



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With Your Help ...
We Will Make A Difference

Volume #168

www.gerltd.org

July / August 2009

A Sign Of The Times

By: Patty Livingston

As many of you already know, The Humane Care for Equines Act was passed in Georgia in April of 1992. This legislation allowed the Department of Agriculture the legal right to impound any starved or abused horse when their condition was the result of owners failing to properly care for them. Unfortunately, there were no State funds allocated to pay for the rehabilitation of these impounded horses. Thus GERL, also started in 1992, came into being to help meet this need for funds. Over the past seventeen years, many things have changed, but the allocation of State funds to take care of the horses has not.

The main source of funds that allowed the GDA Equine Division to sustain themselves over the years was the money they received when rehabilitated horses sold at public auction. It was not unusual to have as many as forty horses sold at a GDA auction and for the GDA to come away with \$40,000 - \$60,000. Today those forty horses will bring less than \$15,000. I've seen many horses go for under \$50.00. There is no way the GDA can hope to recover the cost of rehabilitating a horse when the horses are bringing so little at the auctions.

The horse market is in a different place than it has ever been before. Between the failing economy, the closing of the slaughterhouses (the last one was closed in 2007), and the overwhelming number of "backyard breeders" who turned the horse industry into something similar to a "puppy mill", there are unprecedented numbers of unwanted horses. I recently read that over 100,000 horses will become unwanted or unusable every year. In the past, thousands of these unwanted horses would have been sent to a slaughterhouse. However, that is no longer the case. (continued on page 9)



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Kenneth Marcella, DVM

William Baker, DVM

Jennifer Baker, DVM

Michael Chisolm, Esquire

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 following month's newsletter.**

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LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

This past month has been one of the busiest I can remember in a while. The GDA had an auction at Berry College where several GERL members turned out to sell T-shirts and help with the horses. The weekend after that was the scheduled work weekend at the Mansfield Impound. The weekend after that was the GDA horse auction down in Hawkinsville at the Harness Racing facility. And, volunteers have attended pet fairs at various locations. In the meantime, we're moving some horses to new foster homes and taking in new ones.

The most recent addition happened to be a 7 year old stallion. He was gelded shortly after his arrival. He is a nice horse, but he isn't registered. This fact doesn't surprise me, anymore. There seems to be a lot of unregistered stallions around, but worse than that, there are even more offspring as a result of the indiscriminate breeding. If these people would just go to any horse auction, they would soon learn that the offspring don't typically bring over \$50.00. Maybe that would wake them up and realize that they are not producing anything of great value. They are often times risking their ability to feed and take care of them properly because they have so many.

I read somewhere that thousands of horses are born every year as a result of poor breeding techniques and mismanagement of mares and stallions. As a result, horse rescue organizations across the country have become overwhelmed with unwanted and neglected horses.

Another thing ... it seems common place to see 7 and 8 year olds that aren't trained. That should tell them something, right there. This isn't a brand new problem. It's been going on for some years, yet, it seems to be in our face more these days. I guess that's because these are the horses that we're seeing at the GDA impoundment auctions and sale barns everywhere. It is a very sad situation.

I mentioned earlier that Ken Archer (GERL VP) and I attended a meeting hosted by Rhonda Veit, DVM, Assistant State Veterinarian, GDA, to discuss low cost "castration clinics" in an attempt to reduce the number of stallions in Georgia. GERL has committed \$2,000.00 toward this program and will work with the GDA to see it through fruition. And, let me say this, about that ... education is going to have to be a part of the "get well plan", otherwise, it will be difficult to make a change in the way that people think.

There is already an organization in North Carolina that is sponsoring free gelding services. They use a voucher program that works with the horse owner's personal Vet to perform the castration. The program depends solely on donations to provide this free service to those who could not otherwise afford the cost of the procedure. Education is also a part of their program.

We are discussing the possibility of looking at their program and doing something similar. Plans are just getting underway with this project, but I'm looking forward to venturing off into unchartered territory. It should be an interesting ride!



A Note from the Secretary's Desk
By Anne Ensminger

My article this month is not about horse rescue or the work of GERL but it concerns something that is ever on my mind at this time of year.

I hope that many of you have been enjoying this beautiful spring trail-riding season as much as possible. I think I have ridden my horse more hours this spring than ever before.

With all of this enjoyment, arrives the “bug season”. Not only do horse flies, ticks, and other bothersome creatures annoy us, but also we must be ever watchful for those downright dangerous, yellow jackets.

Of all of the wasps, the yellow jacket and the hornet are the most aggressive. They tend to nest in holes in the ground or in hollow trees or other above ground cavities. Actually, wasps are considered beneficial insects since they eat other insects, but ask any trail-rider and you will not find agreement on this.

If a colony is disturbed, they become very aggressive and sting anything that moves. This can lead to, not only painful stings, but to a dangerous situation when our horses get stung and have no idea what is causing such pain. They may buck or run away, either of which can be very dangerous for horse and rider.

It is almost a certainty that, those who ride often in the woods will encounter these angry creatures at one time or another. It is best if we have a plan of action ready when this happens. Our plan should include staying on the well-traveled paths, and staying away from dead trees and logs where yellow jackets may nest. Good sense dictates that we avoid sweet fragrances (perfume, deodorant, or after shave lotions), bright or floral patterned clothing, or shiny, jingling jewelry. Never squish a yellow jacket as the scent will incite others to become angry and attack.

When riding with a group, be sure that everyone knows to alarm the others when yellow jackets attack or are spotted. Our group knows to yell the word, “bees”! That means for us to “skedaddle” as fast as safely possible. To get away from the attackers is the best defense and the safest thing to do. Be aware that, if your horse gets stung, he may buck so hang on and try not to come off. If you do come off your horse, get yourself away from the yellow jackets and look for your horse later.

If your horse gets stung, first aid treatment should include a cool water bath until you can contact a veterinarian to ask if an antihistamine, banamine, or a steroid might be needed. Some people are very allergic to stings and should always carry appropriate medication. There are a number of convenient and effective sting remedies on the market, which can be carried in a pocket. My grandpa used to put chewing tobacco juice on the site of stings we children suffered but I find that plain household ammonia is very good to relieve the pain and not nearly as messy.

While I refuse to let the threat of yellow jackets ruin my riding plans, I am comforted by being aware and having a plan for dealing with them, should they appear. Happy trials and “bee” careful!



ATTENTION GERL MEMBERS ...

**This newsletter is a
July / August combo issue.
You will receive your next newsletter
in early September!**

WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS

Referred By:

B.J. Morris & Ann Maxwell Searcy
Robert & Barbara Arnold
Dave & Heide Carroll
Rick & Lisa Howell
Alison Ibsen
Maxine Rider
Maybelle & Wendy Truelove
Mary Waits
Kelly Harbison & Family
Bonnie McIver
John & Kathy Basner
Madeline Byrd
Jack & Dotti Carter
Leo Bell
Ramon Bell
Nelson & Barbara Argo

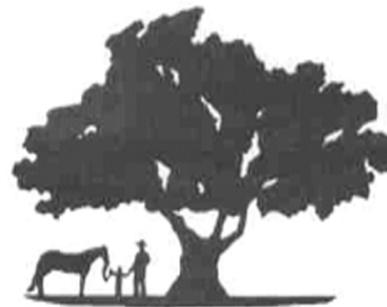
Blue Ridge, GA
Box Springs., GA
Covington, GA
Eatonton, GA
Roswell, GA
Dahlonega, GA
Gainesville, GA
Dahlonega, GA
Cordele, GA
Eden, GA
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Debbie Crowe
Mickey Farmer
Betty Evenson
Kathy Basnar
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Patty Livingston
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Leo Bell
Susie Bond

Thank You For Renewing Your GERL Membership

Cindy Russell Bounds
Bob Cooper
Ed & Sandra Creel
Brian & Cathy Dees
Edward DePeterse
Jane Estes
Alice Farrar
Joann Hitman
Marlene & Ken Rhodes
Shirley Thomas
Paul & Cheryl Turner
Robert & Diane Caruso
Debbie Ferrell

Washington, GA
Conyers, GA
Douglasville, GA
Barnesville, GA
Bishop, GA
Newborn, GA
Gray, GA
Gillsville, GA
Newnan, GA
Monroe, GA
Social Circle, GA
Blythe, GA
Gainesville, GA



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

**Our Thoughts And Prayers
Are With You**

Marty Paulk
as you continue your battle with cancer



Dear GERL Members,

I want to thank everyone who participated in the work day at the Mansfield Impound on Saturday and Sunday. Some much was accomplished and everything looks wonderful. I am sorry I did not have the opportunity to meet each and every one of you who participated both on the scene and behind that scene. Your efforts took a tremendous amount of time and effort. You all were beautifully organized and directed by Patty and many others. I have never met a more friendly and congenial group of people and I truly enjoyed sharing a pot luck dinner with many of you. Thank you again for all that you do to support our Equine program.

