sarrett

Shannon Marler
by Ray Gary, Jr.

We Need Your Help! Auction Items Are Needed

We have two upcoming events that will include auctions - the Gene Ensminger Benefit ride and Fall Fest, 2009.

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 successful 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 auctions. It's tax deductible and benefits a great cause.

Thank You In Advance For Your Support!

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

Susan Archer, Event Coordinator
(770) 554-1381
susangerl3@bellsouth.net

Check Out The GERL Website

Steven Neal continues to rework and update the GERL website.

Take a look!
www.gerlltd.org

You will find an updated Calendar of Events, Who's Who, info on Membership, Foster Care and Adoption, and most impressive ... the current GERL Newsletter in PDF form!

The GERL website is a very important tool and it's very time consuming to keep it current.

Thank you Steven for your hard work and dedication. We appreciate it!



Foster and Adoptive Homes Desperately Needed By : Anne Ensminger, Secretary

As everyone has seen by now, we have a new Board of Directors, a new address, and a new newsletter editor, which has led to a new look for our newsletter. These things are just the beginning. We also have a new Foster and Adoption Coordinator. Donna Pieper has taken on this monumental task and is anxious to get to work making a difference for horses in need.

Never has the need been greater in these two areas. Horses are being abandoned and given up because of job losses or other financial hardships that are the result of the present economy in our country. GERL is now frequently called upon to help these horses, therefore, we are in need of help from our membership as never before.

Can you offer a horse a temporary home until a permanent home can be found? Are you interested in adopting a GERL horse?

If you have answered yes to either of these questions please contact Donna Pieper at (404) 797-3333 or gerl-donna@bellsouth.net. Let Donna know what you are able to foster and if you are looking to adopt, what sort of horse would work for you (mare, gelding, young horse, old horse, pet, or riding horse). If you have made such an offer in the past and have not been contacted, rest assured that you WILL get a response from Donna. The need is great. Please help us meet this need and help these horses!

GDA IMPOUND WORK WEEKEND

May 30 - 31

For those of you who do not already know, part of GERL's mission has always been to help the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture's Equine Division in their rescue efforts. It is a fact that they receive no State funds for the support of the equine they rescue. This is where GERL, other rescue organizations and caring individuals come into the picture. GERL has given more than \$300,000.00 to the GDA in the past 15 years and it is because of the good work that they do in helping to end abuse, that we continue to give.

I recently spoke to Mary Greene, the GDA Equine Division Director, and asked her to provide me with a list of things that are needed by the impounds. I saw Mary in person at the ribbon cutting for the new Pulaski Impound a week ago and she provided me with the following list:

Decatur Impound Needs:

- 3 plastic pitchforks
- 2 double wheel plastic wheel barrows
- 1 HD lawn mower (not riding)
- 1 weed eater
- 1 square point shovel
- Funds to repair missing pieces in roof and siding on barn (Approx. \$750.00, including high lift bucket rental)

Mansfield Impound Needs:

- Fence Materials to finish extra paddock
- Repair barn roof
- Chute to treat problem horses
- Install hot water heater
- Platform for horse weight scales
- Work bench with vice grips for repairs
- Fertilize pastures
- Industrial sprayer for weeds along fence lines
- Removal of Black Locust Tree

Someone has recently offered to donate a much-needed mobile home, which will be used as an office at the Mansfield Impound. The cost of moving and set up for this trailer will be approximately \$2,000.00. If any of our readers have any contacts in the mobile home moving business and can help out with this task, please contact Patty Livingston @770-867-0760.

After looking over the Mansfield list of needs, I started formulating an idea that would be both fun and productive. My idea is to plan a work weekend at the Mansfield Impound. Willing volunteers with building expertise, tools, and perhaps some needed materials, are welcome to participate. Our goal would be to complete the items on Mary Greene's list which require construction. GERL would provide lunch and we would have a pot-luck dinner on Saturday evening. We may even have a campfire and even some picking and grinning for those who are musically gifted. Some might choose to bring their trailers and spend the night so that work can continue on Sunday morning.

The date for this work weekend will be the May 30th and 31st. If you have construction skills, tools or just want to come and help with the horses, I am sure that there is something that you can do to help with this project. Of course, we're always happy to receive donations from anyone who has something that they think we may be able to use. Please contact Patty Livingston @ 770-867-0760 if you want to help.

