



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With Your Help ...
We Will Make A Difference

Volume #173

www.gerlltd.org

February 2010

The Journey From Critical to Carefree An Update from Our September Article By Diana DeMoss

In September I wrote an article titled "Critical Care" that showcased four horses that Patty and I picked up at Paulding County Animal Control. All of them were in critical condition. They spent a few weeks at our critical care facility before going to foster care for rehabilitation.

Critical care is meant to be a stabilizing process where horses are evaluated by our staff and one of our vets, Dr. Billy Myers. Once evaluated we can start giving them the specific care that each one needs. They are treated for any medical conditions, vaccinated and a nutrition plan is put into place. A horse may stay at the critical care facility from one week to several months, depending on their needs.

After being evaluated, Sweet Pea and Little Bit went to live with foster mom Susan McCullar. I also, am thinking about going to live there. They were the "worst" of the four, skinny, scabby horses and were in need of a lot of TLC. Susan loaded them up on her trailer, took them home and worked her magic. She coaxed each horse back to life by carefully feeding them, grooming them and caring for them as if they were her own. The transformation these two girls went through was mind blowing. It is truly amazing. I know you will agree when you look at their "before and after" pictures! If we hadn't taken "before" pictures I would not have recognized them.



Little Bit
9/09



Little Bit
1/10

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**To report a case of equine abuse, call the
Georgia Department
of Agriculture's Equine Division
Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
(404) 656-3713 or (800) 282-5852**

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

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***Please submit all newsletter materials by the
10th of each month for submission in the
following month's newsletter.**

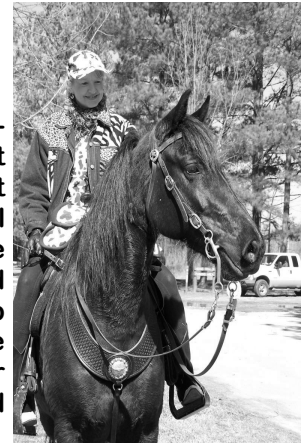
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LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President'

I know that it probably seems like I'm always on my soap box about the recent over-abundance of horses. Every day GERL is faced with finding a way to care for at least one horse whose owner cannot, or does not want, to care for it any longer. The fact that four of the last five horses taken into our program were stallions, makes me feel that I should say more on this topic. It is just too unbelievable to imagine. Someone recently put a 20+ year old stallion in a stranger's pasture - a stranger who happened to have mares. The County Animal Control, as is often the case, called GERL for help in placing this horse. He needed to be moved immediately and that turned out to be more difficult than you might imagine. None of our foster homes could keep a stud for even one night, much less for a couple of months. Still, the problem was resolved and the horse is now safe.



There are many people out there who continue to indiscriminately breed horses. These people must feel that sheer numbers will somehow produce the perfect horse. They allow their stallions to run loose with one or more mares, producing foals that will eventually become a burden. Often the resulting foals are never handled. It is unlikely that they are even properly fed which leads to stunted growth and diminished quality. How will the owner find a buyer for such an animal? Do these people have any consideration for the future of these animals? Do they realize the cruelty and hardship these horses will likely face?

Western Horseman printed an article in a recent issue entitled "When is Enough, Enough?" In essence, the article was about people with high dollar stallions that continue to breed even though the market is saturated with their offspring. This practice does nothing but produce a market glut, therefore bringing down the price of these horses. The article rightly, and simply suggested, that breeders back off and breed less. So, you see, it is not just grade horses that have saturated the market, but nearly all breeds.

Our partner, The GDA (Georgia Department of Agriculture) impounds large numbers of horses each year, many of them stallions. We are very pleased that it is their policy to geld all stallions before they are presented at public auction. Of course, over-breeding is just part of the problem, but it is a great place to begin to develop a solution.

We've been taking in a lot of horses lately, and with a severe winter already here, I fear that the number is sure to increase drastically. We're getting an ever increasing number of calls from Animal Control agencies asking for our help. Desperate people resort to desperate measures, which is why people will solve their unwanted horse problem by hauling them out to somebody else's farm, unloading them, and driving away. That is how "Brutus" came to live at my house. Interestingly, it appeared that he had just had his feet trimmed. That was considerate, I suppose. He was fat - almost too fat, actually. His tail was a huge dreadlock that has taken hours to comb out. And, of course, he was a stallion. He has since been gelded, despite the fact that he is 20+ years old. We feel that to geld these horses is not a choice. The only chance they have to find adoptive homes for any kind of future, necessitates that they are gelded, regardless of their age. If they are rideable, their chance of being adopted into loving homes is greatly increased. For that reason, GERL has paid to have some professional training and handling done on several of the horses we have taken into our program this past year. We feel that we owe them that chance.

The GERL Board, along with the GDA, will be hosting several meetings in the near future with local Sheriff's offices and Animal Control Agencies to discuss Georgia's horse problem and how we can work together to make things better. And, let me say this, about that ... the problem is neither going to be solved overnight, nor will making one or two changes solve the problem. As for GERL, our new emphasis on encouraging the gelding of stallions and withholding mares from breeding, will be placed high place on our agenda. We will continue public EDUCATION concerning these matters.

As a final note, I want to encourage our readers to promote and support the GERL Adoption Program. If you do not want or need a horse, we hope you will tell your friends that we have good horses available. These horses have come from less than desirable situations, many are pure-bred. They are completely rehabilitated, and deserve to find homes where they will be loved and appreciated. We have heard over and over again that adopting a rescue horse can be one of the most rewarding things you will ever do!

A Note from the Secretary's Desk

By Anne Ensminger



How can we possibly be starting a new decade? It was only yesterday when we were all (tongue in cheek) taking steps to prevent the predicted crash of our computers as the new century loomed. I am very grateful to have first hand knowledge of the wonderful work done by GERL since we greeted the year 2000.

Yes, GERL does so much good work but as I ponder the events of this very morning, I am overwhelmed with sadness as I realize that it is not always possible for GERL to provide a happy ending for every horse.

As many of our members know, GERL maintains a phone line where people call to report their concerns for horses needing help. Sometimes these horses belong to someone else and sometimes the horses belong to the caller.

We received a call from a lady about a month ago who was hoping that GERL would take her 10 year old Mustang mare because her family was barely able to pay their house rent. The mare suffered a severe founder 18 months ago. The family cared deeply for this horse and had sacrificed to provide veterinary care, medications, special trimming and shoeing, and any other treatment which might make her comfortable. The mare failed completely to respond and was now in constant pain. Their veterinarian told them that it was time to put this horse out of her misery. They learned that euthanasia and burial would cost over three hundred dollars. They knew that they could not afford this so the father, very reluctantly, was prepared to take the mare to the woods in the back of their property and shoot her.

