



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With Your Help ...
We Will Make A Difference

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www.gerlltd.org

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CRITICAL CARE

By: Diana DeMoss

It has taken days for me to think of a title for this article. A few popped into mind, "Transporting 101, Avoiding Rush Hour", "110 Degrees on I-20", "The Sun is Shining, Don't Forget your Raincoat", well, I could go on and on! The point is: there are so many areas to cover once a decision has been reached to help rehabilitate a starving horse.

This story is based on four innocent horses. There is nothing special about them, except that they have somehow ended up in the loving hands of the folks at Paulding County Animal Control. They are two shakes away from dead, some of them worse than others. Time is running out – they need help. Paulding County is

like every other government entity – short on funds. So these horses need a place to go – a "Fat Farm", so to speak.

Enter Georgia Equine Rescue League. No, we don't charge in on a mighty steed with a bucket of feed in one hand and alfalfa in the other. We tip toe, quietly, willing to do whatever it will take to save four horses. We want to save them all, but we know we can save these four, at least for now.

We all have horses, or know something about a horses' care. At least, that's what we like to think. Healthy horses are relatively easy to maintain. Their ribs are under a layer of fat, their hips are nicely rounded, along with their shoulders, their hair coat is shiny and blemish free, their manes and tails are flowing, their eyes are bright, their demeanor playful. What could be more beautiful? (continued on page 7)



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If you would like GERL to assist with an

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***Please submit all newsletter materials by the
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LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

We all know what Atlanta traffic is like and Fridays are usually even worse. Why Diana and I decided to trek across the city on a sizzling hot Friday afternoon is a complete mystery to me. I guess we were a little over-zealous because of the urgency we felt to pick up four starving horses that had been accepted into the GERL Foster Program. The horses had already been at Paulding County Animal Control for three weeks and the facility was not set up to care for horses, nor were Animal Control personnel experienced in the very delicate process of rehabilitating starved horses. The horses needed to be in GERL Foster Care. Diana and I met in Bethlehem, each pulling a trailer. I didn't mention the Friday traffic and neither did she.

As if on queue, a steady rain began to fall just as we arrived at our destination. Even though we had already received pictures of all of the horses, nothing prepared me for what I saw. One little mare, in particular, had me at a total loss for words. I had never seen a horse that thin before. Keep in mind, these horses had been getting good groceries for three weeks prior to our arrival. It is only due to their youth that these horses had survived. I am sure that an older horse would not have made it.



Thankfully, they all loaded without a problem. The two on Diana's trailer stood quietly while we loaded the other two on mine. The extremely thin little mare was loaded last. We decided to make the return trip via a different route, which is how we came to travel on I-20 during rush hour. It was a very nerve-wracking trip that took two hours longer than the trip over. That was because we never went over 10 MPH for the better part of an hour before we finally reached the City of Atlanta. I was receiving some long stares and ugly glares from other drivers and their passengers as they passed me. I soon realized it was because they could see the pitiful condition of the emaciated little mare in my trailer. I decided that I really needed to get the GERL logo put on the back of my horse trailer since it is often used to transport GERL horses.

In that particular moment, I realized how people are very quick to judge a situation about which they know nothing. I recently talked to a woman who told me that people were reporting her to the local authorities because of a rescue horse she had in her pasture. She was just helping out some friends who had rescued it, but didn't have any grass. I suggested that she get a sign made to say it was a rescue horse to keep people from continuing to report her.

Understandably, people get emotional when they see a starved or otherwise mistreated horse. We, at GERL, have learned that they often report these situations without gathering complete or correct information. A recent example involves a widely distributed email reporting the urgent need for homes for 186 horses and 30 mules in Gallatin, TN. This email stated that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) threatened to euthanize all of the horses if anyone asked for their (HSUS') help. I knew that this could not be the truth, based on my knowledge and experience with HSUS. I forwarded it to our HSUS contact, Cheryl McAuliffe, and sure enough, most of the information in the email was incorrect. Funny thing though, seldom do I ever receive a follow-up or retraction from any of the people who circulate these types of emails. It makes me wonder why someone would send out such fodder. So, let me say this, about that ... I wish people would check out the facts before they circulate information, which could be damaging.

By the way, Diana and I finally made it back to her farm in Good Hope with all four horses, none too worse for the wear. I told Diana about the ugly stares that I was getting on our drive back home and how embarrassing it was. We had a good laugh (at my expense) and agreed that we definitely need to make the GERL logo for our trailers, a higher priority!

A Note from the Secretary's Desk

By Anne Ensminger



Dan

Everyone who reads the GERL Newsletter knows that GERL foster horses, Dan and Nieko have been in our program for a very long time. They were included in our "Adoptables" list for years.

These two aged horses came to GERL together in 2001. Their owner could no longer afford to care for them

and requested that they not be separated, if possible. They were placed in foster care but were soon moved to another foster home, which, in time was also unable to continue to care for them. Thanks to the generosity and caring of JoAnn Hitman of Gillsville, GA, Dan and Nieko were moved to her farm in the spring of 2004. There, they enjoyed excellent care and have remained together until the sudden death of Dan under mysterious circumstances early in July.

JoAnn relates that she went out to feed and Dan did not come up from the pasture as usual. She immediately started looking for him and found his body, which showed definite signs of predation. This was heart breaking for JoAnn. Her veterinarian came to view the scene and was certain that a cougar or other large cat was responsible for Dan's death. They gathered photographic evidence of the damage to the body and of footprints found in the area.

The sad and frightening story spread quickly after Gainesville newspapers and North Georgia radio stations reported it. Understandably, people were concerned for the safety of their livestock.

After a few days, JoAnn received the requested verdict from a team of top trackers, fish and game officials, and wildlife biologists. These experts reviewed the photographs and analyzed the terrain. They also called on their extensive knowledge of cougar, bear, coyote, and dog behavior. Due to Dan's age (which was well over 30 years) and the lack of attack/defense signs, and other evidence, it was determined that the

horse probably died of natural causes and that some opportunistic prey animals fed on the corpse.