Best Regards,

Mary M. Greene, Director
Equine Health
GA Dept. of Agriculture
Capitol Square
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Thank You
Dr. Bill Walker**

A very big thank you to
Dr. Bill Walker of Equine Medical Associates.

Dr. Walker recently neutered a stallion for GERL. The stallion was in a pasture with two mares that were both in foal. The owners did not have the resources or experience to deal with the mares. Unfortunately, both foals died. To prevent the horses from breeding again, we asked Dr. Walker to

**GET
WELL!**

SOON

Ken Archer

Kelsey Hulsey



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Trooper
By: Christina Gilham

He was not what I was looking for but he profoundly changed my life.

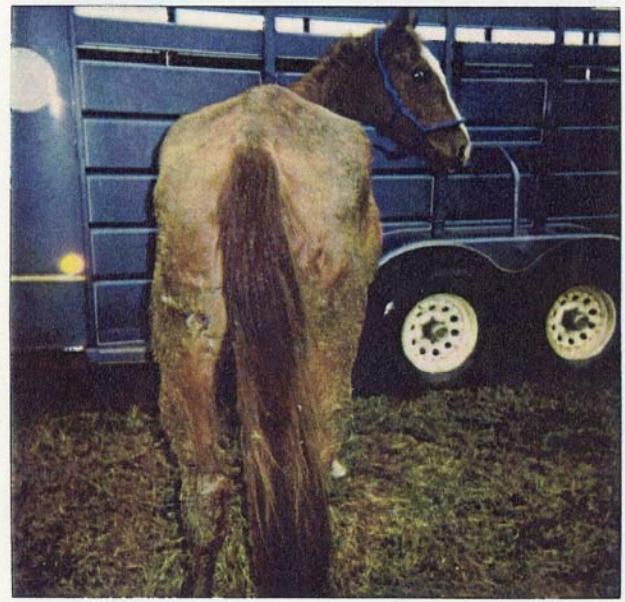
It was a rainy day and I was looking for a new horse. A 3 year old, 15 hand sorrel quarter horse was not something I was interested in. However, when the inspector that was working the GDA sale 11 years ago directed me to his stall I thought I would take a look. I was unprepared for what I was about to see. He stood in the corner of his stall eating hay he badly needed. He looked to be a body score 3 - 4 and was missing large patches of hair. I said "hey buddy" and he immediately came off his hay and sniffed my face. Well I was a goner! I went and placed a bid on him (this was before the state did live auctions). All weekend I thought of the sad skinny horse and hoped he would be mine.

The following Monday I was informed that I was the highest bidder. To say I was ecstatic is an understatement. When I brought him home I soon realized that not only had he been starved but also abused. He would rear at the sight of a brush, you could not tie him, and was deathly afraid of trailers. He came to me with sores in his mouth and according to the riding instructor at the boarding barn, had the mouth of a 20 year old school horse. When he was strong enough, I saddled him for the first time. He trembled and shook while I laid the saddle on his back. When I went to put the bridle on, he shot backwards as fast as he could. When I mounted him he tried to take off as soon as my foot was in the stirrup. He would also run through open gates as if he were terrified. With a lot of patience and time we formed a bond and understanding. He became a wonderful trail horse, the rougher the trail the more fun he had. He was a favorite at every barn he was boarded at due to his uncanny sense of right and wrong.

I was told by everyone that encountered him that he appeared to be a finely bred quarter horse. I wanted to find out more information about him so I contacted the GDA. Through the open records act I was able to get all of his paperwork (I strongly recommend that everyone that has an impound horse do the same). I was shocked, appalled and then in awe of how much he had overcome. He was owned by a wealthy dentist that had a rodeo company. Trooper was used in non sanctioned rodeos where I later found out drunken cowboys took their turn on him. He was a body score of 1.5 when he was impounded and had spur marks covering his body. That was the source of the missing hair when I got him. He was not impounded that first day but was left with instructions on how to care for him, the owner decided to hide him in a stall that had no windows and four solid walls. I liken it to a dark, dank pit.

To this day Trooper will not go into a stall. I am convinced that the only reason he had water is because there were automatic waters in the stall. He was standing in mud and manure hidden from the world. When the inspector returned a week later he did not have food and there was no evidence he had started to receive any. At the time he was impounded he weighed 753 pounds. I am happy to report he is now 1,200 pounds with a coat that shines like a copper penny. After reading about the horrible circumstances he went through, I was amazed he let me on his back.

Trooper was retired last year due to arthritis, however I have a new horse that I also happily received from the impound. Without this program I know Trooper would be dead. With all the changes being made at the GDA we need to find a way to help these wonderful creatures. There are many Troopers out there that deserve a second chance.



Trooper
January 7, 1998

Violet

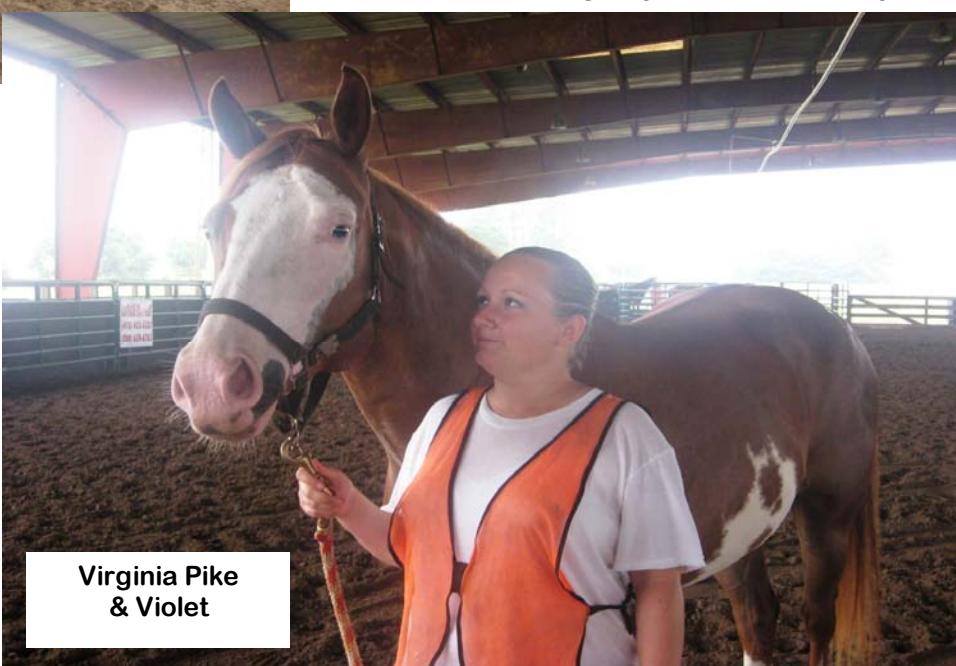
By: Virginia Pike,
Pulaski State Prison Inmate

Violet is a grade paint mare with a bald face. She is 12 years of age. When Violet showed up at the impound in Pulaski, she was skeptical of me. She was very head shy, plus she didn't like anyone coming up to pet her or groom her. She didn't know who to trust or even if she could trust anyone. She grew up a lot like me; not knowing who they could turn to or who could be there in times of trouble. But with her being scared to trust me, I was scared to trust her as well. I would not go around her because she was not "safe".



Just as she had to learn me, I had to learn her. As for me, I had to try and get to know her personally but by being patient as well. Even when I'd walk up to her and she would either walk away or run away, I had to keep trying. I couldn't just give up; I had to be persistent in letting her know I was there for her. I wasn't trying to hurt her. I was trying to teach her that I was on her side. I was there to help her but in the process, she helped me. Violet is a very beautiful horse, inside and out. Now she loves to be rubbed and groomed. When I walk in the pen with her feed, she will hold her head two inches from the ground submitting to me. In the beginning you had to throw the food over the fence because they would run towards you. Violet has come a long way from the first day she

arrived. She has taught me that there are still animals you can trust in the world. Even if they have been neglected or abused that doesn't mean that they are not worth anything. Violet's heart is just as valuable as mine!



A Sign Of The Times

(continued from the cover)

I recently called Terry England, my Georgia State Representative and asked about the possibility of getting State funding to feed the impounded horses that are picked up by the GDA. He told me that there would be NO funds allocated to taking care of these impounded horses for at least two years because of a three billion dollar budget cut. Of course, I was very disappointed to hear this news, but, realized how important it is that we start looking at more creative ways to fix this problem.