When the wife called GERL, she was very emotional. She and her children could not bear the thought of such a thing. Our hearts went out to her and to this horse but it made no sense for us to take the horse into our program and let her continue to suffer. After discussion and a vote of the GERL Board of Directors, we conveyed our sincere condolences and offered to pay the final expenses for this mare.

The gratitude of this family was very heartwarming. While their hearts were broken at having to make this decision for "Midnight", they were already certain that it was the right thing to do. They all wanted to wait until after Christmas.

Since they lived on a small acreage with little room to bury a horse, it was decided that they would bring the horse to Countryside Animal Hospital near Jersey Georgia and that Dr. Billy Myers would humanely euthanize her and make arrangements for burial.

I met the mother and her three wonderful children at Countryside this morning. When I saw the mare and her pain as she walked, I was certain that we were doing the right thing.

We hugged and cried together as they said their goodbyes to "Midnight". I still have a lump in my throat as I remember how my life will be forever blessed by meeting this loving family which must face such anguish as they struggle together to make ends meet.

I will always remember the scene as they pulled up to Countryside with "Midnight" on their "ragtag" stock trailer. They were well dressed and the children were exceptionally polite as they clung to their distraught mother. The daughter, about 12 years old, was a special needs child who continuously hugged me and said 'thank you, thank you'. The mother had never mentioned that they had a special needs child. She did tell me that their veterinarian and the folks at the horse shoeing school in their area had given her the gas money to bring "Midnight" to Countryside. I thought that fact demonstrated that these folks are well thought of by those who know them in their community. I felt honored to be able to represent GERL in this matter and joyfully accepted the heartfelt gratitude of this family which I now pass to YOU, all of the members of Georgia Equine Rescue League as well as to Dr. Billy Myers and the caring staff at Countryside Animal Hospital.

This lovely mare began life as a wild horse in the mountains of Nevada. Captured at age four, Midnight found her way through several owners. She was gentle and learned to trust humans. Finally she came to this family where she was appropriately treasured as a living symbol of the historic and pioneer spirit of the old American West. The reason she suffered such a severe founder will never be known. Midnight is not suffering today but her human family will most certainly be suffering for a long while. We must all cling to the fact that we did the right thing for this greatly loved Mustang mare.

Christmas For The Horses

By Robin Easley - GDA Field Supervisor

Santa's elves were very good to the needy horses of Georgia in 2009. The Equine Health Section along with Commissioner Irvin would like to recognize several organizations and businesses throughout the state for their generosity to the starving horses of the state this holiday season. The Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Impound Facilities have been fortunate to be the recipients of several charitable donations from the equine community.

During their end of the year banquet, the Kel-Mac saddle club presented a check for \$1500 to be used for the rehabilitation of horses at the Mansfield impound barn. The Middle Georgia Equine Network collected donations for the impound program and presented the gifts to Department employees during their December meeting at Green South in Madison, Georgia. Thank you to the members of the Middle Georgia Equine Network and Green South for your kindness in giving to the horses at the impound barns. The second annual "Hope for the Horses Angel Tree" project was sponsored by Towne Lake Equestrian Club. The members of TLEC raised money and bought gifts for the horses at GDA's impound barns. They featured photos of impounded horses on the club house Christmas tree that families could sponsor. Members made the special delivery to the Critical Care Facility in Decatur on December 12th and visited with the horses. A special thank you to Ida and Ashley of TLEC for their organization and creativity, and thanks to the rest of the TLEC for spreading Christmas cheer and gifts to the horses in need! Several other businesses in Georgia participated in the Angel Tree project this year and we would like to express our sincere appreciation: Sacketts in Jasper, Cohutta Feed in Blue Ridge, TC Supply in Canton, Ace Hardware in Cordele, Farmers Feed and Seed in Americus, and Tractor Supply companies in Rome, Cartersville, Chatsworth, and Ellijay. Thank you to these establishments and their patrons for enhancing the spirit of the season!



The Georgia Equine Rescue League has continued to faithfully support the impounds. On December 22nd, they delivered 75 bales of Timothy hay to the barn. In addition, they have committed to purchase an additional sling needed to rehabilitate horses who are too weak to stand on their own. The list of gifts received by the GERL and its members is too long to dictate as they are incredibly generous to the horses who cannot fend for themselves. Since there are no state appropriated funds for the impound barns, the program relies heavily on donations for the rehabilitation of the horses, donkeys, and mules that come through the facilities.

Back Country Horsemen of North Georgia Benefit Ride at East Fork Stables, TN

Spend a Spring weekend with your horse at BCHNG'S 3rd Annual Benefit ride at East Fork Stables in Jamestown, TN on April 22-25, 2010.

"Save and Support our Trails" Weekend Package

\$70 per person includes 3 delicious dinners (Potluck, BBQ & Prime Rib) plus 3 Hearty country breakfasts, musical entertainment around the bonfire, live & silent auctions, door prizes, competitions, obstacle course demonstrations, a wine tasting & unlimited riding on 100+ miles of beautiful trails. *\$70 does not include cost of lodging for people & horses or applicable taxes.

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GHJA Juniors Donate Check to GERL

By: Patty Livingston

GERL was invited to attend the Georgia Hunter Jumper Association finals at Wills Park on November 21, 2009. The GHJA Juniors had raised money and wanted to present GERL with a check that evening.

Of course, I was delighted when I first received the email from the new GHJA president, Laura Bentley, in the early spring of 2009. I was a new President, myself, and wasn't sure what was ahead for me. Laura spoke to me about her goal to re-write the GHJA mission statement to include horse welfare. She told me that they have approximately 800 members in their club and that it had dawned on her some time ago that some of the horses that are used by their members would some day suffer from blown out knees, feet and leg problems as a result of their sport. She wanted to make their members aware of the fact that some day their beloved horses might actually be a rescue, themselves. Once a horse is unable to compete they are often sold or given away. What kind of life would they have when they are no longer rideable or require medication? Many members would never know that answer because a new horse will have already taken it's place.

Laura has two daughters of her own who compete and she knows the value of preservation to save the horse's legs during practice. She challenged the GHJA Juniors to raise money during the year to be donated to GERL at the Finals in November. Nobody was more surprised than me when I saw the huge poster check for \$2,250.00! Wow! These kids also raised another \$60+ by giving away free pretzels from the Philly Pretzel Factory in exchange for a donation to GERL. Special thanks go to the Philly Pretzel Factory in Milton for donating all of those delicious pretzels to help GERL. For many of us, it was our lunch.