As horrible as all of this was for JoAnn, she accepted this hypothesis and immersed herself into caring for her other horses. Special care was given to dear old Nieko, now near forty years of age, failing in health, and without his pasture mate of many years. JoAnn was very concerned about him. Less than two weeks passed before I got the call early one morning that JoAnn had lost Nieko. He, of course, was buried next to Dan and they will now, most certainly, be together forever.

Over the years that JoAnn cared for the two horses, she developed the opinion that, while Dan was a wonderful saddle horse for experienced riders, he showed a fear of humans which took her a long time to overcome. She loved showing the ground maneuvers she was able to teach him, which demonstrated the large amount of time she spent with him.

Nieko was a very gentle and willing mount but due to his advanced age, JoAnn never wanted him to be adopted by someone who might ask him to do more than he was able. Several people inquired about adopting Dan but none could pass JoAnn's scrutiny and besides, he could not be taken away from Nieko! The bottom line is that JoAnn Hitman cared for Dan and Nieko for nearly five years and never sent GERL a bill for one penny. The two horses received the very best care from a knowledgeable horsewoman and were fortunate enough to live their last years on her lovely farm. How wonderful for them that she came into their lives and gave so freely of her time, her energy, her experience, and her love.

Thank you, JoAnn Hitman, for your dedicated service to Dan and Nieko and to GERL. We, who share your love for horses, truly understand the grief, which comes with such a loss.



Nieko

**Our Thoughts And Prayers
Are With You**

Marty Paulk
as you continue your battle with cancer

Sue Vetsch & Family
as you mourn the loss of your father
Maurice William O'Brien "MO"

Get Well Soon ...We're Thinking Of You

Bill Simpson as you heal from a broken leg

Judy Ricketson as you heal from salmonella poisoning

Volunteers Are Our Life Blood

We receive GERL applications from new members quite often who check the box that says that they would like to be a volunteer. However, we later learn that what they really mean by 'volunteer' is strictly working with horses. Of course, this is a horse rescue organization; therefore, it is understandable that they would have that in mind. The fact is that all GERL horses are in foster care and the foster homes meet their care needs. The only practical way that other volunteers could work with them would be if they lived near one of our foster homes and had an agreement to help with the horses. That would be wonderful.

However, when you get right down to the nitty gritty, the most prominent function of GERL is to raise money! No horses can be rescued, fed or vetted without it. Therefore, we **MUST** also be about fundraising. To accomplish this, we need many volunteers to attend our events and be willing to help. Some duties that are handled by our volunteers include working registration tables, setting up our auctions, purchase and/or preparation and serving of food, setting up tables, tents, chairs, etc. The list is unending but we always get everything done, thanks to our volunteers. The best part of being a volunteer at our events is the feeling of camaraderie, which comes as we work together, feel that sense of great accomplishment, and leave with one or more new friends!

Dear Betty



I got the new summer GERL newsletter today at the auction. The first thing I did as soon as I got home was sit down (in the air conditioning!) and read it cover to cover. I just wanted to tell you all how much I enjoy getting and reading it. I know you each put so much time and effort into each story, article, note, picture, etc. and just want you to know that I appreciate it and look forward to each one. Truly!

Robin Easley



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Please continue to support GERL ...

Junior Membership \$15 (12 and under)

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

Please mail your check to:

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WITH YOUR HELP ... WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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

**Please save Proof Of Purchase seals from bags
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ALL money raised goes directly to GERL!

**Thank You
Dr. Ken Marcella**

**for providing our membership
with such informative
articles each month.**

See page 12 for this month's article



Critical Care (continued from the cover)

I wish each one of you could have the opportunity to lay your eyes on a malnourished (nice word for starving) horse. First, your eyes would tear up, then – you would get mad and wonder how this could happen, then – you would get your wallet out and help vet and feed this poor animal. I know this from experience. These four horses are in my front pasture – receiving critical care.

“How to Feed a Starving Horse”

What was the first thing that happened when we unloaded these guys and put them in the pasture – they wanted to be fed. Well – how do you feed a starving horse? You may answer, “Just feed them!” And, you are partially right! But there is a right way to go about it. Think about it ... they just can't gorge themselves in one sitting, they would be sure to develop a severe belly ache – just like we would. So “easy does it” is the motto here.

When faced with a starving horse, first be sure they are well hydrated with free choice water. Introduce them to feed by giving only a handful of grain and a modest amount of hay divided into several meals a day for the first week. Increase this amount by an additional large handful of grain every other day and more hay. It is best to divided into several feedings throughout the day.

As the horse stabilizes, you can reduce the number of feedings to 2-3 feedings per day, until the horse reaches its optimum weight.

At optimum weight, a good rule of thumb is to feed at least 2/3 of the ration in roughage (hay) and no more than 1/3 of the ration in grain concentrate. A general formula that is easy to remember is approximately 1 pound of grain and 2 pounds of hay for every 100 pounds of body weight.

Fine and dandy! So you get to the feed store and look at all of those feeds. Which one is the best? A horse will gain weight steadily on a grain that is a minimum of 7% fat and at least 12% protein. It is recommended that the feed be easily digestible – and containing probiotics and digestive enzymes is a plus.

Hay? I really hate to confuse this issue but hay is not “just hay”! Some hay is very fine, such as Tift 44 Bermuda. While most horses get along just fine on Tift 44 and Coastal Bermuda hay, it is not the ideal roughage for a starving horse. A better selection is a more coarse hay such as Timothy, Orchard Grass, Alfalfa or combinations. Of course, horses are best maintained as nature intended on green pasture with about 4 inches of growth for those with good dentition!

Ok – I am panicking now! I am sure I am going to mess this up! This is information overload! I can't even get the weight tape to work!