Last month, GERL VP, Ken Archer and I attended a meeting hosted by the GDA to discuss the possibility of sponsoring low cost "castration clinics" in an attempt to reduce the number of stallions in Georgia. Many good ideas were presented and we came away committed to supporting this program. It is our hope that through these clinics and GERL sponsored education we will be able to reduce indiscriminate breeding, thus helping to reduce the number of unwanted horses.

I recently received an email from Cheryl McCullugh from the HSUS (Humane Society of the United States). She wanted to meet with the GERL to discuss horse rescue in Georgia. At the time of this writing, that meeting has not taken place, however, it made me think about how many horse rescue organizations there are in Georgia and how lucky we are to have so many people helping with this very serious problem. Many horse rescue organizations typically have their own property and are able to take a horse immediately, as long as the owner is agreeable. And, trust me, in this day and time, there are LOTS out there that want to get rid of their horses right now and are more than agreeable. These types of situations are a daily occurrence and could easily fill every open pasture.

(continued on the following page)



A Sign Of The Times

(continued from the previous page)

Often when the GDA is involved, however, horses are not voluntarily given up. Horses instead are lying dead in pastures, while others, so skinny they can hardly stand, look on. These can be a heartbreaking scene that keep you up all night. The GDA inspectors regularly deal with owners who do NOT wish to give up their horses, yet they do not want to comply with GDA warnings, either. Many of these types of people are hoarders, often times keeping large numbers of horses without the ability to take care of them properly. This is a classical case where GERL, or other "horse rescue" organization would be completely helpless because they are not permitted to enter onto private property without the consent of the owner. Therefore, it is imperative that the GDA, which has the legal right to enter private property on behalf of these animals, keep a presence out in the field.

There were only four horses at the Mansfield Impound during the recent GERL work weekend. This is a facility that can house 50 or more horses at any given time. Mary Greene, Director of the GDA Equine Division, told me that the State Inspectors are only able to pick up horses on a case-by-case basis because they cannot afford to feed a large number due to dwindling funds. It costs approximately \$150 per month to rehabilitate one horse, so, the GDA Equine Division needs our help now, more than ever before.

Nobody has ever said that I was the sharpest crayon in the box, but, I am smart enough to know that some changes are going to have to take place before we can get this situation under control. I have always believed in the philosophy, "If money will fix it, it's not a problem". It is our fervent hope that State funds will eventually be allocated specifically for the care and rehabilitation of impounded horses. Until that happens, it is going to take a good, solid plan that includes raising more money than we have ever raised before. Therefore, I'm hoping to appeal to our members and supporters to be creative. Consider adopting just one horse at a cost of \$150 per month for the five months that it usually takes to rehabilitate a severely malnourished horse. If you cannot afford to personally undertake such an expense, talk to interested clubs and organizations, family, friends and co-workers to discuss joining you in sponsoring one or more impounded horses.

Your GERL Board has just agreed to use GERL funds to pay for the care of six impounded horses over the coming months. We can think of no better way to help these horses as the Department of Agriculture has the facilities, the personnel (including many volunteers), and the experience to be successful in rehabilitating severely debilitated horses. Remember that all donations to GERL are tax deductible and may be earmarked for the care of GDA impounded equine.

With Your Support, We WILL Make A Difference!

FOR SALE

Registered Paint gelding, 20 yrs., 15.2 hands, sound, good ground manners, loads, easy to catch, very easy keeper.

Is a good trail horse but needs experienced rider; can be stubborn. Current Coggins and shots. Asking \$800 or best offer.

Barbara Clark - Statham, GA.
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**Madeline Byrd
in memory of Maw Maw**

**Jack & Dotto Carter
in memory of our first rescue horse, Chase**

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

David & Leisa McCannon

David & Lisa volunteered to take the left over "flea market" items from Gene's Memorial Ride to an upcoming Pony Express sale. They just sent GERL a check for \$190 for the items that they were able to sell at the Pony Express.

THANKS David & Leisa!



Thank You To Our Foster Homes

**Anne Ensminger
for fostering Rusty**

**Harriet O'Rear
for fostering Miss Greenway**

**Jean Long
for fostering Lucky**

**JoAnn Hitman
for fostering Dan & Neiko**

**Cater & Jim Hartley
for fostering Tyree, Lobo, Lil Lady & Sha**

**Susan McCullar
for fostering Lil Lady & Sha**

**Ronnie Pesserilo
for fostering Stormy**



Just Checking on Nadia

By Anne Ensminger

As GERL Area Coordinator for Newton County, it was my duty and pleasure to check on a recently adopted GERL mare we named Nadia. I have written about Nadia in the past and she was listed in our "Adoptables" for a short time but, because of her outstanding beauty, she found a permanent home right away.

Nadia, her full brother, Rusty, and her dam (nursing another sibling) were all taken into GERL foster care about a year ago. They were all very thin and had not been handled. The mare and baby were soon adopted, Rusty went to live with Sue Vetch and her family, but Nadia was so wild that she had to go to a professional trainer (Ed Huie) for a month to learn some ground manners.

Larry Durden (shown here with Nadia) of Covington has now adopted her. Larry has years of horse training experience and plans to train Nadia for his grandchildren to enjoy. I was thrilled to note that the mare was very gentle when I went to visit her and Larry a few weeks ago. She was an ideal body weight and showed signs that she has been receiving regular grooming and foot care. I love to see this kind of situation for our adopted horses and want to share a picture of Larry and Nadia, which I took during that visit.



**Happy
4th of July!!!**



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

Ray Bell	Blue Ridge, GA
Kaitlyn Coley	Kennesaw, GA
Pat Dean	Canton, GA
Marc & Gaylin Hasbrouck	Loganville, GA
Gero Kono	Alpharetta, GA
Mary & Miko Loudermilk	Canton, GA
Bonnie Maloney	Lithia Springs, GA
Bill Rogers	Gainesville, 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



WITH YOUR HELP ... WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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 20 for this month's article

A large, three-dimensional, metallic-style text graphic that reads "THANK YOU". The letters are silver or chrome-colored and have a reflective, layered appearance.

Rusty and Me

By Anne Ensminger

I have been caring for GERL foster horse, Rusty since Christmas. He was a big baby when he came here. Now he is an almost grown horse with quite a personality.

Rusty is ready for adoption and very much wants a human of his own. He has nice ground manners but hates being left alone. My donkey, Mickey has been a wonderful pasture mate for Rusty and they can often be seen rearing and biting at each other's legs as they play every morning and in the cool of late afternoons.

Rusty loves to run full out and I always stop whatever I am doing to watch when he gets these spurts of energy. He is amazing! When he has run himself out, he always goes into the most awesome trot you have ever seen with very high head, tail, and knee action. He must have some Saddlebred and/or Arabian blood in his genes. Whatever is in his ancestry, he is a kind and wonderful



horse, which was almost starved to death a little over a year ago.

Thanks to all of you who support the work of GERL, Rusty is now slick, fat, and happy, as he faces a very bright future. I also want to thank the Vetsch family for playing such an important part in his rehabilitation.

Photos ... Rusty & Mickey
Rusty



The Origination of the Pulaski Impound Program

By: Laura Fokes, GDA Field Supervisor

Several years ago at the local Huddle House, I asked my friend, Deputy Warden Nancy Dillard, a question that would forever change our lives.

"Ya'll have chain link at the prison. Do you have any place to stick a horse? We are full at the Impounds."

Fast forward three plus years, Warden Chapman, Nancy, and I have had many sleepless nights, hours of work, and headaches in between the fateful question and now. Many people have worked their magic to get this program off the ground. Brooks

Bailey. Pulaski county commissioner provided us some start up money. In turn this was used to purchase materials for fencing. (photo ... Pulaski Impound Auction Volunteers - Front Row - Diana DeMoss, David McCannon, Mickey Farmer, Laura Fokes - Back Row Reonda Bailey, Leigh Ann Holton, Mary Greene, Leisa McCannon, Robin Easley, Patty Livingston.

Warden Chapman was able to get the fencing up and the water run to the pastures. After completion the horse detail did some work on the pastures, and they were ready for horses. As it happened that upon completion, the next day we impounded six horses. This sent the inspectors scrambling for feed buckets, water troughs, and supplies. We were now open.