Thanks to Laura Bentley and the GHJA Juniors for an awesome job and for making starved and abused horses a part of their program. Their donation will feed and vet many horses in GERL's care. GHJA Juniors, YOU ARE AWESOME!!

Photo at Right

The GHJA Juniors presenting GERL with a check for \$2,250.00. From left to right: Patty Livingston, Laura Bentley, Tori Bentley, Laina Jones, Carlee Bentley, Gavin Jensen, Natalie Stasch, Trina Blankenship and Wade Stains



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This Will Be Your Last Newsletter Unless You Renew.**

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**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:
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WITH YOUR HELP ... WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**The Journey From Critical to Carefree
(continued from the cover)**

Dallas and Tidbit (Little Bit's filly) went to Scott and Laura Sauerbier's home. They have a beautiful farm, with knee deep grass. When I unloaded Dallas and his little buddy, Tidbit, I thought I probably would never see their faces again. Literally! They ran about 30 yards, buried their heads in the grass and began to munch - never to be seen again!

Scott and his dad, Richard have certainly gained a lot of experience fostering. I admire people that just "jump in" and do whatever needs to be done. That's the kind of folks the Sauerbier's are. They have done a fabulous job with both horses. In fact, they did so well that Richard decided to adopt Dallas!

Our foster homes play such a crucial role in the rehabilitation of the horses that are placed in our program. Each horse gets the individual attention that it needs in order to survive. Thank you to each and every foster home for giving your time and resources to help us save abused, starved and neglected horses.

Our ultimate goal is to find adoption homes for our rescue horses. The wonderful end to this story is that three of the four Paulding County horses have been adopted! They will be monitored for a period of time and ultimately released to their new homes.

We want to keep you personally connected to what the Georgia Equine Rescue League is all about. Your donations, the dedicated, hard work of ALL our volunteers, the tender care given by our foster homes and the careful process of finding an adoptive home are the crux of this organization.

You should be smiling now, we are doing tremendous work! As you can see, the journey from critical to carefree is a "win-win" for horses and people alike.

With your help, we WILL make a difference!



Dallas
9/09



Dallas
1/10



Tid Bit
9/09



Tid Bit
12/09



Sweet Pea
9/09



Sweet Pea
12/09

“From Starving to Stardom”

By Robin Easley - GDA Field Supervisor

Under the big top in Atlantic Station, the story of the bond between horses and humans is being told. Each show features highly trained equine as well as dancers, acrobats and musicians. Amongst the “actors” under the big top, two rescued horses from right here in Georgia are spotlighted. The producers of Cavalia were interested in using local foals to open the performance. Thanks to GERL member Ronnie Pesserilo, one of the performers from Cavalia was put in touch with the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s equine health section. Two rehabilitated colts rescued by the Department were chosen to open the production. As the show begins, the audience is treated to a brief video of the beautiful beginning of a foal’s life. The two Department of Agriculture colts, “Jumper” and “Jolly”, are released into the arena to cavort with actors on foot. Amid smoke and lights, the colts are allowed to play at will for a short time before exiting for the show to continue.



Life for these colts may seem spectacular now, but due to negligence on the part of their previous owners, life has not always been so magical. Their early days were spent trying to survive alongside their dams. When Department of Agriculture officials found these horses, they were on the brink of starvation due to the lack of humane care and living in deplorable conditions. The mommas and babies, along with several of their pasture mates were soon impounded by the Department of Agriculture. By the time the horses arrived at the Dekalb County Critical Care facility, the foals were too weak to walk or even stand on their own. For a few weeks to follow, employees and volunteers alike took shifts going to the barn every few hours to assist the foals in their fight to live by helping them get to their feet and nurse. The dams were put on a specialized feeding program and gained weight as their foals grew and began eating on their own. Pretty soon the colts were running around and bucking about in the barnyard.

The colts survived the plight of malnourishment and their dams have been rehabilitated and sold at an impound auction. While the colts dance around the stage of Cavalia, their spirits soar with the trapeze. Even though the horses will always have memories of their past and their protectors at the Georgia Department of Agriculture, they can now move on to lead more fulfilling lives. Theirs truly is a story straight from starvation to stardom.

P.S. – Jumper and Jolly will remain a part of Cavalia for their upcoming show in Miami, then they will return home to the Georgia Department of Agriculture impound facility sometime in early May. They will be offered at a GDA impound auction following their homecoming. Stay tuned for your chance to own one of these colts of fame.



Georgia Department of Agriculture ***EQUINE IMPOUND AUCTION***



Saturday February 27, 2010
SPECIAL SALE held at the *Morgan Cty Ag Center*
Highway 441 South just North of Madison
Gates open at 10:00am, Horse Sale starts at 12:00pm
For more information, directions, and a list of all horses
offered for sale visit the Department's website at:
www.agr.georgia.gov or call 404-656-3713

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Thank You
Dr. Ken Marcella

for providing our membership
with such informative
articles each month.

See page 11 for this month's article

**THANK
YOU**

Taking The Sting Out Of Vaccine Reactions

By: Kenneth L Marcella, DVM

Most owners want to do the best that they can to keep their horses healthy and protected from disease. This type of concerned management typically involves a schedule of vaccinations given at various times of the year and aimed at various potential diseases. The specifics of your individual program are usually worked out with your veterinarian and should be based on where you live and on what types of exposure risk your horses may encounter. Still, many horse owners become quite concerned when their horses have adverse reactions to vaccinations. The sight of your ten year old hunt horse with a stiff swollen neck having difficulty lowering his head to eat grass the day after a rabies vaccination is cause for concern. The 2 year old in training with large welts all over his itchy skin following an Influenza vaccination may also make you reconsider the merits of trying to keep horses healthy in this way. What should horse owners do when "good vaccines go bad"?

Vaccination and the correct stimulation of the immune system to produce protection against a disease is a very complex process. So too is the very production of a biological product such as a vaccine. The more complex any process the more potential for problems. Abnormalities and adverse or negative reactions can occur in any number of ways and intricacies in the process of vaccine production and use can sometimes cause these responses as well. A look at immune system reactions in the horse will show you how adverse responses occur and an explanation of the causes for such poor reactions may help you and your horse avoid them.