(continued on the following page)



**Critical Care
(continued from previous
page)**

I have a bag of bones horse here that weighs over 1,600 pounds – what is wrong with this tape? It cannot be me, I am good with numbers! Dr. Billy Myers, our vet and advisor, is standing over there shaking his head. He is sure the weight tape is messed up! Thanks for the reassurance, Dr. Myers! Thank you for spending one quarter of your day explaining the ins and outs of feeding a starving horse whew! And Dr. Lee Myers ... thank you for righting the wrongs!

Little Bit, Tid Bit, Dallas and Sweet Pea are now moving

from our Critical Care facility to our Foster Care facilities. That's a whole nuther story – and I'm sure I will have the opportunity to pass it along to you! It's important to us that you see what we do. We want you to know where your donations go.



We need you to know that
“With Your Help, We Will
Make a Difference”!

Special thanks to Patty Livingston, Drs. Billy and Lee Myers, Donna Pieper, Susan McCullar, Tracy Thompson, Scott Sauerbrier and family and all of the employees at Paulding County Animal Control for the care and recovery of these beautiful animals!

P.S. Please consult your veterinarian for specific nutritional programs.

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

**“Feed a Horse”
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www.gerlltd.org

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

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

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GERL
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THANK YOU!

***Your donation is
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Complications Due To Colic Surgery

By: Kenneth L Marcella, DVM

Colic remains one of the most serious problems for horses. In fact, colic was second only to problems associated with severe aging as a cause of death in horses as determined by the 1998 United States Department of Agriculture's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) study. This NAHMS equine study was the first ever large-scale formal initiative undertaken to estimate the incidence of equine colic in the continental United States. In this research, a total of 1026 horse operations from 4 regions of the country consisting of 28 states were monitored for colic over a one year period. The results showed an overall incidence of 4.2 colic cases per 100 horses per year. The fatality rate during the study period was 11 % and the cost of colic, which included the cost of horses that died, and the cost of surgery and medical treatments for horses that survived was 115 million for 1998.

Because of the high incidence rate and seriousness of cases of equine colic, it is not uncommon for readers of this and other equine orientated publications to encounter reports of the death of a well known equine athlete, broodmare or retired champion due to complications following colic surgery. Though advances over the past 20 years in the areas of diagnosis, anesthesia, surgery and post operative care have made the survival rate for colic cases climb into the high 70's to high 80's, (depending on a number of factors that will be addressed later), there are still significant potential complications related to both colic itself and to the steps taken to help resolve this significant problem in the horse.

Educational advances and better field diagnostics now enable veterinarians to more quickly evaluate individual cases of colic and to make decisions as to the need for surgical intervention. The increased number of clinics and equine referral hospitals now available also has helped reduce the time between a field decision that colic surgery is required and arrival at an appropriate surgical facility.

"Overall colic cases had a 50% chance of successfully being discharged from the hospital, but that percentage was much higher if the cases were seen within the first 3-4 hours of the initiation of the problem", according to Drs. McCarthy and Hutchins of the University of Sydney's Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies Rural Veterinary Centre at Camden, New South, Wales. In their retrospective study of 74 colic cases 28 were small intestinal problems and 46 were large intestinal problems. Horses presented four or more hours after they began showing signs of colic

had a much higher percentage of problems. There are so many different types of colic however and not all cases are associated with rapid clinical deterioration. Many of the studies on colic surgery survival and post operative complications must be carefully evaluated as to the type of patient population (large surgical referral clinics more likely to receive difficult and more serious cases versus private practice hospitals which often care for more routine cases and often get those cases more quickly because of closer proximity to their clients), and the types of cases seen.

Dr. Christopher Proudman from the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences at the University of Liverpool, U.K. reported on the incidence of colic in a general practice setting over a two year period and found that 93% of all colic cases were successfully treated medically. The most common type of colic was a spasmodic gas associated problem (72%) followed by impaction colic (15%). Surgical colic survival rate in this study also ranged from 50 to 60% depending on the type of intestinal problem.

If a horse makes it to colic surgery and can be successfully repaired it will have survived a major part of the colic process but there are many potential complications waiting. Recovery from anesthesia is a problem for many horses. Because of an equine's nature, many horses will not slowly and calmly awake from anesthesia. Some try to stand or move as soon as they experience some consciousness but well before they are fully capable of bearing weight safely. Trauma ranging from cuts, scrapes, head and eye injuries to broken legs can result. Most horses are "recovered" in padded rooms or on mats and foam and many are fitted with head and eye protection in an effort to reduce problems from anesthetic recovery. Uneventful recovery from anesthesia resulted in a 13.2% higher post colic surgery success rate at the Bell Equine Veterinary Clinic in Kent, U.K. Dr. Tim Mair and Dr. Luisa Smith, surgeons at this large equine specialist and ambulatory practice, reported on the survival and complications of 300 surgical colic cases seen in the practice from 1994 to 2001. Survival to discharge for all cases was 70.3% but that rate was 83.1% for horses that successfully recovered from anesthesia so this is the first significant complication that must be avoided.

(continued on the following page)

Complications Due To Colic Surgery (continued from the previous page)

The next most common complications encountered post surgery was persistent pain or re-colic (28.2%) (this was a consistent finding in both Dr. Proudman's and Drs. Mair and Smith's surveys). Horses that had small intestinal problems or lesions had more complications (75.2% survival) than horses with large intestinal lesions (89.9%). Horses that experienced strangulating situations where the intestine and its blood supply was twisted or kinked off for periods of time had the poorest survival rates (50 to 68.9% in various studies). Complications with the surgical incision were the next most common problems seen and drainage or infection was noted in 26.9% of 300 colic cases seen by Drs. Mair and Smith. Application of a stent (drainage tube) bandage was associated with higher rates of wound infection but placing a protective cover over the surgery incision during the recover period was shown to reduce the rate of wound complications.