The inmates had been selected for the detail and we all jumped in with both feet. The horses improved and were sent to other impounds. Then along came a large impoundment. The horses came in with all sorts of problems. We lost two early on, but the inmates and horses persevered. As the weeks flew by the horses slowly improved physically, and the inmates improved them mentally. Some were not halter broken, others were not catchable, but these problems were overcome with the patience and attention lavished on them by the inmates.

In the months that followed, I found the whole experience of the inmates and horses blossoming together, emotionally satisfying. To see a dream, a thought or notion turn into something long-lasting and tangible and to have my passion for helping horses combined with helping women learn to help themselves is a very rewarding experience.

As our first group of horses improved enough to sell, we readied the inmates for the change just as they had prepared and healed the horses. They know other horses are waiting for the same attention, love, and feed the first group received.

The sale day arrived. The inmates and horses were ready for a change. The horses sold, tears were shed, but the complements about the great conditioning and sale prep were overflowing. And for me it has been an unexpected journey that I never dreamed would happen. I look forward to seeing the horses and inmates come and go, and both able to prosper in the future.



GERL ADOPTABLES

In an earlier volume of our newsletter, we told you about GERL recently bringing 6 Arabians into our rescue program. 2 geldings and 2 mares are now ready for adoption. All four of these sweet horses are very friendly and gentle to handle, but have no known training under saddle. Now that they have reached a healthier weight, we will continue to assess their abilities. Sha will only be adopted as a companion horse due to her age.

Sha – 23 year old mare – companion horse only

Lobo – 15 year old bay gelding

Tyree – 15 year old grey gelding

Lil Lady – 12 year old sorrel mare



Lobo



Sha



Tyree



Lil Lady

For adoption fees and
additional information please contact

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

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. *See page 14 for additional photos of Rusty.



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.



STORMY

Stormy is a Welsh/TB cross, 14.1 hands, 7 years old, recently gelded, gentle to handle with good basic manners. Has not been ridden to date. He will be a wonderful horse after training for a smaller adult or an experienced youth rider. He is a lovely mover with a ground covering trot and canter.

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, halters, 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. **ADOPTION PENDING**

**For adoption fees and
additional information please contact**

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



MISS GREENWAY

A Special Tribute to Marty Paulk

We Love You Marty!

By: Betty Evenson

I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize Marty Paulk ... long time GERL member and very special friend, to me personally, and to GERL.

Marty became active in the "early days" of GERL. Andee Rogers (when she was GERL VP) and I (when I was GERL Pres) met Marty at the Friends of Wills Park booth we set up in the mid 1990's. Marty was working with a national horse welfare group and had a booth there, as well. That day Marty pledged to become active with GERL ... and active does not even begin to describe Marty's many years of service and dedication to GERL.

I could fill this whole newsletter with stories about Marty and the time she has given to GERL and the horses who had their lives changed because of her care and determination.



Marty is shown with Fiddles, a thoroughbred stallion who had suffered from malnutrition and cellulitis due to complications from a snakebite before coming to GERL.

Marty served GERL in many capacities ... Area Coordinator, Board Member, guest speaker at many horse group meetings, foster home, horse transport, impound worker, Christmas Party hostess and the list goes on and on. For many years Marty was the cook for our Poker Rides and our Spring and Fall Fests - whether rain or shine ... Marty always arrived with a smile and her home cooked goodies. If you hang out with some of the "old timers" at our events you will still hear them talk of Marty's biscuits, her home made soups and deserts ... her grits casserole (I can taste it now).

If you were sick, made a donation or were involved in some other event that was deserving of a GERL thank you, get well card ... thinking of you card, etc., you would have received a wonderful hand-written note from Marty. Marty believed in old-fashioned, hand-written notes and saw no need to learn to use the computer (except eventually for email). I still receive hand-written cards and notes from her occasionally and they always make me smile.

Marty served on the GERL board until nearly the time that I retired in December, 2005. In those 10+ years we shared much laughter, many tears, many accomplishments, proud moments, frustrations and disappointments. I am privileged and grateful to have shared these years with Marty, working side by side for a cause that we are both so passionate about and to know that we truly did "make a difference" in so many equine lives.

A few years ago Marty was diagnosed with cancer. Marty is a fighter and continues to fight this dreadful disease with everything she has within her. She has been unable to attend recent GERL events but always lets me know that she is thinking of us and wishing that she could be there. She is always there in spirit and looks forward to the details after the event. Each time we speak Marty tells me that she is the mascot for the GERL folks who have already succumbed to this dreadful disease and that she will continue to fight her battle.

Marty ... thank you for all of that you have done ... and continue to do for GERL! I love you and miss you!

Long-time GERL Member and Friend

I was only in 5th grade when I attended my first GERL meeting and before we left the meeting, Marty was the person that came up and had my Mother and I join. She was at every GERL function and I loved doing things with her. If you ever had to run a booth with Marty you would always be laughing. She is such a great person. I am so glad you are recognizing her for all her years of hard work. She deserves it!

Thank you,
Katie Vickers Ford

I am so happy that you are doing a tribute to Marty Paulk! She so deserves this ... I have never seen anyone work harder for a group. I remember in some of the board meetings everyone wanting her to use the computer more and she liked her pencil and paper BUT I heard more people talk about how nice it was to get an old fashioned handwritten thank you note from her.

She was always only a phone call away and no job was too big for her to tackle. She first talked me into taking on the job as Foster/Adoption Coordinator and then later being on the board but she didn't stop there. She was the cook for the league and somehow she talked me into getting up before 5am and coming and helping her make breakfast for hundreds! After thinking of all this I really don't know why I love her so!! But GERL was truly blessed having her do so much and I am truly blessed to still have her as my best friend! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DID AND STILL DO FOR GERL, MARTY. I love you!

Mary Fox Waits

My best memory of Marty are the mornings at Fests, when she would come prepared with the dozens and dozens of biscuits. But I can not leave out her infectious laugh - you always knew Marty had a story to tell.

Donna Pieper

It's hard to write something short about Marty Paulk, because she is larger than life to me. I guess it was 1992, Betty and I had just started GERL and where setting up booths anywhere horse people gathered.

When Pam Dance invited us to set up at Friends of Will's Park Day, we put our pictures and newsletters together and headed for Wills Park. It was a nice crowd with several other booths advertising their clubs and organizations. We set up next to a very outgoing and exciting woman - Ms. Marty Paulk. It wasn't long before she wanted to know all about GERL.

GERL was in the early stages and Betty and I were just learning ourselves what was needed and how to go about helping Georgia's starved horses. We knew we needed to raise money for the GA Departments of Agriculture's NEW impound and to try and let people know who to call if they saw a starving equine.

Marty fell in love with our cause and before we knew it, she had offered to fix lunch for our 1st Poker Ride. What a great lunch she brought ... home made egg salad sandwiches and a grill to cook burgers and hot dogs.

From that day on, Marty was one of us. She never turned down any request that was thrown her way - from working at the impound facility, educating, giving foster care to horses in need and serving as a board member.

I really don't think GERL would be the great organization it is today with MARTY PAULK. I know I made a wonderful friend and will always love and appreciate her. THANKS MARTY!

Andee Rogers

Our Marty is one of the most delightful people that I have had the privilege to know. She is the epitome of the true southern woman who always has a smile on her face and a hug for her friends. However I learned the hard way that she can still smile while she gives someone a tongue lashing and they won't even realize it has happened. I adore her and will forever be thankful for the years she tirelessly gave to The Georgia Equine Rescue League. Marty was always there when a volunteer was needed and she did not care what the job description was. Cook, stall mucker, trainer, driver, hauler, speaker, letter writer, check writer, sales woman, she did it all and was always there to take on more. She is one special lady and I love her.

Ronnie Pesserilo

An Evaluation of Available Therapies for Equine Ligament, Tendon and Joint Repair

By: Kenneth L Marcella, DVM

The last decade has seen a tremendous amount of research done in the areas of tendon and ligament repair and joint therapy in the horse. Many new options and modalities are available to practitioners treating tendon tears, suspensory ligament strains and attending to the osteoarthritic joints of equine athletes. Some of these treatments such as shock wave therapy and tendon splitting have been around for some time and others such as tildren and stem cells are barely out of the experimental stages. There have been numerous published studies showing degrees of benefit for all of these emerging technologies in certain cases, but all these new options and choices have made treatment that much more confusing. Which therapy should be used for which cases? Exactly which treatment works best for a stifle arthritis that likely involves ligaments? What should be the choice be for a case of fetlock joint disease that has been poorly responsive to traditional therapy? Tildren or IRAP? A-Cell or platelet rich plasma? Bone marrow or fat derived stem cells? With all the new information available about individual modalities, there is still a complete lack of head to head studies comparing effectiveness of various treatment choices. Owners, trainers, (and often veterinarians themselves) are left unsure of which treatments to pursue for which conditions.