Immunological reactions in the horse fall into one of four main categories. All of these responses can be either acute- occurring immediately (0 to 8 hours), or delayed- occurring many hours to days after the initial exposure event. Type I is an anaphylactic reaction and this is the typical shock-like response or exaggerated immune reaction to an injected, ingested, inhaled or otherwise contacted antigen. (An antigen is a protein source that is foreign to the body and recognized by the immune system as an invader. Inhaled pollen, injected proteins in vaccines and other drugs, proteins on the surface of parasites, the venom in an insect sting are all examples of antigens.) Type I reactions are almost always immediate and usually involve the entire body of the horse so they are called "systemic". Type II reactions are cytotoxic reactions and occur in the body as a response to antigen that is generally injected. This type of response activates a host of molecules in the body that contribute to tissue damage and the further release of more immunologi-

cally related molecules that damage even more tissue. This mechanism is called the "complement cascade" and is the cause for much of the swelling, soreness and pain associated with some adverse reactions. Type III reactions are immune-complex reactions and this response only occurs in individuals that have had prior exposure to an antigen. If such an individual encounters that same antigen at a later point in time (such as occasionally happens in older horses receiving vaccinations over a long period), the potential for a type III reaction is there. Injection of antigens into the muscle or under the skin (subcutaneously) is such a common cause of type III reactions that these situations are given a special name and are referred to as Arthus reactions. Such reactions result in edema or significant swelling, an itchy rash, fever, swollen joints and associated lameness, hemorrhage or bleeding in various tissues and occasionally kidney failure. Type IV reactions are cell mediated responses and tend to be more delayed reactions involving localized swelling and tissue response.

Many specific molecules are involved in this complex immunologic response and each functions in a specific way. Antibodies such as IgG, IgM and IgE are produced by the horse in response to antigen exposure. When an antigen binds to these antibodies a complex is created and molecules in the immune system are activated. Some of these molecules attack other cells causing the release of still more molecules. Histamine, leukotrienes, prostaglandins and many others are all types of molecules released by these immune complexes. Histamines cause an increase in mucous secretions in the nose, mouth, throat, Trachea (wind pipe) and lungs. Histamines cause swelling or edema and, along with leukotrienes and prostaglandins they cause significant smooth muscle contraction. These molecules usually contribute to a response that results in destruction of the antigen but the process can, in unusual situations such as adverse vaccine responses, be damaging to the horse as well. These molecules are part of the "compliment cascade" and, depending on the severity of the reaction; the smooth muscle contraction in the lungs along with the increased mucous secretion can cause respiratory distress and death.

The really good news is that reactions to vaccinations in the horse VERY rarely involve type I to IV immune responses. They have been reported but are highly uncommon. Severe and serious reactions to vaccines are very uncommon in general. common and almost always harmless".

(continued on the following page)

Taking The Sting Out Of Vaccine Reactions (continued from the previous page)

A client handout for parents distributed by the C. S. Mott Children's Hospital at the University of Michigan states that "while severe allergic (anaphylactic) reactions to any vaccine (or other drug) is possible, it is extremely rare". "Reactions to vaccines", continues the handout "are common and almost always harmless".

Most vaccine reactions in horses are thought to occur as responses to adjuvants and not to the disease antigen. Adjuvants are components added to vaccines that are designed to enhance the body's response and to help the body achieve better disease protection. They act in many different ways to prolong the exposure of the antigen's proteins to the immunological cells of the body. Because these adjuvants are response enhancers or aggravators, they can cause reactions by themselves. The swelling, tenderness and stiffness, seen in the necks of most horses that react to a vaccination, are caused by a response to an adjuvant contained in the vaccine and not by an allergic reaction. Knowing the true cause of most equine vaccine reactions is a tremendous help in preventing adverse responses.

Dr. Kevin Hankins, field veterinary consultant for Fort Dodge Animal Health deals with adverse vaccine reactions in horses and he feels that simply handling and using vaccines correctly can significantly reduce adverse reactions. "Lack of adherence to proper vaccine temperature maintenance may result in a lack of vaccine effectiveness and in an increase in local reactions post vaccination", cautions Dr. Hankins. Vaccines are labeled with warnings to store them in the dark, shake well before use and keep them between 35 and 45 F. Because of the way that vaccines are produced, failure to follow those label warnings will likely increase the adverse reactions and decrease efficacy. "Most vaccine reactions are in part due to mishandling of the vaccine by owners who give the injections themselves", says Dr. Hankins, though he is quick to add that sometimes veterinarians can become lax about storage and use of vaccines as well. "Antigens and adjuvants are closely combined during the production of a vaccine", explained Dr. Hankins. Freezing physically breaks apart this complex and subsequent use of that vaccine may allow a higher amount of only adjuvant to be injected which can greatly increase the reactivity. "Stiffness and localized swelling can be increased up to ten times in such situations", said Hankins. Allowing the vaccine to become too warm reduces efficacy but does not increase reactivity. Failure to shake the vial well before use can allow more adjuvant than antigen to be in-

jected in a concentrated area and can potentate reactions however. Dr. Hankins additionally explained that prior to 2004 vaccines had a minimum adjuvant level but no maximum level. Differing batches or serial runs of vaccine may have had variations on the upper level of adjuvant present. Since 2004 however, ceiling levels on adjuvant have been instituted as well in an effort to reduce the number of reactions.

The increased use of multiple or combination vaccines has also increased the percentage of reactions seen in horses since these vaccines use multiple antigens and adjuvants. It is far more likely for a horse to adversely respond to such injections and many veterinarians recommend stretching out vaccine schedules for those horses likely to respond poorly. Vaccinating these animals with a single vaccine and then repeating with another single disease vaccine 10 days to 2 weeks later seems to decrease reactions. Dr. Hankins points out the fact that when West Nile Virus vaccination first began it was available only as a single vaccine and that many horses were given this biological by itself. When used in this way the amount of reported reactions was "extremely, extremely small", said Dr. Hankins.

If horse owners purchase and give their own vaccines they should be aware of some important handling tips. Keep vaccines cold but not frozen at all times. Dr. Hankins advised that when transporting vaccines from the store or home to the barn, do not place them in contact with ice. Syringes are thin plastic and localized freezing can occur in areas that contact an ice pack or the freezer door or shelf. It is best to wrap the vaccines to maintain a consistently cool temperature without freezing.

The sight of your horse with a stiff swollen neck or with itchy skin and welts following vaccination can be disheartening but remember that almost all such reactions respond to anti-inflammatory administration, cold compress and compassionate care. These reactions are usually localized responses and not allergic reactions. Proper care and handling of vaccines (especially temperature control) may help prevent such reactions and vaccine producers are constantly working to improve the protection offered by vaccination while reducing adverse responses. Vaccination contributes to the reduction of disease and the increase in longevity seen in our horses today. Paying attention to simple storage and handling can make a difference in how "good" a vaccine can be.