Ileus is a condition of the intestines caused by a combination of the initial colic, anesthesia and surgical intervention which results in a slow to non-functioning gut. Theories exist relating to intestinal nerve damage, electrolyte imbalances and other physical and biochemical factors but the end result is that the intestines shut down during colic and they can be very slow to start up again. Without intestinal motility the horse cannot process food and will rapidly deteriorate, re-colic and possible die. There are various drugs used to stimulate the intestines that are given during this part of the post operative period but ileus and pain or re-colic due to lack of intestinal function is the next major post surgical complication seen (13.7%). Horses with small intestinal lesions have more problems with ileus than do horses with large intestinal issues.

Less commonly seen but still potentially dangerous are post surgical complications due to endotoxic shock (12.3%), catheter related issues such as blood or drug leakage, inflammation or infection of the catheter site in the jugular vein (jugular thrombosis) (7.5%), septic peritonitis (3.1%) resulting from an infection in the belly or abdomen but outside the intestines, and colitis/diarrhea (2.2%) most commonly due to an infection of the intestinal lining of the large colon.

Horses that have successfully navigated their way clear of all of these potential complications are generally released from the clinic or hospital and followed by their referring veterinarians at home. They are still not "out of the woods" yet however. Re-colic is the

single most common complication for horses post colic surgery often affecting nearly 35% of cases. Re-colic is more likely for horses that experienced small intestinal lesions, bowel resections (a section of intestine was damaged enough that surgeons had to remove the traumatized piece and reattach the ends), or post operative ileus. Adhesions are also a potential complication seen post surgically and seen in higher percentage if a resection was performed. In these horses, strips, tags or bands of connective tissue form along and around the areas of intestine that were traumatized during surgery. These restricting bands can reduce mobility of the intestine, decrease the internal size of the gut or diminish the intestine's ability to properly contract. Any of these problems can lead to recurrent colic. Horses that required a second surgery showed poor chances for complete recover, however. While only 10% of horses needed a second surgery, the survival rate for those horses was only 22.2 %.

It is encouraging that the vast majority of cases of colic respond to medical treatment and that only about 7% of horses will need colic surgery. From that point on, however, every step in the surgery, recovery and post operative period process is associated with potentially life threatening complications. Unfortunately anesthetic management, surgical attention and the type of colic (small intestinal versus larger intestinal) greatly determine the overall survival rate for these horses and yet these factors are beyond the control of owners and managers. Prevention of colic through good parasite control, good nutrition, appropriate veterinary and dental care, and consistent management are aspects that owners and trainers can and should control though. The best way, after all, to avoid post operative colic complications is to avoid colic.

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Volunteers of the Month - September 2009

By Anne Ensminger

Because our volunteers are the backbone of GERL, the Board of Directors recently decided that we wanted to recognize them individually in our newsletter. In thirty seconds after the vote to do this was taken, we had a list of over twenty people who greatly deserve to be spotlighted. I volunteered to write the first tribute, so I get to nominate this month's honoree. Actually, this hard-worker is half of a pair, which cannot possibly be separated. Therefore, as they say on "Dancing with the Stars", here, in no particular order begins our series ... Leisa (yep, that is how she spells it) and David McCannon have been members of GERL for many years. They live near Jersey, GA, are the parents of two grown daughters, and are now grandparents as well.

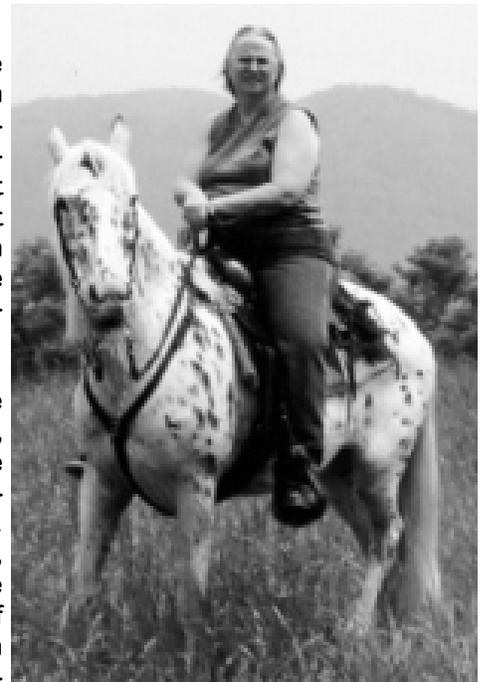
They always keep a couple of good saddle horses and greatly enjoy trail riding and camping with their many friends. They are frequently seen at the Pony Express Horse Auction near Covington on the second Saturday of each month and the tack only, auction on the fourth Saturday of the month. There they meet and visit with friends as they enjoy being around the horses and horse people. David loves to bid on saddle blankets and has quite a collection. He often donates one or two of them to our GERL Fest Auctions. David and Leisa not only give their money and donate items for our auctions, but they give much of their time and energy toward accomplishing the goals of GERL.

We have sponsored two horse shows in the past and they did all of the shopping and preparation of food for the concession stand, for both events. When the money totals were announced, it was the concessions, which put us in the black on both occasions. David often volunteers to park trailers, set up equipment, or hold a "yard sale" to benefit GERL at many of our trail rides. Leisa is always available to work at the check-in booth and for any other chore needed. They have both been very involved with setting up for GERL auctions on more than one occasion. This is usually a thankless chore but vital to the huge success of these events.

Interestingly, Leisa seems to have many secret "contacts" which she keeps to herself. She is able to mysteriously provide paper goods, cups, and plastic ware when needed for GERL events. This is a huge savings for us and we are very appreciative of her "underground" contacts. She is also a dedicated member of the GERL call line schedule. On a rotating schedule, she takes a week to answer the phone calls, which come in every day with requests for help, or reports of a horse in need. On top of all of this, she has recently accepted the position of GERL Volunteer Coordinator. She is responsible for making certain that there are plenty of helpers present for our events and she is usually first on the list.