GERL Members at Fun With Their Horses (& Dogs)



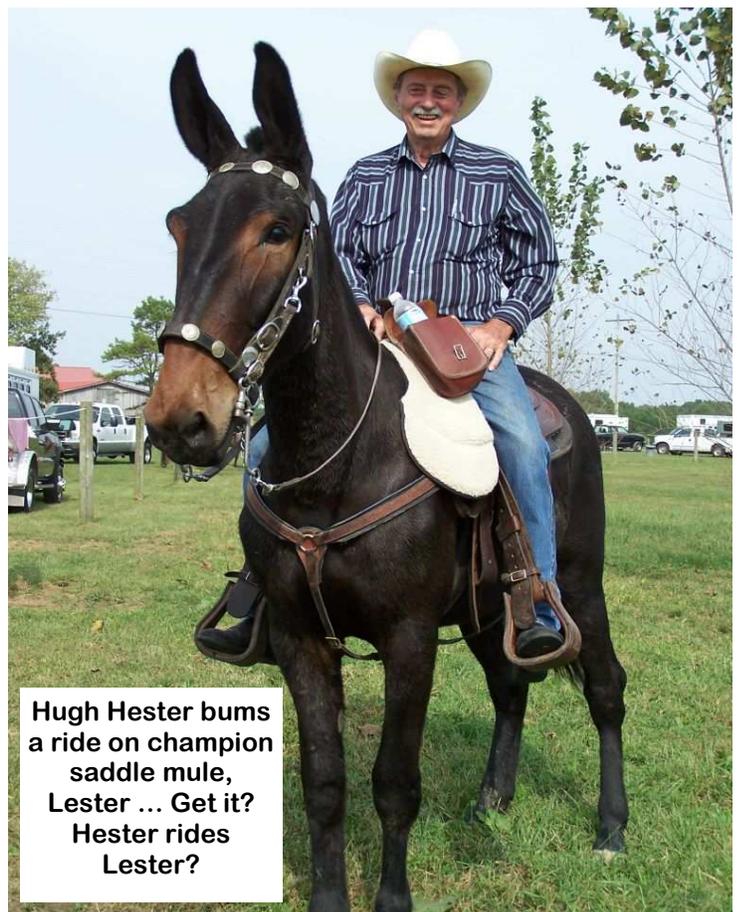
**Bob & Dorothy
Thomas,
new GERL
members**