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GERL ADOPTABLES



Sweet Pea

Sweet Pea is a 13.3 hand, 3 year old sorrel mare. She is gentle to handle and enjoying her pasture mates as she gains weight during her rehabilitation. Butterscotch is looking for her forever home where she can begin her next level of training.

Tidbit is a beautiful paint yearling pony filly ready to find a new forever home. She is very friendly and gentle to handle. Her current foster home continues to show her human love, while she learns her horse etiquette from her pasture mates. She has started her training on a lunge line.



Tidbit

Pretty Boy is a Thoroughbred gelding, approx. 17yo, 15hh. He appears to be a seasoned, well trained horse, but not suited for a beginner – intermediate would be fine. He is a gentle, easy to handle horse that gets along well with his pasture mates, loads well, has had extensive farrier work.



AFIRE EXTINGUISHER

WE NEED LOVING HOMES... PLEASE ADOPT US!

Fire Extinguisher is a 6 year old registered Arabian and stands 16 hands. He was injured during his training as a 4 years old. This has caused a slight limp, but he appears to trot and canter in the pasture without pain. Because of the injury, he will be adopted as a companion only horse - he is great with other horses, including older horses. He is very sweet and was one of the favorites at the State Impound Barn. His Sire was the Reserve National Park Champion and his Grand Dam was also a Champion.



Pretty Boy

Charmer is a 7 year old Tennessee Walking Horse Gelding. Charmer has been ridden on trails, but during the past year, he did not have much riding or handling due to the health of his owner. He currently resides at the home of trainer Tanya Kiselyova who is continuing his training to make sure he is safe and pleasant on the ground and under saddle. For additional information and pictures, visit www.equinoxhorse.net/Charmerproject.html.

**For adoption fees and additional information please contact
Donna Pieper, GERL Adoption & Foster Coordinator
(404) 797-3333 / gerldonna@bellsouth.net**

GERL ADOPTABLES

Tyree and Lobo were both stated as 15yo geldings when we brought them into the GERL adoption program. Based on our vet's assessment, he feels they are closer to 10-12yo. They stand at 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. There are no 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.



Tyree

Ekyra – 9 year old bay arabian mare, approx 14.2hh and **Rosie** – 4yo 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 Kiselyova, 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 looking for the special forever home.



Lobo



Rosie



Ekyra

Apache is a sweet little gelding, just turned 2. Very people oriented - follows his Foster Mom everywhere. He leads and loads without any problem. We haven't really done much more than that with him, but he seems willing to try most anything. We do not expect him to get much bigger than 14hh. Someone who is willing to put the time in to train him would be perfect.

Brutus - see page 20 for details and photo



Apache

For adoption fees and additional information please contact
Donna Pieper, GERL Adoption & Foster Coordinator
(404) 797-3333 / gerldonna@bellsouth.net

“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”
Program**

www.gerlltd.org

Name: _____

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

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

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

THANK YOU!

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

Impound Updates - This is What GDA & GERL Are All About!

Marty
11/09 Newsletter



Marty
+ 98 pounds

Paulk
12/09 Newsletter



Paulk
+ 144 pounds

Broker
12/09 Newsletter



Broker
+ 186 pounds

Little Bit (aka Sugar) Moves to Dahlenega

By: Mary Fox Waites, GERL Member

I have owned horses pretty much all of my life and have always had a barn full of them. But for the last two years my barn has sat empty. Everyone was always asking me if I missed not having a horse and I could honestly say that I did not miss it. It was nice not having to feed in the freezing cold, break up ice out of the water buckets or fight the flies in the summer. My daughter, Katie had adopted Hope, a GERL horse, in November of 1999, when she was a young teenager. Hope was with us for nearly eight years but was struck and killed by lightning in her pasture in May of 2007.

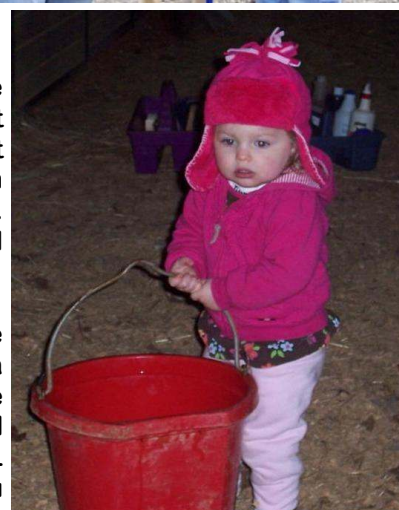
I knew Katie did not agree with me about leaving the pastures empty and it didn't last long. We always had Paint horses and Katie saw Little Bit in the newsletter. Little Bit is a Paint pony with big blue eyes and needs a home, she would tell me! Katie now has her own daughter and thinks that Alyssa Marie needs to be raised around horses just like she was. Who can argue when it's for your granddaughter?

Katie picked up Little Bit on December 12th and I must admit, it is nice to see a horse running in the pastures again. Alyssa will be two years old next month and she is so excited. She can't even carry the heavy feed bucket but she will drag it all the way from the tack room to the stall. We have been giving Little Bit treats and the sugar cubes seem to be one of her favorites. Her new name might be Sugar. That seems to be what Alyssa calls her all the time now.

Katie is waiting for warmer weather to begin training Little Bit. I am sure that very soon Katie and Alyssa will be on the trails. Many thanks to Donna Pieper, the best adoption coordinator - for her hours of work and to Sue McCullar, who provided a wonderful foster home for Little Bit. Katie will keep you updated on Sugar's progress! Many thanks to all of you at GERL who work countless hours and never get all the pats on the back that you deserve. You all do a wonderful job and you are appreciated!



Little Bit (Sugar) with her new family Eric, Alyssa & Katie Ford



Editor's Note: This is a story about 3rd generation GERL! Some years ago Mary began to volunteer with GERL. It wasn't long before each time we saw Mary, we saw her young daughter, Katie (who was maybe 8 or 9 years old at the time). Mary and Katie were always available to do whatever GERL needed to be done. Mary even found time to serve on GERL's Board as Adoption Coordinator.

When Katie was a teenager she adopted Hope, one of GERL's most difficult projects. Hope was a severely starved and abused Tennessee Walking Horse who was afraid of everything and everyone. Katie spent countless hours working with Hope and earning her trust. Hope lived with Katie & Mary until she passed away in 2007.

It looks like Alyssa is following in the footsteps of her mom and grandma! We look forward to seeing updates from Katie as she begins to work with Little Bit aka Sugar.