Not only have Leisa and David diligently worked for GERL for a long time, but also they are very active with St. Jude fundraisers, and 4-H activities. In short, they are always willing helpers and, as such, very valuable members of a community of good folks who stand for what our wonderful country is all about.

Thank you Leisa and David McCannon!



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

Patty Livingston
(770) 867-0760
gerlpatty@yahoo.com

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

Never has the need been greater for Foster and Adoptive homes! 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 gerldonna@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!

BITS & PIECES

Lil' Lady and Sha at their foster home with Susan McCullar. Sha has since been moved to her forever home with David Adams.



Nick & David Adams recently adopted Sha. Nick is shown bathing Sha.

Foster parents Bob and Shirley Guhl are shown here with Lobo and Tyree.

Nick & Sha



Sha is continuing to gain and has settled well into her home with David & Nick Adams.

She is very funny and curious. She has learned to slide under the electric fencing at the barn area where she is fed. They have had to rethink their fencing to accommodate her.



Nick & Sha have completed their bath

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

We Honor a Dear Friend **By Friends of Sue Vetch**

Sue Vetch has been a member of GERL for many years. She is a tireless worker for all causes having to do with the welfare of horses. Because of her ceaseless efforts on behalf of equine and the equine industry in Georgia, Sue has multitudes of friends.

Today we received the sad news that her father, Maurice William O'Brien, passed away on August 1st. Sue wrote a moving tribute to her "daddy" and his life. She called him her hero. There is no doubt that he felt that the same word should be used to describe Sue.

As is characteristic of Sue, she asks that friends, who wish to honor her and the memory of her father, send donations to GERL. Her words were, "He would love to be able to know that he helped feed the horses and I would be so thankful to have a living tribute to this man I love so much".

We humbly accept these donations as we express our sincere condolences to Sue and her family for this loss.

Donations in memory of Mr. O'Brien may be sent to GERL at P.O. Box 328 - Bethlehem, GA 30620. All donations are tax deductible and Sue will receive notification of your thoughtfulness.

GERL NEEDS YOU!!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FRIGHT FEST 2009

Our Fall fundraiser is drawing closer and we need volunteers! There will be needs in every area - parking, setting up, selling merchandise, helping with the auctions, serving food and a lot more!

Please help us raise money for the horses! The more volunteers we have, the better the fundraiser will be!

Contact Leisa McCannon - gerlvolunteers@yahoo.com



For Your Information ... Things We Learn From Sweat

Most of us know that the sweat on our horse's coat after a hard ride is nature's way to cool him. However, did you know that it could also indicate some interesting facts?

We note that sweat appears first on the ears, flanks, elbows, chest, and inner thighs. Next to become wet are the areas of the body which are covered by tack and then the neck and face. By the time the rump and thighs start to show sweat, you should begin to be concerned that the heat or workload is becoming a serious threat to your horse's well being. He needs to rest.

As the weather begins to warm in spring and early summer, the horse's sweat seems to be thick and sort of "gooey". The reason for this is that the oils and waxes accumulated in his thick winter coat are being purged. Interestingly, as the summer months progress and the horse sweats through a lighter coat, the sweat becomes thinner and clearer.

The sweat pattern under the saddle can also be an indicator of how well a saddle fits the horse's back. Dry patches under the saddle usually indicate pressure points from an ill-fitting saddle, can cause the horse to be uncomfortable, and may even result in permanent nerve damage. Pressure points are the usual reason for those little patches of white hair we sometimes see on a horse's withers.

In very hot, breezy climates, a horse may appear to have a crust over his back caused by rapid drying of sweat. These are mineral crystals and are not harmful but should remind us that we must keep salt and/or mineral blocks available to our horses.

Excessive sweating is often the result of exertion with a heavy coat or mental anxiety. No matter the cause, a wet horse exposed to a cool breeze can easily develop pneumonia.

It is prudent to protect your horse from chilling with a light sheet as he cools after exercise.

General Horse Care Guidelines

- Even routine horse care is a significant and ongoing expense. In fact, the cost of purchasing a horse is often much less than the cost of maintaining one for a year. Make sure you are realistic about your ability to afford quality care before you adopt an equine companion.
- Horses need a regular supply of food. In most cases, they need to have hay or pasture throughout the day, with additional grain feedings twice a day. An average-size horse will eat about 20 lbs. of food a day and drink at least eight gallons of water. Because their stomachs are relatively small and their digestive systems surprisingly delicate, horses need to nibble or graze throughout the day, rather than have one or two meals a day.
- Horses need regular hoof care. Plan to hire a farrier (blacksmith) every six to eight weeks for routine hoof trimming or shoeing.
- Horses need regular veterinary care. At least once a year, your horse will need to be vaccinated against tetanus and other diseases. The veterinarian will also provide routine dental care. Keep in mind that medical emergencies, which are always an unfortunate possibility, can cost several thousand dollars to treat.
- Since horses are constantly exposed to intestinal worms from the ground they graze on, they must be dewormed every six to eight weeks. Carrying a heavy burden of worms can cause serious illness or death in equines, so regular and timely treatment is crucial to your horse's health.
- Horses need constant access to a dry, safe, comfortable shelter to protect them from rain, wind, and snow. In warm and sunny weather, the shelter you supply will provide your companion with much needed shade. At a minimum, you should have a well-constructed, three-sided shed into which your horse can retreat at all times. You will need to remove manure from the stall or shelter every day.
- Horses need exercise. To supplement the exercise your horse will get when you ride him, he should have a paddock or pasture in which to relax and stroll. No horse should spend all day confined in a stall, except on a veterinarian's recommendation. The pasture should be bordered by safe, sturdy fencing that will keep the horse safe and secure.
- Your horse depends on your love, care and commitment. You'll show your love through grooming, petting, riding and the occasional treat. You must also show your commitment by providing for his/her needs 365 days a year, in good weather and bad. With good care, your horse can live 35 years or more, so plan to enjoy a long and mutually rewarding relationship with your horse.