There are good reasons for the lack of comparative studies however. Because many of these newer treatments have only recently gone mainstream, the number of treated cases is too small for comparative purposes. There has also not been enough time in many of these cases for adequate follow-up. When evaluating new treatments it is important to know that improvement lasted for a certain period of time and to look at possible positive and negative long term effects of treatment on soundness and performance. Dr. Rodger Smith of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at the Royal Veterinary College, University of London encountered these problems and more when he evaluated the use of stem cells for tendon repair. "At this stage", according to Dr. Smith, "it is not possible to show significantly improved healing over conventionally treated animals because of limited case numbers with sufficient follow-up time". Additionally Dr. Smith points out that many superficial digital tendon injuries (the specific tendon being used in his stem cell repair study) are highly variable and that, "controlled studies are almost impossible to perform in an environment in which treatment is essentially private and dominated by owner/trainer preference". We are left, then, with some really encouraging

information about various treatment options and many questions about these treatments that await further research. A look at what we currently do know, however, may help horse owners and trainers make better decisions when choosing therapy for their horses.

Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy (ECST) uses high intensity shock or pressure waves to stimulate healing of soft tissue and bone. The exact mechanism of action of ECST is still uncertain but researchers postulate that these energy waves increase the permeability of cell membranes allowing transfer of factors needed for metabolism and repair. ECST is also thought to stimulate cell division, bone growth and blood vessel formation in soft tissue. These possible results have lead clinicians to focus ECST use on arthritis (particularly in the hock, carpas (knee) and fetlock), ligamentous insertion injuries (those areas where the ligament to bone attachment has been damaged, such as what is commonly seen in high suspensory injuries, deep digital flexor tendon/navicular bone issues, collateral ligament problems in lower limb joints and distal or lower sesamoid ligament damage), slow to heal bone injuries, and back and pelvic problems. ECST does not work equally well on all problems though and hind limb suspensory ligament damage and cases of primary navicular disease tend to respond poorly (some studies rate ECST treatment success in these cases at 50/50). ECST has been tried on joints and though it has been shown to improve clinical lameness and synovitis, it has not proven useful in altering the progression of arthritis itself. ECST is gaining popularity for use in cases of back soreness and for problems related to inflammation of the dorsal spinal processes ("kissing spines") because it is one of the few therapies that allows the veterinarian to treat this hard to reach area of the horse's body.

Interleukin-1 receptor antagonist protein (IRAP) is the best known of a group of anti-arthritis gene therapy treatments. When joints become damaged, specific messenger proteins are released which alert the body to this damage. The body responds with inflammatory proteins that cause swelling, pain, synovitis (joint inflammation) and cartilage damage. If the messenger protein is intercepted and blocked (essentially the action of IRAP) then the pain, swelling and joint damage is vastly reduced. This allows joints to heal from the initial trauma much more quickly and completely.

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An Evaluation of Available Therapies for Equine Ligament, Tendon and Joint Repair (continued from the previous page)

In this treatment, blood is drawn from the jugular vein into a special syringe that is processed to encourage the production of IRAP. The resulting anti-inflammatory material is then injected into the specific joint that is to be treated. Because it is derived from the same horse that receives it, there are very few side effects with IRAP (other than the inherent risks of any intra-articular injection). IRAP has no negative effects on cartilage and is beneficial in high motion joints like the hocks, carpi (knees) and fetlocks. Many clinicians feel that the potential of IRAP is just beginning to be realized and that this modality may be best at treating joints that have not responded to more traditional intra-articular therapy.

Clinical trials in Europe have shown the drug Tildren to be effective in treating osteoarthritis in horses and humans. Tildren exerts its action on the cells that produce bone (osteoblasts) and on the cells that destroy or remodel bone (osteoclasts). Production is increased and destruction is decreased by Tildren. Many veterinarians are using Tildren in cases where the damage is suspected to involve the sub-chondral bone surface of the joint. Concussive forces often cause bone bruising or even remodeling and Tildren provides a method of treating this type of joint and underlying bone damage. Some clinicians favor Tildren use in the stifle joint because of its ability to interact with the many structures (menisci, cruciate ligaments, joint surface, collateral and other ligaments) that make up this complex area of the horse. A large European study showed 60% improvement in cases of navicular disease treated with Tildren (though there were low numbers of horses tested and some question as to the exact method of arriving at a diagnosis of "navicular disease" in the horses used in the study). Tildren does offer the added advantage of being a systemic treatment rather than an intra-articular one. By injecting the entire horse systemically with Tildren it is possible to offer treatment to multiple joints as opposed to only treating single joints with traditional injections. Tildren may be given as a single dose or multiple doses over a period of days. Currently there has been little research to prove that one dosing method offers any advantages over the other.

Platelet rich plasma (PRP) is another treatment modality that has shown success in soft tissue and bone healing in humans. Since over 30% of lameness in racehorses is due to tendon or ligament injury, any therapy that offers improved healing of these structures should be well accepted clinically. PRP is simply

derived by centrifuging and separating blood to produce the fraction that is rich in platelets. These cells help form clots and release growth factors into damaged tissue. This growth factor is the component that makes PRP a reasonable choice to use when trying to stimulate tendon and ligament repair. "Injection of PRP is recommended", according to Dr. Andris Kaneps of the New England Equine Medical and Surgical Center, "for both recent tendon and ligament injuries and for those injuries that have not healed using traditional rest and controlled exercise". For best results, Dr. Kaneps recommends injecting a horse with tendon/ligament injuries within 30 days of the initial damage. Stall rest for two weeks and then a gradual controlled exercise program, based on sequential ultrasound exams, should return many horses to complete healing, often with only one PRP treatment needed. Over 200 horses have been treated by Dr. Kaneps with this protocol and he reports "rapid healing of previously static lesions and a return to soundness and function".

Another new treatment for tendon repair is the use of acellular matrix bioscaffold material. This material is the product of tissue engineering science called regenerative medicine. "Regenerative medicine or healing", explains Dr. Mike Scott, a veterinary surgeon in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, "involves replacement or restoration of the damaged tissue with new tissue that has the same physical and functional characteristics as the original". In this case, the acellular bioscaffold material is made from pig urinary bladder tissue. As its name implies, this material is injected into damaged tendons and ligaments where it literally provides a framework or scaffold which encourages new blood vessel formation and the production of regenerative tissue by the host animal. The bioscaffold stimulates responses that increase cellular production and, as the new tissue grows into the bioscaffold material, the pig bladder cells are degraded and eventually replaced. While this treatment approach has good scientific basis for success and has been gaining popularity, studies showing an advantage of this bioscaffold material over PRP or other methods of tendon repair are currently lacking. More testing and comparative work remains to be done.

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**An Evaluation of Available Therapies for
Equine Ligament, Tendon and Joint Repair**
(continued from the previous page)

Stem cell use for the repair of damaged tissue has moved from a futuristic idea to a practical reality in equine medicine. Adipose or fat derived stem cells, cultured stem cells, bone marrow derived stem cells and other cell types are all available for the treatment of tendon and ligament injuries in the horse. These cells are implanted into a tendon defect resulting in increased healing of the damage and improved tissue production. "Bone marrow derived stem cell technology has shown encouraging ,but not yet proven, efficacy for treating acute tendon lesions in horses", according to Dr. Rodger Smith who adds, "a truly valid comparison between stem cell treated and conventionally managed cases will require a large clinical trial but this technique deserves further evaluation".

Clinician familiarity is certainly a factor in treatment choices for tendon, ligament and joint repair. "You tend to use what you were taught, what you know or have had experience with", says Dr. Juan Gamboa, a horseshow veterinarian in the southeast. "If you've tried shockwave therapy and had good results, then shockwave therapy it is, even though stem cells or platelet rich plasma may be as good if not better", adds Gamboa. Studies that directly compare one technique to another on similar types of cases will need to be done before veterinarians will really know which treatment option to recommend for which specific cases. Until then many practitioners will recommend various drugs or procedures based on as much scientific evidence as is available and on their comfort level and familiarity with these treatments. Trainers and owners should be aware of this and be sure to at least explore the vast number of possible drugs and procedures available before choosing a specific treatment plan.

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**Would You Like To
Get Involved With GERL?**

**Area Coordinators needed
for counties not listed on page 2
of the newsletter.**

If you are interested in becoming an
Area Coordinator
for a county not listed, please contact
Ronnie Pesserilo (770) 466-4515 or
gerlrone@bellsouth.net.