**2010
GERL Calendar of Events**

GERL Poker Ride
March 13th
Location: Dawson Forest
Dawsonville, GA

Gene Ensminger 2nd Annual Memorial Ride
April 30th - May 2nd
Location: Ron & Adrian Cook's
Round Oak, GA

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

Puttin On The Feed Bag

Pepperoni Dip

Heat oven to 300
Bake until firm

1 package of Pepperoni (original) save some for the top
1 8oz Whipped Cream Cheese
1 8 oz Sour Cream
1 can of Rotel Tomatoes (Drained)
Pinch of Cumin

Chop pepperoni into small pieces (I use a food processor)
Mix all ingredients. Put in a small baking dish and top with remaining Pepperoni. Bake until firm about 30 min.

Serve with Scoops and enjoy.

**North Georgia Mounted Search & Rescue
("NGMSAR")
By: Steve de Lyra**

Several Dawson County residents are planning the formation of a mounted search and rescue ("MSAR") unit to serve Dawson County and adjoining counties.

Col. Bob Eikenberry (USMC, retired) and Steve de Lyra, both CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteers, and avid horsepersons, are spearheading this effort. After the first organizational meeting on December 10, 2009, and subsequent newspaper and television coverage, there are over 20 persons who have expressed interest in volunteering for this unit.

According to Col. Eickenberry "there is a lot of training required for both horse and rider in order to have an effective MSAR. Many of the same disciplines which are covered in CERT training are important, such as Incident Command Structure, first aid, map reading, and several other important topics."

In addition to the disciplines cited by Col. Eikenberry, you have to add training for the horses. It is not enough to be a competent rider – both rider and horse require training and certification.

"We have spoken with several local officials in Dawson County, and we are very encouraged by their supportive attitude," adds Steve de Lyra.

Another aspect of an MSAR unit which should interest

the local equine community is searching for lost horses. From time to time horses get loose – either by getting out of their pastures, or from an unscheduled dismount – and finding them can be a real challenge. The organizers of NGMSAR anticipate offering assistance to horse owners in such instances.

Large animal rescue is yet another potential mission for NGMSAR. Organizations like GERL, the Humane Society and other groups concerned with animal welfare may have use for a trained unit which could assist them in certain operations.

At present, the organizers are establishing training resources and setting up a schedule. The topic for that day will be land navigation. And although horses won't be needed for the training, all those interested in participating will be invited to bring their horses for a trail ride after the training is finished.

Anyone who has questions about the North Georgia Mounted Search and Rescue should contact either

Col. Bob Eikenberry
(706) 429 9918
forgednstl@windstream.net
or
Steve de Lyra
(706) 265 8182
stevd@windstream.net



GERL Volunteer of the Month

By: Patty Livingston and Anne Ensminger

It is never easy to choose our Volunteer of the Month since there are many who deserve to be honored. This month, however, it felt very natural for your Board of Directors to choose Shannon Marler.

This ball of energy is the daughter of Ken and Susan Archer. Ken is our GERL Vice President and Susan is our Event Coordinator. The whole family is deeply caring and are tireless workers for the welfare of all animals.

In spite of the fact that Shannon is a wife, mother of two children, and works as a legal secretary, she approached the Board in late January of 2009 with some very intriguing proposals. Not only did she introduce us to the availability of grants for the kind of rescue we do, but she volunteered to head up the application process.

The first grant she wanted to work on was from PetSmart. The deadline for applying was February 15th and the first requirement was that GERL produce a five year history of accomplishments and expenses. Wow! This was a HUGE undertaking but we all worked together and somehow, thanks to our good record keeping and that of those who went before, we managed to get the information together. There were many more questions which required essay answers. Shannon is an excellent writer and we were thrilled with her finished application which was submitted just in time for the deadline. Then we waited ...

Can you imagine our excitement when, in October 2009 we learned that we had been granted the full \$10,000 for which Shannon had applied? The grant monies will be used specifically for equine vaccinations and has allowed GERL to offer a new vaccination program to the Georgia Department of Agriculture's impounded horses.

In addition to her exceptional grant writing capabilities, Shannon is very artistic. She is described by her mother as being a perfectionist. GERL was the beneficiary of her talent and perfectionism when she constructed some display boards for us earlier this year. The boards are needed when our representatives appear at various events to introduce folks to GERL and encourage them to become members. They include facts about the history and the activities of our organization, as well as many "before" and "after" pictures of horses we have helped. GERL could not be better represented than we are when we are privileged to display the boards that Shannon made for us.

We can not fail to mention that Shannon's very supportive husband, Jason, is a well known computer "guru" and is always willing to lend his expertise to Shannon's projects or to help GERL in any way. The whole family is usually in attendance at our fundraising events. They are always enthusiastic ambassadors for GERL. We look forward to working with Shannon on more grants and projects in 2010.



A Horse Lover's Catalog

(800) 332-9251

thebarndoor.com

Meet Brutus - Available for Adoption

After laying eyes on him for the first time, all I could think of was his size. He is built like a tank - big stocky frame, thick neck and stocky legs and body. I thought the name "Brutus" very appropriate.

Brutus is a stallion who was left in someone else's pasture by his previous owners in White County. He appears to be of Morgan bloodline, 20+ years old and even as a stud, was a gentle "puppy dog" who likes people and other horses. He has since been gelded and did very well. I was curious to determine if he had ever been ridden and decided to saddle him up.

I pretty much knew after putting the saddle and bridle on that Brutus was going to be a piece of cake, and he was. There was a neighbor's barking dog that decided to run circles around him, all the while trying to nip at his nose and heels. He just stood there and did nothing. I led the neighbor's kids around on him and he seemed to enjoy the attention. Brutus would make a great companion horse or a horse that would be used for light riding, due to his age. He doesn't seem to have any health problems and does have good feet. Senior feed is recommended due to the condition of his teeth. Perhaps you have room in your pasture and your heart for Brutus? Contact Donna Pieper for adoption information (404) 7979-3333 / gerl-donna@bellsouth.net



PetSmart Grant Helps GERL and GDA By Patty Livingston

In January of 2009, the GERL Board was contacted by long time member, Shannon Marler with information about a grant from PetSmart for which we might be eligible.

Naturally, we were excited. We all worked together to help Shannon gather needed information. She did all of the writing and managed to submit the completed application in time for the deadline of February 15th.

We learned that when applying for a grant like this, the funds are usually available only for specific purposes. From the list of categories offered by PetSmart, we chose vaccinations. We didn't hear anything about our grant application until the following October, when PetSmart sent an email letting us know that GERL had been approved for a \$10,000 grant which was to be used exclusively for vaccinations of equine in Georgia. You can not imagine how happy we were to receive this news! We actually had the check in hand by the first part of November.