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

Judy Clark of Bloomingdale, GA who donated 20 round
bales of hay to GERL for the
Pulaski Prison GDA Impound facility

Perspecta Research Associates

Whit Payne

Nancy Fitzgibbons

Kelley Public Relations

Kim Bowen

Whit Payne

Tammerly MacDonald

Keep Covington / Newton Beautiful

Jerry Studdard

Ashley Whitner

Employees of Sutherland

Thank You For Your Change Jars

**The Stock Market
Conyers, GA**

**Pampered Pony
Monroe, GA**

Thank You To Our Foster Homes

Scott Sauerbier & Family
for fostering Dalls & Tidbit

Jean Long
for fostering Lucky

Jo Ann Hitman
for fostering Dan & Neiko

Cater & Jim Hartley
for fostering Eyzka & Rosie

Susan McCullar
for fostering Lil Lady, Sweet Pea & Little Bit

BJ Morris & Ann Maxwell-Searcy
for fostering Stormy

Bob & Shirley Guhl
for fostering Lobo and Tyree



**Thank You For Donating
To Our
Feed A Horse Program**

Valerie Crump - Bogart, GA
George & Charlotte Zubowicz - Warm Springs, GA
John P Lynn, III - Social Circle, GA
Stan Reich - Cumming, GA
Lee Hager - Marietta, GA
Adriana & John Clark - Atlanta, GA
Karen Kight - Dublin, GA
Constance Burchette - Marietta, GA



Donations In Memory Of

Gene Ensminger by Kelly Lockerman

Deb Benish by Bennett & Judith Kight

Gail Kincaid by Robert Dockery

BITS & PIECES

You may remember our May newsletter featured a cover story about six skinny Arabians that we had taken into our program. Those six horses are all fat and sassy now. All have since been moved to new foster homes and a couple have even found a new "forever" home. Two are still at Serenty Creek Farm for some basic training and handling under Trainer, Tonya Kiselyova. As reported by all who have come in contact with them, they are all very sweet and love human attention.

Thanks to your donations that made all of this possible!

Photo at right - Tonya Kiselyova giving Tyree a loading lesson. Tonya uses the "clicker" training method.



Signs of Colic

The term colic is broadly used to describe a "belly ache". In horses, colic can indicate a variety of digestive problems, ranging from minor to life threatening. There are numerous reasons for horses to colic. At the top of the list are constipation, parasitic damage, indigestion, overeating grain, and exhaustion. Recognizing the early signs of colic is very important for horse owners as this condition can rapidly worsen.

Just as people, horses have varying degrees of reaction to pain but it is time for alarm when we observe restlessness and/or anxiety, which may be accompanied with sweating, loss of interest in food, nosing or kicking at the belly, lying down and getting up and/or rolling repeatedly.

When your horse displays one or more of these signs, it is time to call your veterinarian. A professional evaluation is needed and the horse's discomfort must be eased as quickly as possible.

Horses That Eat Dirt

Have you ever observed your horse eating dirt? It just may be that his diet is lacking in some essential nutrients or perhaps he is simply bored. Dirt eating is not usually terribly harmful to horses but excessive accumulation of sand in the gut added to a parasite infestation is a recipe for severe colic.

A lack of salt is the most common mineral deficiency, which leads to eating of dirt. It is strongly recommended that a plain or trace mineral block be constantly available to your horses in the pasture or stall.

Deficiencies in phosphorus, iron, or fiber may also cause your horse to want to eat dirt. It may be necessary to consult with your veterinarian to determine if a change in diet, insuring these ingredients, may be indicated for your horse.



**LARRY SHOGREN
178 ROCK GARDEN TERRACE NW
MARIETTA, GA 30064-2622
770-428-0694-HOME
770-367-2046- CELL**

May 25, 2009

**GERL
P. O. Box 328
Bethlehem, GA 30620
Attn: Ronnie Pesserilo**

**Pick up a horse @ 511 Nichols Road Rome, GA and
Deliver to Horse Adoption.com @ 527 Reads Lake Road
Chattanooga, TN \$ 200.00**

THANK YOU !!!

PAID IN FULL!!!

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS A DONATION TO GERL !!!

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.**

Poker Ride for Horse Trails Silent Auction

Gabriel's Key



Unlocking Our Children's Future

Watson Mill Bridge State Park
October 10, 2009

\$20 Entry Fee includes one poker hand and lunch
Additional \$5 gets you an extra poker hand
Non-riders \$10.00 for lunch

Register in advance to get an extra card for your hand and front of the line for lunch

First Prize: \$100
Second Prize: \$75
Third Prize: \$50

Live music Saturday night!
**Chili, hot dogs, slaw, home-made
desserts, and drinks**

Ride out at your leisure by 10:00 am
Be back at camp for prize awards at 2:00 pm (Must
be present to win)



Proceeds benefit Watson Mill Bridge Horse Trails



Primitive camping \$10.00
Campsites \$24.00 per night
Cabins \$60.00 per night (up to 6 people)
Stalls \$8.00 per night
Park Pass \$5.00 per vehicle
Trail pass \$8.00 per person for duration of stay (2 nights)

Special Presentation:

"Tips, Tricks and Techniques for Safe and Simple Horse Camping"
Demo on what you need to bring, organization and how to safely secure your
horse in camp. Ellen Stara, campsite #9

Campsites, stalls, and pre-registration through
Jody Brooks at 770-654-4394

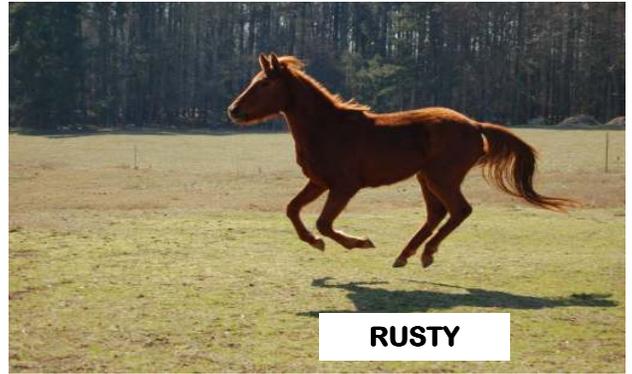
Sponsored by:
Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association
and **Gabriel's Key**

Note: Negative Coggins **required** for all horses on the premises.