**Tucker Shull &
Nay Nay**

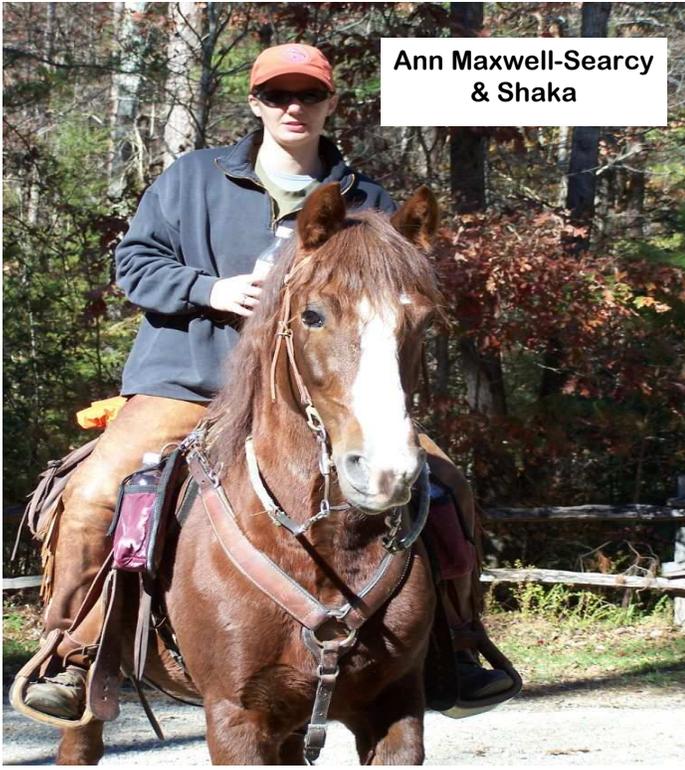


LaVon Kern & Buster

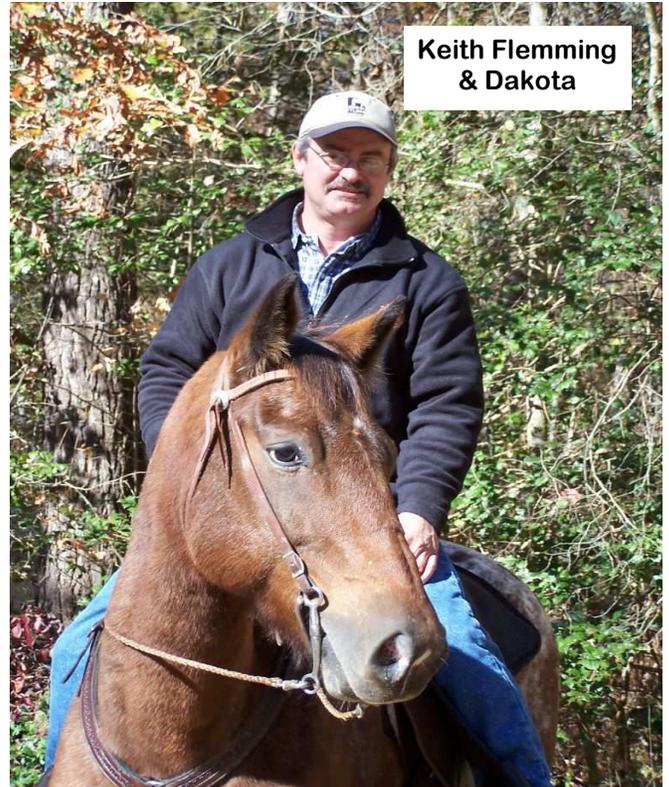


**Hugh Hester bums
a ride on champion
saddle mule,
Lester ... Get it?
Hester rides
Lester?**

GERL Members at Fun With Their Horses (& Dogs)



**Ann Maxwell-Searcy
& Shaka**



**Keith Flemming
& Dakota**

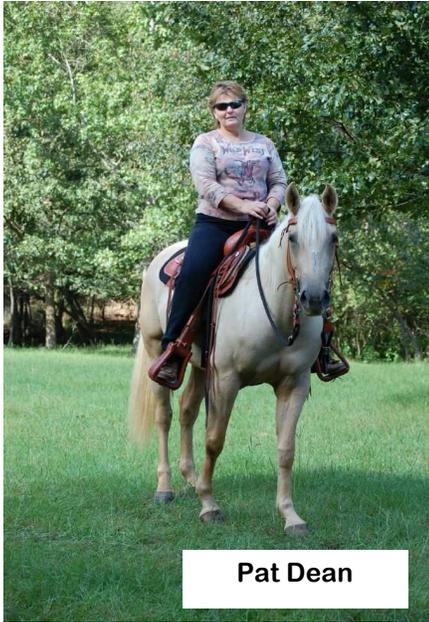


**JoAnne Hittman
& Dan, her
GERL foster horse**



**Ronnie Pesserillo
& Storm**

GERL Members at Fun With Their Horses



Pat Dean



**Ray Ziebell
& Magic**



**Steven Neal
& Destiny**



**Chuck & Carol
Ewing**



**Marge Mabey
& Cowboy**



**Rebecca Kilgore
& Jax**

The Animal Rescue Fair
By: Katie Lawrence, GERL Intern

I was uncertain if I was going to be able to locate the fair on the cold and windy day in Alpharetta. However, due to the full parking lot and hundreds of dogs and people at the site, I was easily able to determine that I was exactly where I needed to be.

Upon arrival at the Wills Parks Equestrian Center, I was shocked at the sheer number of people and animals attending and volunteering at the fair despite the day's less than pleasant conditions. The fair, which took place on March 29th from noon-5 p.m., featured rescue booths representing hundreds of different breeds of dogs. Some of the rescue groups included the Cattle Dog Rescue, the Georgia Poodle Club, and Rotts N' Pups.



The fair took place in the indoor arena at the center. The arena was filled with around a hundred booths. There were booths for breed rescues, humane societies offering both dogs and cats for adoption, and equine rescues. There were booths selling dog treats, collars, leashes and toys. There was even a concession stand selling funnel cake!

At the Georgia Equine Rescue League booth, we had a computer slide show, a display board, a binder with information on our rescue league, member sign up sheets and Georgia Equine Rescue League t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale. I noticed when walking around the fair that some equine leagues were selling tack that was donated to their leagues, perhaps we may be able to do this at a future event.

I had a great time at the fair and was impressed with the large quantity of animal adoption and rescue leagues. I was also very moved by the hundreds of kind people willing to help out these animals.

I am really looking forward to attending more events like this and working for such a wonderful organization!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**
With Your Help ... We Will Make A Difference

A Day in The Life of a GDA Equine Inspector

By: Equine Inspector Marei Hunter

It's 7.30 p.m.: the phone rings. It's Megan from the Mansfield barn and she's asking me if I can join her the next day to return a previously impounded mare and her colt to their owners in east central GA. The owners have agreed to pay what the legal department asked for in impoundment costs as a result of a settlement conference. I'm not too keen to go back to this place where I had been cussed out and had doors slammed in my face, but it's my territory and if they are being returned with a consent order I will have to go check on the horses' progress anyway. So after talking to my supervisor I confirm that I will go with Megan. When we impounded the mare she was barely a body score of 1. Now she's on track to re-gain her weight. Frustrating doesn't even start to describe my emotions, but the law states they have the right to get their horses back if they agree to pay costs and sign a consent order. Needless to say, I don't get much sleep that night.