GERL immediately decided that we would find a way to share this grant with the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Division to be used for vaccinating their impounded horses. I contacted Ms. Mary Greene, the Director of Equine Health, described the

grant and expressed our desire to pick up the costs of such vaccinations. It was then that I was very surprised to learn that, due to budgetary restrictions, GDA only vaccinates stallions which are to be gelded. We all understand that feeding these horses is more important than vaccinating them but we certainly share excitement over being able to provide both. With the blessing of Ms. Greene, I contacted Dr. Michael Lowder of the University Of Georgia. Dr. Lowder provides care for GDA impounded horses at the Decatur and Mansfield facilities. He and I discussed which vaccinations would be most beneficial. It was then that I was able to send the message to all of the GDA Barn Managers and Lead Inspectors, that GERL would provide E/W/T and rabies vaccinations for all of their impounded horses.

Your GERL Board felt very strongly about the importance of GDA Impounded horses receiving these vaccinations, whether or not we have grant monies. Therefore we voted to commit to providing vaccinations indefinitely.

It has been wonderful to receive emails of thanks from GDA personnel who share our concerns for these horses. Because of the generosity of PetSmart, GERL has been able to step up and correct a situation in desperate need of a remedy. I would like to express the sincere gratitude of GERL to PetSmart for all they do to help many animals in our community!

15th Annual POKER RIDE

TO BENEFIT THE
GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE, LTD.

Saturday - March 13, 2010
Dawson Forest - Dawsonville, GA



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

**Draw The Lucky
Hand and Win
A \$100.00 Prize...**



Lots of Prizes Awarded!

A donation of \$20.00 includes lunch and one poker hand. GERL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE 1 EXTRA HAND AT NO ADDITIONAL COST (JUST SHOW US YOUR GERL MEMBERSHIP CARD TO DRAW YOUR EXTRA HAND). Additional poker hands are available to all for a donation of \$5.00 per hand. You must show us your horse's negative coggins test (yellow original or certified copy only) at the time of registration. Water is available on the trail, but not at the trailer area. *WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU BRING WATER FOR YOUR HORSE!* Pre-registration is greatly appreciated, but not required.

Please call Susan Archer (770) 554-1381 or e-mail: susanger13@bellsouth.net for registration and further information. Come ride against horse abuse and help us raise money for the starved and abused horses in Georgia. **ALL PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AT 2 PM!!!** *Dawson Forest has a \$5 trail fee. If you do not have an annual pass you will be required to pay an additional \$5 for this ride. GERL will collect this fee and forward it appropriately.

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

WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS

Referred By

George & Rosa Allen
Rita Bandt
Laura Beachem Frogcatcher Farm
Dan Bellor
Susan Birkinshaw
Kimberly Brown
Richard & Doris Buckley
Clare Connell
Bob & Sharon Eikenberry
Scott & Niki Garrett
B.J. & Chris Heffner
Holly Henderson
Susan Prugh
Janet Salem Patchwork Farm
Leslie Segars
Nickie Thigpen
Sharon Thornberg
India Watson
Ric & Wanda Baxter
Cheryl Bray
J.R. Derrick Single Tree Ranch Paso Finos
Ken & Beth Dykes
Jim Januzelli
Reagan Sherrill-Mestre

Turnerville, GA
Fort Valley, GA
Johns Creek, GA
Monroe, GA
Atlanta, GA
Hawkinsville, GA
Clarksville, GA
Arnoldsville, GA
Dawsonville, GA
Hiawassee, GA
Marietta, GA
Roswell, GA
Buckhead, GA
Canton, GA
Alpharetta, GA
Thomson, GA
Marietta, GA
Milton, GA
Monroe, GA
Norcross, GA
Pendergrass, GA
Waverly Hall, GA
Lawrenceville, GA
Atlanta, GA

Doris Buckley
Tanya Kingsley
Ray Ziebell
Diana DeMoss
GERL
Drs. Baker
GERL
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Betty Evenson
GERL
GERL
Tiffany Bergdorf
Susie Bond
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Tiffany Bergdorf
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Tiffany Bergdorf
Tiffany Bergdorf
Betty Evenson
Ken & Susan Archer
GERL
Bob & Judy McCrory
GERL
GERL

Thank You For Renewing Your GERL Membership

Steve & Debbie Arsua
Nancy Bogardts
Sally Hart
Pat & Hugh Hester
Larry Howell
Penny Kwirant
Richard & Paula LeCates
Greg & Kristi Lindsay
Jennifer McCloskey
Jean Nash
Michael & Patricia Petelle
Carol Royer
Karen Squazzo
Carl & Jean Strickland
Richard & Challis Surles
Lenore Threlkeld

Morganton, GA
Oxford, GA
Rutledge, GA
Alpharetta, GA
Villa Rica, GA
Whitesburg, GA
McDonough, GA
Lavonia, GA
Aurora, GA
Lilburn, GA
Marietta, GA
Social Circle, GA
McDonough, GA
Villa Rica, GA
Clayton, GA
Pine Mountain, GA

Our Thoughts & Prayers Are With You

Carla Rutledge
as you heal from surgery

Heartfelt sympathy from their many GERL friends to Jack
& Ronnie Peserillo as they grieve the loss of Jack's 92
year old father on December 28th.

Lora Holman
as you heal from surgery

Donations In Honor Of

our friends at Hickory Ridge Stables
by Barry & Christine Sheehy

Clarice & Alison Mercer
by Robert & Lisa Beermam

Belle
by Susan Birkinshaw

Thank You For Donating To Our Feed A Horse Program

John Lynn - Social Circle, GA
Constance Burchette - Marietta, GA
Jim & Helen Cooper - New York, NY
Kate Larimer - Smyrna, GA
Nancy Janosik - Carrollton, GA
Kristi Lindsay - Livonia, GA
Olivia & Charlene Schubert - Alpharetta, GA

Thank You

Rolling Hills Saddle Club for very
Generous \$2,500 donation!

Stock Market for again donating \$832.45 from your
Fall Flea market proceeds to GERL!

Nance Fitzgibbons for your generous donation!