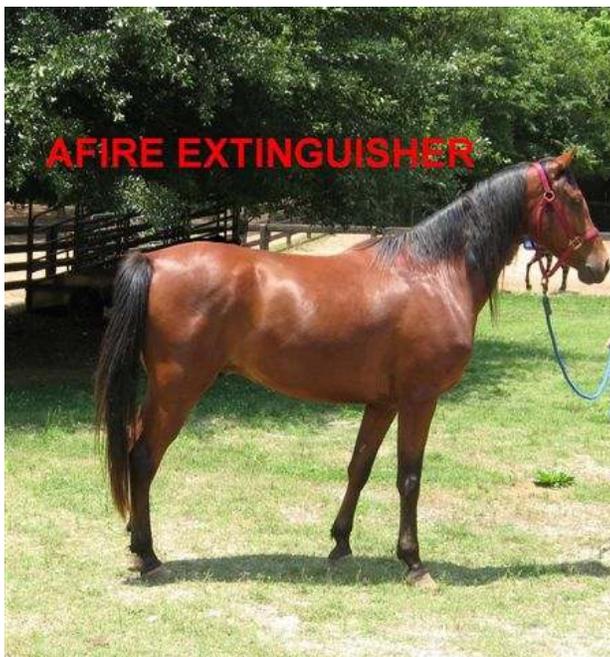


GERL ADOPTABLES

Rusty is a 2 year old Arab-cross colt with a great **ADOPTED** 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.



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.



Fire Extinguisher is a 6 year old registered Arabian. He is 16 hands. His Sire was the Reserve National Park Champion and his Grand Dam was also a Champion. He was injured during his training, which has caused a slight limp, but, he does trot and canter without pain. Because of his injury his training was never completed. He is a very sweet horse and one of the favorites at the Decatur Impound Barn. He would make a great companion horse as he is great with other horses, including old horses. The GDA needs to find a new home for "Fire" to make room for new impounded horses.

For adoption fees and additional information please contact

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

GERL ADOPTABLES

In an earlier volume of our newsletter, we told you that GERL had accepted six Arabians into our rescue program. Here are photos and adoption information for them. Sha, one of the mares, has already been adopted.

Lobo and **Tyree** were both stated as 15 year old bay geldings when we brought them into the GERL adoption program. Based on our vet's assessment, he feels they are closer to 10-12 years old. They stand approx 14.2-14.3hh and stocky (easy keepers). These boys are both VERY sweet and gentle to handle, but have no previous riding experience to our knowledge. We are unaware of any physical issues with either gelding that would prevent these boys from being trained under saddle. We will be looking for either companion homes or homes that have the facilities and time to train them properly. These geldings will be adopted out individually.

Ekyra – 9 year old bay arabian mare, approx 14.2hh and **Rosie** – 4 year old sorrel arabian mare, approx 14.1hh (Ekyra's baby) – These two mares will be adopted out as companion horses only due to a confirmation issue. Although it is not mandatory that they stay together, it would be ideal. These two have never been separated and due to an eye injury, Ekyra is blind in her right eye and seems more secure with Rosie around. At the time that GERL received these two into our program, they had been handled very little. After a short 4-6 weeks with 'clicker' training by Tanya K., they run to the fence and are easily approached and haltered.

They are very well socialized with both other mares and geldings. Ekyra and Rosie are both sweet girls, love to be brushed and handled, and are looking for the special forever home.

Lil Lady – 12 year old chestnut arabian mare, approx 14.1hh – This is one sweet gal!! As with the geldings, we were told that Lil Lady was not previously ridden. Although we are still determining the extent of her training, she appears to be very comfortable/unshaken with the saddle and saddle pad. We would like to find a new forever home that will have the ability and patience to train her through some refresher courses.



Tyree



Lobo



Rosie



Ekyra



Lil Lady

GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE

PRESENTS: FRIGHT FEST 2009



OCTOBER 30 & 31ST, NOVEMBER 1ST
JAKE MOUNTAIN, DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA



A BENEFIT RIDE TO HELP STARVED, ABUSED & NEGLECTED HORSES

PRIMITIVE CAMPING IN THE BEAUTIFUL NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS.

Guided Trails Rides or
Go Out on Your Own

Potluck Dinner Friday Night
Bring your Favorite Dish

Breakfast Sat. & Sun.
Dinner Sat. night
INCLUDED!!!



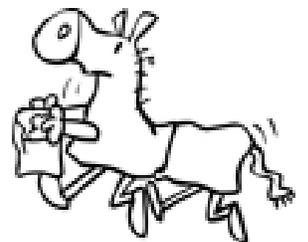
Cowboy Church Sun. A.M.



Live and Silent Auctions on Saturday Evening
Mickey Farmer –World Famous Auctioneer

Donate Items for the Auctions!

Contact: gerlpatty@yahoo.com



Costume and Best Decorated
Camp Contest - Judging on Sat. Nite
1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be awarded!!

Pickin' & Grinnin'
Friday Night
Bring your instrument!