HELP



June 12, 2009

The Georgia Department of Agriculture has received 5 laboratory-confirmed reports of EEE in horses in Georgia: 2 in Long County, 1 in Cook County, 1 in Charlton County, and 1 in Wilkinson County. We have received unconfirmed reports of cases in surrounding counties.

There were 28 confirmed cases of EEE reported to GDA in 2008. Cases have just started arriving for 2009.

EEE is likely to be under-reported in Georgia, as some animals die or are euthanized without testing.

Horse owners are reminded to obtain booster vaccinations for viral encephalitis (EEE, WEE, WNV).

**Rhonda Pressley Veit, DVM
Assistant State Veterinarian
Georgia Department of Agriculture**

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 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

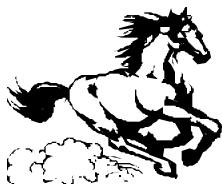
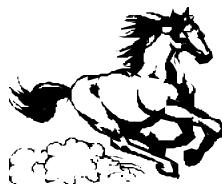
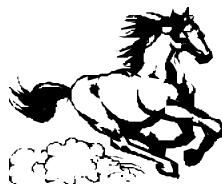
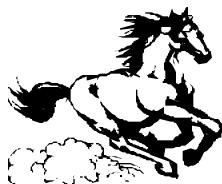
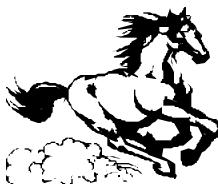
Reponda Bailey, Auction Coodinator
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Do You Have Experience With Ebay or Craig's List?

GERL often receives donations in the way of saddles and other tack to go into our auctions during Fests.

Unfortunately, we've found that our auctions don't always bring top dollar for these items. Perhaps because most people already have what they need. Nevertheless, I've been thinking that these items would bring GERL more money if they were advertised on the internet via Ebay or Craigs List. This is something that I'd like to experiment with to see if we can find a volunteer who would be willing to set up an account for GERL and advertise horse tack.

If you have the time and ability to volunteer for such a role, I'd love to hear from you! Please contact Patty Livingston at (770) 867-0760.



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!

COOL GERL STUFF FOR SALE



See
www.gerlltd.org

or call
Diana DeMoss
(770) 267-0867

for availability,
pricing, etc.

choose from ...
Adults Tees
Kid's Tees
Adult Polos
Ball Caps
and more

Augusta Stormy / A Journal

By Ronnie Pesserilo

6/2/09 – Patty & Diana made the trip to Augusta to pick Stormy up and bring him to my farm. Patty arrived at 8:30 PM and I had one of the large 12 x 15 stalls waiting for him. I turned my horses out into the front pasture for the night so they would not be near the barn. Having a stallion on the property takes a lot of planning with proper fencing & proper pasture placement. I planned on Stormy going into the back pasture during the day and keeping my horses in the front pasture which would leave the barn pasture in between. No common fence line to get tangled up in and no interaction over the fence.

Donna and Keith came over upon his arrival. Stormy was ready to get off of the trailer and he did quite well considering this is only his 2nd trailer ride in his 7 years. Patty said it took a little coaxing to get him in the trailer and was a good experience for him.



6/3/09 – I went down to the barn @ 6:45 AM, fed Stormy and worked with him on the leadline in his stall before taking him out to the pasture. I used my knotted halter and he listened attentively. I was hoping to get him in to the back pasture before my horses came to the gate looking for their breakfast. Too late, as we came around the back of the barn, there came Mac & Storm. Stormy saw them and his hormones surged! He forgot I was on the other end of the lead and it was all I could do to keep his front end going forward in the direction I wanted without him swinging his hind end into me. Then he started using his shoulder to move me out of his way but I was quick enough to utilize the whip as leverage to keep his shoulder at a distance. We circled a few times, he quit coming in towards me and I was able to get to his pasture gate and get it closed. I refused to allow him to take off at the gate and I stood my ground as he whirled and hollered at my horses. I was able to take the halter off safely and away he went – a swirl of gold moving like a locomotive! His extension is amazing and his hind end took him off the ground. This is the kind of movement that people pay big dollars for and here is this small TB/Welch cross moving like a big warmblood! His coat is the color of light colored honey and it shines like a show horse. He has lived in a sandy lot all his life and I know he has never had a bath but his coat is magnificent. He is a prize and with the right person he will go places but first things first, he needs to be castrated. ASAP! (continued on the following page)



Augusta Stormy / A Journal

(continued from the previous page)

I called Countryside Animal Hospital and Dr. Billy Myers was available to come to the farm to castrate him this afternoon at 3:30. By 4:30 PM there was one less stallion in the State of Georgia. Yippee!

Per Dr Myer's instructions I checked on him at 6 PM and he let me clean the blood off of his legs and his tail. I took a wet towel and wiped him all over – I think he enjoyed his body rub.

I brought my horses into the barn to eat and Stormy went wild hollering and twirling in his stall. Then I noticed the blood started pouring. I took my horses out of the barn hoping he would calm down but he had gotten worked up and the blood continued to pour from his wound. I called Countryside Animal Hospital and Dr. Fuller was on call. He assured me that when he calmed down the bleeding would lessen and to leave him alone. He suggested that I check on him again before bedtime. I went back down to the barn at 10 PM and was shocked to see all the shavings in the stall soaked with blood but Stormy was quiet and the bleeding has slowed to a drip. I knew it would be okay to leave him for the night.

6/4/09 – At the barn by 7 AM and was happy to see that Stormy had stopped bleeding but the stall was an awful mess. I had my work cut out for me – strip the shavings and wash the mats and go to work as well. Stormy would not allow me to clean off his blood soaked back legs. No wonder, he is so very sore. He is not eating but he did drink most of his water during the night. He hollered when I brought in the other horse for their breakfast but not with as much gusto as he did last night. We worked in the stall a little before turning him out – he is learning to face me when I enter the stall – he is smart and willing – I like this horse. He walked out of the barn on a fairly loose line, however I did have my whip with me in case he tried to push into me again. Willow, my Ossabaw donkey followed us which made me very nervous but Stormy paid attention to me and I was able to turn him out quietly in his pasture. He immediately ran the fence line but settled down to graze rather quickly. He is sore and swollen but I feel that all is good this morning.

I brought Stormy in at 4:30 this afternoon. I took him over to the wash rack and he allowed me to hose the dried blood off of his legs. He was a bit antsy at first but he quieted down and stood still while the cold water ran down his legs. I brought him into the barn and tied him in the aisle while he dried. He stood beautifully and allowed me to brush him and apply Swat cream to his ears and around his rump. The incision looks good and continues to drip. He went into his

stall and proceeded to eat his uneaten breakfast. He still hollered when I brought the other horses in but he quiets down when Willow comes over to his stall. Either he is in love or he cannot figure out what she is!

6/5/09 – I heard Stormy hollering before I got to the barn this morning. He was ready to go outside! We worked in the stall before heading out. It was all he could do to contain his energy but he did and I was proud of him when I took off his halter in the pasture. I need to remember to walk into the pasture to a different place each morning before I take off the halter. He is feeling better today and he was kicking and running in no time. He is a bit stiff in the hind end from swelling but his running will take that down. He settled down to grazing quite nicely.

6/6/09 – I am a bit rushed this morning. Need to pick up my granddaughter and she will stay with us for the weekend. I already decided that I will come back to the barn while she is napping this afternoon and take that time to work with Stormy.

I was able to tie him at the wash rack in the afternoon and hose his hind legs. He did allow a soft stream of water near his sac and it is continuing to drain. I was able to apply Swat cream on the thigh area with no problem.

6/7/09 – Ken and Susan along with daughter Shannon and granddaughters Maddy and Allie came to see Stormy today. He was happy to stand at the gate and receive the attention of two little girls and he loved being rubbed by little hands. They could not get over his color – his gold coloring is outstanding and his mane and tail are brown with gold hairs spun through and he has enormous wide set light amber eyes!

6/8/09 – Body language. My horse Storm and Augusta Stormy use body language to communicate and it is amazing to watch. Stormy is 7 and was gelded a few days ago. Storm is 9 and was gelded when he was 3 ½ after a short career as a breeding stallion. He has always been very assertive with other horses to say the least but he is not the alpha horse in his herd. However, he is always pushing Mac (who is 25 years old and is the the alpha horse) and I know that one day Storm will be the leader of his herd. I have been feeding Storm and Stormy across the aisle from one another and I will change stalls so there will no longer be any eye contact. They try and stare down one another and their bodies tense up and heads go up. Out in the wild the larger you are the better your chances are for survival so size does make a difference!