The next day we arrive to drop off the horses. The owners are surprisingly pleasant and seem to listen to our feed and care recommendations. The same round bale that was there when we picked them up 3 months ago is still sitting in the lot, the extra pasture to separate the mare and her now weaned colt has not been fixed yet ... what will I find when I return to check the next time? Is this going to end in a closed case - meaning they actually take care of their horses now or the return of our trailer to pick them back up?

Megan heads back to the impound barn while I get on my way halfway across the state to quarantine a new strangles case in a vacant territory in North GA. Strangles quarantines are not most inspectors' favorite cases, but I'm one of the few 'lucky' ones that don't keep their own horses at their house. Even with all the biosecurity measures we take, I don't have to worry as much about tracking it home to my own horses. In today's case, these poor people bought a couple of horses to enjoy from a private farm and ended up getting their own horses infected. All they wanted was to go on some leisurely trail rides and here they are, being quarantined by the state, their horses sick, and getting veterinary bills they didn't expect. Unfortunately not all people are as responsible as this family that had immediately self-quarantined their farm before we even got there. After scrubbing my car and myself with Virkon, I'm finally on my way home, but too late to kiss my son Good Night!

(see more Life As ... on page 30)

Please Help

Please send proof of purchase seals from bags of any Southern States feed to Ginny Scarritt - 4835 Kendall Court - Atlanta, GA 30342. Ginny is collecting them for GERL, and we will receive money for every pop seal she sends to Southern States.

Dear GERLS

It's been a week and Banjo is very settled into her new home. Sonny is so pleased to have a pasture mate. He seems a lot happier and even calls to her when I bring her out of the field to groom her and get her used to me and to meet the other horses in another field. She has already told Sonny "ladies first" at meal time and being the gentleman that he is ... he lets her have her food first. She seems to be walking around the pasture quite well and will even trot now and then. She is a sweet horse. Albert and I are glad to be part of her life now. Thank you for all you do!

Albert & Margaret Hill



GERL Calendar of Events

May 30 & 31
GDA Impound Work Weekend
Contact Patty Livingston
(770) 867-0760

Fall Fest, 2009
October 30th - Nov 1st
Location to be announced

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



A Day in The Life of a GDA Equine Inspector

By: Equine Inspector Marei Hunter

Let's just say the expression "words cannot describe" is an understatement. My day starts out driving anywhere from 10 to 100 miles to see a case. Take last week for instance. I should have been suspicious when I found the correct house on the first try. The owner was present, as well as 10 of her family members. Although the horses were significantly underweight, the owners were still excited to see me, I think. I can only understand about every third word they say. During the next half hour, I try to explain that the horses need to gain weight, but they are convinced that the thirty minutes of grazing in the yard each day should be sufficient. I then proceed to take pictures of the horses for documentation. This also takes longer than necessary since the family thinks I want them in the photo. After eventually finishing up with them, I am on to the next case.

This case would not take as long because unlike the last case, this owner doesn't speak any English. Therefore, I don't even have to act like I understand. They have a horse with an old fracture in one leg and now the other leg is shot from having to compensate. I'll have to get an interpreter and go back.

Case number three is a new one. The owner has been accused of using underweight horses for riding lessons. I immediately realized that the complaint is fabricated. The ten horses in the front yard are in excellent health, as are the ones in the back. After introducing myself to the owner, she explains that the complaint probably came from a student who thought she knew more than the teacher, so she refused to teach her lessons. Too bad the state can't bill the plaintiff for my mileage. At least I got a stable inspection done.

On to case four: I had high hopes for this one. I was going to do a follow up on a horse and donkey that had been purchased at one of our state sales. It's always nice to see the horses happy in their new homes. I pulled up to the gate, opened it, and drove in. Fifty yards down the driveway, by the house, I noticed the donkey jump up out of the flower bed. I was able to observe this because I had to stop and wait for the goat to get up that was lying in the driveway, as well as wait for the various ducks and chickens I was trying to avoid running over. Apparently the other inspectors had not informed them of my driving. All of the large, barking dogs were penned up so I was able to get pictures and document how well the horses and donkey are doing. I hate no one was with me to get a picture of that same donkey chasing me out of the driveway, ears pinned back, biting at my tire! I don't know why I was worried about the dogs.

This pretty much concludes my day. Tomorrow promises more of the same.

Editor's Note: Thank you to the GDA Inspectors for taking time out of their busy schedules to let us "ride along" with them. We hope to bring you additional stories in future newsletters.

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