Dance with D.J.
Sat. Night after Auctions

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED! SPACE IS LIMITED. WE WILL ACCEPT LATE COMERS ON
A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS ONLY. DON'T TAKE A CHANCE, REGISTER NOW!
DOWNLOAD REGISTRATION FORM @ GERLLTD.ORG
QUESTIONS? CONTACT Patty Livingston: 770-867-0760 or gerlpatty@yahoo.com

**REGISTRATION FORM
 GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE
 FRIGHT FEST 2009
 JAKE MOUNTAIN, DAHLONEGA, GA**



All riders and non-riders must be registered by Oct. 15th.
 Registrations received after that date will not be guaranteed a camping spot.

Camping is primitive. High lines are provided at most sites. No water is available at camp, please bring water for you and your horse. Portable pens are allowed, but space is very limited.
 The terrain at Jake Mtn. is suitable for all riding levels. We recommend that your horse be shod.
 In order for us to park everyone in an orderly fashion, we need to know the length of your rig, from the front of your truck to the rear of your trailer. *Please mark the box below that best suits the size of your rig:*

- Short (30' & under) Medium (31' - 45') Long (46' & over)

If you are camping with a group, please make a note on this form. We will do our best to put you together. It will also help if you arrive together.

Negative Coggins is required—*no exceptions*.

You will receive an information packet through the mail on the week of the ride. Please bring it with you! This packet will contain directions to Jake Mountain, wristbands that must be worn to show that you are a paid participant, a waiver that must be filled out by you prior to arrival at camp and a trail map. For further information or questions please contact Patty Livingston @ 770-867-0760 or gerlpatty@yahoo.com.

GERL MEMBER? Yes No Single Family

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____

No. of Adult Campers/GERL Members: _____	X \$55 ea. = _____
No. of Adult Campers/ Non-Members: _____	X \$65 ea. = _____
No. of Children/GERL Members: _____	X \$25 ea. = _____
No. of Children/Non-Members: _____	X \$30 ea. = _____
If you can only attend Sat. night dinner, auction and dance: _____	X \$15 ea. = _____
Primitive camping: _____	= \$10 Per Rig for weekend = _____
	Total = _____
	50% non-refundable deposit due now = _____
	Balance Due = _____

**Make check payable to: GERL
 Mail to: P.O. Box 328
 Bethlehem, GA 30620**

New GERL Cargo Trailer Purchased

GERL recently purchased a new 6' X 12' cargo trailer to replace the one that was stolen several years ago.

All of the GERL tables, chairs, banners, etc. that were kept in the trailer were also lost. Many of those items have already been replaced, but we found that a trailer was needed to keep all of our items together in one place, making it easier to set up at functions. Many thanks to Mickey Farmer, who helped locate the perfect trailer we needed.

We also want to thank Country Boy Trailers of Cumming who gave us a great deal! We had the GERL logo put on and are ready to go to our next function!



Brookwood Ranch Honors GERL

The students of Brookwood Ranch, owned and operated by Zana Perkins, recently held a Tupperware fundraising drive for the Georgia Equine Rescue League. There were 18 students who were able to raise a total of \$670 by selling over \$2,000.00 in Tupperware sales. Christie Lissemore, the Tupperware representative, was also on hand to join in the celebration where several of the students and Zana presented GERL President, Patty Livingston, and Volunteer Coordinator, Leisa McCannon with the check. The party was hosted at the Brookwood Ranch in Lilburn on June 27th. This is quite a feat that they accomplished and we are very grateful that they chose GERL as the recipient. This money will serve to feed several horses in our program. Kudos to the Brookwood Ranch students and Zana for their hard work and support!



**Happy 60th Birthday
David McCannon**



**GERL
Calendar of Events**

Fall Fest, 2009
October 30th - Nov 1st
Jake Mountain, GA
*Details on page 26 & 27

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!



Hi Donna

It's been 3 weeks now & Spice has put on some weight. I have tidied up her mane & tail & she looks great. She has her head down on the grass all day long.

She is not quite sure of my farrier. He is coming back next week to work on her back feet. She & Banjo have become best friends. When the weather gets cooler I may start working on some more training.

Please tell her previous family that she is in good hands. My neighbors are always asking me about my new horses & where they come from.

Albert & Margaret Hill



**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.**



**Fundraiser Planned
for GDA Impounded Horses
By Patty Livingston**

Plans are underway for an exciting event to benefit the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Impound Program. GERL has contributed in many ways to GDA over the years and will continue to do so. However, due to cutbacks in government spending, it is evident that for the Impound Program to continue to meet the demand, it will be necessary for all of us to be creative in our thinking about how to obtain additional operating funds.

I recently received a call from long time GERL member and supporter, Jack Cashin of Chukkar Farm near Alpharetta. (<http://www.chukkarfarmpoloclub.com/index.html>) Jack wanted to offer his beautiful 173-acre facility to GERL for a fundraising event. His offer could not have come at a better time. I met Jack at Chukkar Farm the following Sunday and began to get excited about making plans for a very different fundraiser. Anxious to showcase his beloved sport of polo, Jack offered to host a match for the enjoyment of all. Many attendees have never seen a polo match and I think it would be very exciting to watch such a fast-moving game, played on horseback by top riders.

Although our plans are just in the beginning stages, we plan for the event to take place in the spring of 2010 and we are considering a barbecue dinner with a live auction in the evening following the polo match. I see the day as being very restful as we enjoy the match and visit with old friends and others who love horses. Please plan to join us!

I am forming a committee for this event and I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to help. Please call me at (770) 867-0760. It is my hope that the committee will include some new people from GERL, GDA personnel, as well as interested parties who are not a part of either organization.



**No Measuring, No Fuss for Clear Water
Troughs Contact Us!**

Just drop one tablet in your troughs every 3-5 days and you won't have to scrub again!

For more information please visit us on the web at

www.clearwatertroughs.com



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All Types of Wood-Vinyl-High Tensile Wire-Decorative Gates-Masonry Entrances

ELECTRO-BRAID FENCE Dealer **770-894-3939** **Heritage Vinyl Products**
RAY ZIEBELL
OWNER

SUNDOWNER OF GEORGIA

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