(continued on the following page)

Augusta Stormy / A Journal
(continued from the previous page)

Storm is 15.3 and Stormy is no larger than 14.2 but the muscle tone is very different. Stormy uses his muscles to look taller when he is alert and tense. Storm is soft and lacks the muscle tone that a stallion has but he is a big boy. They do not like one another and I need to be very careful when they are in the same vicinity.

6/9/09 – It has been a good day. I brought Stormy up from the pasture at 6:30 and he was covered in sweat from running and calling to my neighbors mares who he can hear but not see. I decided to bathe him instead of just hosing him down and he fully enjoyed his bath and rub down. I was careful to stay away from his hind quarters and did not even attempt to shampoo his tail. He did allow a gentle stream of water around his sac area and I am pleased to see healing but it continues to drip as it should. I tied him in the aisle to dry and turned a fan on him. It surprised him at first but he is smart and enjoyed the air flow around him. I put him in his stall and brought in all the horses to feed.

After turning mine out for the night I entered Stormy's stall to brush him down with a soft brush. He decided he wanted no part of me and he turned his butt to face me. I took the lead line and asked him to face me and he tucked his hind end as if he was going to kick. I took care of that immediately with the popper on the lead and he turned and faced me. I left the stall and came back with a whip because I was going to brush him whether he liked it or not. I entered the stall, he faced me which was great but when I went to brush him on his off side he swung his butt and again acted as if he was going to kick me. I was quick and got in a good shot at his hip and he swung around and faced me and started licking his lips. I let him think about what had just happened and then I held my hand out to him. He thought about it but he approached and I scratched his head. He licked his lips and I went to his off side and took the soft brush and went down the side of his neck with it. He licked his lips and put his head down. No problem after that but I did keep away from his hind end with all due respect to his soreness. Tomorrow is another day and I feel that he learned a lesson this evening. He is testing his limits which is to be expected from a horse that has never had anything asked of him.

He is a golden boy and he is kind and very smart. He will need to find an adoptive home with someone who understands what his needs are and how to handle him properly and fairly so that he will not over step his boundaries.

My journal will be continued as Stormy progresses in the following months. If you are interested in adopting Stormy please contact GERL Adoption Coordinator, Donna Pieper at gerldonna@bellsouth.net or call at (770) 466-1181.



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FOR YOUR
CONTINUED
SUPPORT ...**

**WITH YOUR
HELP ...**

**WE ARE
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

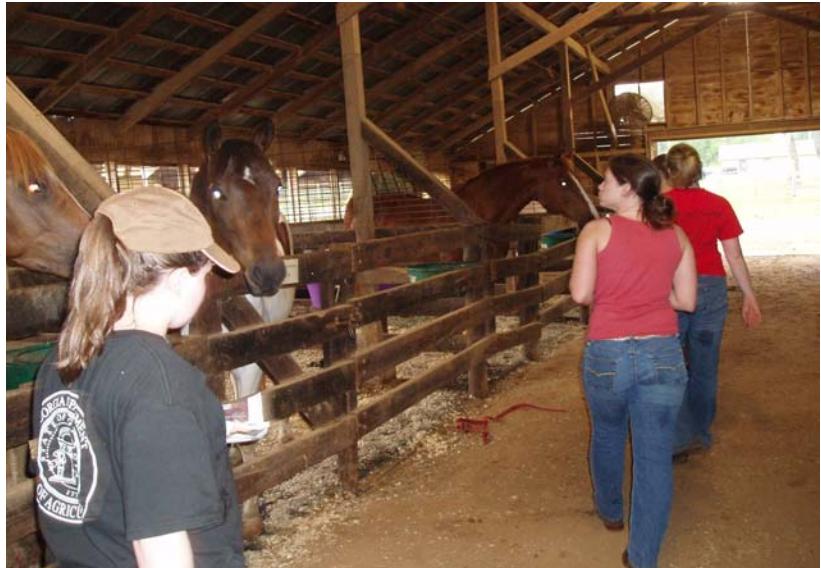


Wow, What An Auction!

By: Kriston Glushko, GERL Area Coordinator

As most of you know, we have had a long relationship with the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Division. Throughout the years we have donated funds, volunteered countless hours at the Impounds, and just made ourselves available when they needed our help. When the staff is ready to re-home horses that have been impounded, they hold an auction and again we like to help when we can. I recently had the opportunity to volunteer at my first auction in many years.

Due to suggestions from the public, the Equine Division decided to hold the auction in a different location besides the impound. They were hoping the geographical change would draw new bidders. Berry College in Rome agreed to hold the auction on May 16th.



If you've never been to the College, you should take a drive sometime. There is a nature preserve on the property and an abundance of deer to show for it. Once I found my way to the stable area, I got to see the State inspectors and volunteers hard at work cleaning the barn, grooming horses and working on all the other preparations involved in the auction. Inspections were due to start at 10:00 am there were a lot of horses to prepare.

The auction itself was to be held next to the barn in the covered arena. Part of the work done the day before was getting the horses acclimated to the arena to hopefully avoid any mishaps on the day of the auction. So, after barn chores were completed, some of the inspectors were tacking up horses to go to the arena for more exposure. A few at a time went up for a light workout and observation by the now arriving bidders.

At the arena, there was a registration table set up for the bidders to check-in and get a bid number. The table was under the careful watch of Nancy Bogardes. Each applicant is checked against a master print-out that shows by county anyone who has had violations against them regarding animal treatment. Believe it or not, some people do try to reclaim the very animals that they lost to impound.

The variety of horses that were due to be auctioned would hopefully draw a good crowd. To see the before and after pictures is amazing. Each stall had the before pictures so everyone could see what these poor animals had endured in the past. One gelding in particular was drawing a lot of buzz. Little did anyone know that Milburn would turn that buzz into a roar!

(continued on the following page)



Wow, What An Auction!

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As auction time neared, more volunteers were put into action. George and Margaret Bailey were helping with the bidding process. Next, the first few horses started to come up to the arena. State Inspector Courtney Farnon had a friend come in to be the auctioneer and her mom was his assistant. The first horse in the arena was a beautiful paint filly, Sultana, who had just been started under saddle. She was led in by another inspector and ridden by Courtney. A temporary round pen had been set up in the arena to showcase the horse up for bid. Sultana seemed a little nervous upon entry but she went in the round pen and as the auctioneer started the sale, the filly panicked and started running backwards. She hit the corral panel that was being used as a gate and it flew open. As she came out she lost her footing and down she went and Courtney with her. She fell on Courtney but sprung right back up. Several volunteers immediately tended to Courtney who was not getting up. All was silent as we waited to see if she was ok. She finally got up and was escorted out of the arena. The auction started again and Sultana eventually went to the highest bidder.

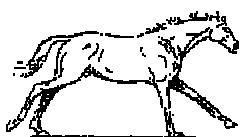
There were several other nice horses that came through the sale and though the prices weren't so great, lots of folks seemed to be having a good time. Courtney rested some and came back later to ride a few other horses. We heard earlier that there was a lot of interest in an upcoming horse, Milburn (who you met in last month's newsletter). I had secured my own bid number in anticipation of his sale. State Inspector Robin Easley was on hand for commentary. She was overcome by emotion as she described Milburn as she and others had grown very attached to this wonderful horse. As he was put through a demo in the arena Robin described in detail his great personality and versatility. At one point, there was a tack change and the rider was now Shelby Nix. The bidding started and it quickly escalated. As it got up to several thousand dollars, bidders started dropping out. Yes, even me. It appeared that two ladies in the crowd were in a bidding war and we could be here a while. It was very exciting and people were astounded as it got past \$6,500.00. There were some lulls while a bidder pondered the next bid ... then it would go up again. The final bid: \$10,000.00! Several inspectors were in tears. It was amazing!

There were still more horses to auction so it was back to business. Some prices were good, some not so good but hopefully everyone went to a great home and a fresh start. A few horses that didn't sell the first time through came through again and also found a home.

Next was the daunting task of checking out the winning bidders and saying goodbye to the horses. You had until 5:00 p.m. that day to pick up your new horse.

So, many kudos go out to the people that worked so hard at this auction: Starr Archer, Jessica Bailey, Mickey Farmer, Kristin Anderson, Brian Campbell, George & Margaret Bailey, Ceasar Sanchez, Lucy Ray, Katie Cash, Joey Nix, Shelby Nix, Kathy Farnon, Joe Tilley, Courtney Farnon, Pam Borst, Susan Barryman, Nancy Bogardes, Paula Sewell, and Robin Easley.

Fall Fest, 2009
October 30th - November 1st
To be held at Jake Mountain.
Details and registration form will be
in your September newsletter.



Impound Work Day

By Patty Livingston

We had a wonderful turn-out for the recent GDA Mansfield Impound work weekend. When I arrived (2 hours late), I found Ray Ziebell and Mickey Farmer with their trailers already set up in the front paddock. Donna Pieper and Keith Fleming had just arrived with all of the materials. Leisa and David McCannon, Clifford and Jaye Herrington, Scott Harris and Susie Hansen were already there and Betty Sue Hearin arrived shortly after me. We quickly went through the list to assign the number of volunteers that would be needed for each of the tasks on our list. For many of these folks, it was a flash from the past, as it was the first time they had been back at the impound in many years when they used to volunteer. We stayed up late talking and reminiscing about the "old days".

I woke up Saturday morning to the sound of the Gator running. I peeked out the window to see Nancy Boggardes busy feeding the four horses that were patiently waiting in the pasture. Ray was already up and busy on his skid loader, loading supplies to take out to the big paddock where the new fence project would be going on. Faithful volunteers, Willie Moore, Starr Archer, Frank Mann and GDA employee, Megan Davis, were already there and it was only 7:00 am. I hurriedly got dressed to get outside, thinking the whole time how glad I was that I stayed up late to get everything organized. By the time I got outside, the barn yard was quickly filling with volunteers.

We had 41 volunteers who showed up on Saturday. Each was assigned a chore they eagerly tackled. Scott Harris and Keith Fleming took on the chore of shoring up the barn trusses in the far back corner of the barn (no easy task). Ray Ziebell and a crew of folks worked on the fence project going on in the big pasture. Clifford Herrington transformed the old horse chute with a metal gate into a sturdy, more functional and safe chute. Coop repaired the concrete blocks on the pump house, along with several other tasks. Mickey Farmer operated the tractor for two days on his quest to move the manure pile. Willie Moore, Mat Thompson and John took down one of the stall walls so that the stall can be used for storing shavings. That was no easy task, either! Donna Pieper and Leisa McCannon painted the tool shed, while Steven Neal and Betty Sue Hearin painted the back barn doors and the pump house.

We had some new volunteers, Teresa Tyler and daughter, Kristen Raybun, and Ginny Scarritt who jumped in and volunteered to paint the black board fencing, despite the fact that it was probably the messiest job of all. You could easily pick out these

workers from the crowd because they had black spatters of paint from head to toe!

Kim Raines of Mustard Seed Massage showed up with her canopy and massage chair and began to give massages to all of the volunteers who stopped by. She also helped with many of the chores when she wasn't working on somebody's sore muscles!

Sonny Hinote arrived to start cooking hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch. By the time everything was ready, all of the volunteers were ready to break for lunch. We enjoyed the great camaraderie and delicious food, but didn't linger around too long before jumping back on the waiting chores. Ray and Clifford decided to take the skid loader and tackle the job of replacing the crushed culvert that had water backed up through the barn. The whole ditch was scraped and the old pipe and water removed. Before we knew it, it was time to knock off for "potluck" dinner.

Mary Greene, Director of Equine Health for the GDA, arrived with a nice shrimp salad, her contribution to the "Potluck". GERL furnished the baked hams and everybody brought their covered dish. We had a feast and enjoyed sitting around discussing events of the day and getting to know each other better. With our stomachs full, we began to realize how tired we were. But, it was so gratifying to look around and see the fruits of our labor. Everything looked so nice and neat. The remaining volunteers left to go home and those of us who were camping found chairs and relaxed a while. One thing to note, NOBODY stayed up late.

I woke up Sunday morning to the sound of the Gator running. I didn't need to peek out the window because I already knew it was Nancy, feeding the horses. Shortly, I heard Ray crank up the skid. It was only 7:00 a.m. He wasted no time starting work as there was still a lot of fencing to be finished.

The painting and fence building resumed with a much smaller crew, but with just as much enthusiasm. Kim Raines returned on Sunday to give more massages and we all thanked her for that! I guess she felt sorry for us after seeing how hard everybody worked on Saturday. New volunteers, Donald and Vicki Dockery, showed up and bleached the stalls and helped with the fence building. Leisa and David McCannon came back on Sunday to help even though they had announced the day before that they would be riding, not working. Can you believe that we were having such a good time they didn't want to miss out on any fun? (They might argue this point.)

(continued on the following page)

Impound Work Day

(continued from the previous page)

I'd like to recognize all of the volunteers who came out to the impound and helped with the "much needed" work. We couldn't have done it without YOU!!

Ray Ziebell
Keith Fleming
Megan Davis, GDA Insp.
Adriane Cook , GDA Insp.
Paula Sewell, GDA Insp.
Tanya Kingsley
Willie Moore
Ronnie Pesserilo
Bob Cooper (Coop)
Steven Neal
Anne Ensminger
Leisa McCannon
Nancy Bogarts, GDA
Kim Raines
Simon Argo
Donald Dockery
Barbara Argo
Teresa Tyler
Sonny Hinote
Lynn McMinn
Andee Rogers

Mickey Farmer
Donna Pieper
Judy Whetsell, Mansfield barn mgr.
Pam Borst, GDA Insp.
Susie Bond
Starr Archer
Scott Harris
Mat Thompson, Decatur barn mgr.
Ginny Scarritt
Diana Kelsey DeMoss
Clifford Herrington
David McCannon
Frank Mann
Celia Horvath
Betty Sue Hearin
Vicki Dockery
Katie Argo
Kristen Rayburn
Betty Sue Hearin
Jaye Herrington
John Maroso, GDA Insp.

The work weekend was a tremendous success and we accomplished much more then fixing & mending things. The camaraderie was wonderful and we were all there for the same purpose of making things better for the horses. Mission accomplished!



IMPOUND WORKDAY: GERL MEMBERS HARD AT WORK

Bob Cooper
aka "Coop"



David McCannon,
Ray Ziebell &
Anne Ensminger



Judy Wetzel
& Susie Bond



Jaye Herrington
& Mickey Farmer



IMPOUND WORKDAY



Nancy Bogardes

"Hey, I had a blast today with you all. What a great group of people. I got back to the barn and received 22 bags of donated feed. It's been a good day. GERL rocks!"

Mat Thompson, Decatur Barn Manager



Work Day
Volunteers

IMPOUND WORKDAY



Keith Flemming, Sonny Hinote, Clifford Herrington & Mat Thompson



Leisa McCannon



Sonny Hinote & Ronnie Pesserilo



Susie Bond



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June 11, 2009

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Please apply this check to the GDA Mansfield Impound account, to be used as needed for horses currently residing there.

Diana

*Diana Kelsey DeMoss
Treasurer*

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Pictured is Pierce County 4-H Club member Kelley Allday

Saturday, July 25, 2009

Show start time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: 4021 New School Road, Blackshear, GA

Sponsored by the

Pierce County 4-H Horse Club

Events to include, poles, cones, arena race, and cloverleaf.

Divisions for the green rider, green horse, pony, 1-12, 13-19, ladies and men.

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For more information contact Dawn Thompson at 912 614-1017 or littlebaymare@yahoo.com



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**GERL
Calendar of Events**

Fall Fest, 2009

October 30th - Nov 1st

Jake Mountain, GA

*Details to be announced
in September newsletter

Christmas Party

December 12th in Bethlehem

*Details to be announced

Gene Ensminger 2nd Annual

Memorial Ride 2010

April 30th - May 2nd

to be held at

Ron & Adrian Cook's
Round Oak, GA

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 way to see old friends and meet new friends!



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.**

"Feed a Horse"

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 6 months to rehabilitate one horse.
- \$900.00 one time donation to rehabilitate one horse.
- \$_____ per month to help rehabilitate the horses.
- \$_____ any donation is gladly accepted!

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www.gerlltd.org

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Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

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The Sundowner Trailers logo is oval-shaped with a metallic border. Inside, there's a silhouette of a horse on the left. To the right of the horse, the word "Sundowner" is written in a large, stylized script font, with "TRAILERS" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. The background of the oval shows a landscape with trees and a cloudy sky.

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1280 Bradley Gin Road Barn: 770-266-7583
Monroe, Georgia 30656 Email: sceccs@aol.com
www.serenitycreekequinecenter.com

The logo features a stylized silhouette of a horse's head facing right, with decorative flourishes above it. To the right of the horse, the word "Haley" is written in a large, flowing, cursive font. Below "Haley", the word "equestrian" is written in a smaller, more formal script font. In the bottom right corner of the horse's silhouette, the name "laura Harrell" is printed in a bold, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a dark background.

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