Thank You For Your Change Jars

The Stock Market - Conyers, GA
Pampered Pony - Monroe, GA

Donations In Memory Of

Melissa, Ginny Scarritt's mare
by Jean Rowsey

Snooks Burris of Jacksonville, FL
by her husband, Bob

Clarice
by Paul & Leighann McCollum - Gallatin, TN

Yankee Doodle
by Lauren Kissel - Canton, GA

Bob Knaggs
by Rita Bandt - Fort Valley, GA

Melissa, Ginny Scarritt's mare
by her mother, Elizabeth

Hershey
by Ken & Beth

Sara Papp
Fred & Marilyn Maurer - Waterville, OH
Beatrice Kemp - Dacula, GA
Spencer & Barabra Pottlitzer & Family
Kingwood, TX
Atlanta Bridge Enterprises - Atlanta, GA

Thank You For Your Donations And Continued Support

Perspecta Research Associates
Carole Wilson
Leeanna Dick
Susan Prugh
George & Rosa Allen
Margaret Pinion
Dan Bellor
Julia Williams
Symetra Financial
GoodSearch
Susan Mead
Edward DePeterse
Adriana Clark
Stephen & Ann McCloskey
Clare Connell
Rivendell Mid & High School Equest Teams
Carol Royer
Pamela Wright
Ric & Wanda Baxter

GERL Christmas Party 2009

By Anne Ensminger

For the first time in a long while, GERL was in the spirit to have a Christmas party. We decided that we would not let the poor economic times or the overwhelming demand for GERL's help, diminish our excitement in the season.

The party was held at the lovely, Bethlehem, Georgia (how appropriate!) home of GERL President, Patty Livingston. Everyone who is a member of GERL was invited and your Board of Directors was full of hope that everyone would show up. Realistically, we had no idea how many might attend, especially when the weatherman gave his prediction of a very cold and rainy evening. Imagine our surprise and delight when so many folks started arriving with all sorts of delicious dishes in hand to contribute to an overflowing table.



Susan Archer & Diana DeMoss



Tanya & Dave Kingsley

The mood was joyous as we greeted old friends, met new folks with whom we had previously only corresponded, thanked many for kindnesses during the previous year, and filled our tummies.

The GERL Board of Directors is grateful for each person who

made a special effort to attend this event. It was a great morale booster in these hard times. It provided another dab of glue to bind members of this wonderful organization together as we continue to work to save just one more horse.

As I drove home that evening, I remembered each warm hug I received and was thankful for the opportunity to be a part of GERL. In remembering the reason for the season, I was struck once more by the perfectness of God's plan. HE has provided people whose passion it is to care for the sick, the aged, the poor, the very young, the orphans, the homeless, and to take care of many other needs in the world. So too, it was HE who inspired those who attended the GERL Christmas party on such a miserable night. It is their passion to care for God's most wonderful creatures, the horses.

I am refreshed by this Christmas season, as well as the gathering at the GERL Christmas party. I think my fellow Board members will join me in the feeling that we are excited and ready to take on whatever 2010 brings for GERL. *More Christmas Party photos on page 27.



Art & Julie Schwab



Debbie Crowe & Tanya Kingsley

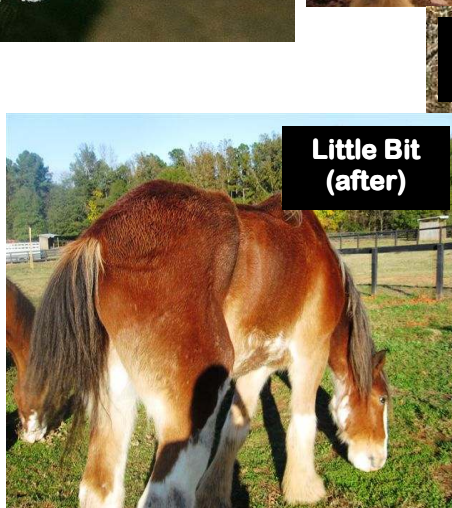
THE GENTLE GIANTS

By Robin Easley - GDA Field Supervisor

Teeny, Tiny, Dwarf, and Little Bit – perfect names for miniature horses. However, these guys are the largest residents the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s equine impounds have ever housed. They are all Clydesdale geldings, perfect replicas of the classic Budweiser horses. The most majestic of the equine species, it was more difficult to see these gentle giants in their vulnerable conditions than the average horses that come through the gates. As they towered over the other residents of the Mansfield facility, they maintained their nobility despite their bones protruding and the horrific conditions of their hooves that left them feeble.



Teeny, Tiny, Dwarf, and Little Bit were impounded due to inhumane care - specifically, the lack of food and farrier care. Upon arrival, they were all in poor body conditions. Little Bit had maggots crawling around in the feathers at his coronet band and Dwarf had untreated abscesses to the point that his hoof would bleed when touched. Despite this painful condition, he would stand, pick up his foot, let us clean it and treat it, all without making a fuss. The Clydesdales quickly learned the daily routine and figured out that the gator means feeding time. (continued on the following page)



Gentle Giants

(continued from the previous page)

Now, at the sound of the motor, the ground shakes with the barrelling of heavy hooves coming down the hill for groceries. Even in the face of starvation, they would all forgo a meal for a little bit of attention and scratching. Anytime someone is out in the barnyard or in a pasture near them, they line the fence to watch what we are doing and wait patiently for acknowledgement. Their colossal stature allows them to comfortably hang their heads over the fence to gaze with curiosity and longing.

Now that they are well on their way to being rehabilitated, we are counting the days until they go up for auction. It will be bitter sweet as we are all proud of their comeback, but we will miss them immeasurably. We have begun working with them and getting them ready to go to their new homes. They have been ridden and ground driven. They seem to enjoy the work because it means they are the center of all of our attention and line up at the gate waiting to be picked. They will definitely be the spotlights of the February auction. We hope you will come meet them and maybe offer them a new permanent home they so righteously deserve. As for those of us who care for them now, we will enjoy the time we have left with them. We will continue to stand and stare in awe of the splendor of our gentle giants.

GERL NEEDS HELP!

We are having a growth spurt!

There are 2 volunteer positions open within our organization. We are looking for people who are team oriented and could dedicate some quality time to GERL.

Public Relations & Advertising

This person would be a liaison between GERL and other organizations to publicize and promote our cause. They would also be in charge of all advertising for GERL.

Merchandise Coordinator

This person would be finding ideas for our GERL merchandise, i.e.: shirt designs, presenting their ideas to the Board, coordinating printing & shipping merchandise, inventory, making sure the people that do our booths have inventory, etc. We need designs for 3 fundraisers a year.

We also need fill-in orders for our standard shirts.

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

or

Diana DeMoss (770) 267-0867 / gerlnaners@windstream.net

for additional information

Thank You To Our Foster Homes

Dotti & Jack Carter
for fostering Beau

Tammy Trump
for fostering Hope

Scott Sauerbier & Family
for fostering Tidbit
AND to Grandpa Rich Sauerbier for
adopting Dallas to keep as his own!

Jean Long
for fostering Lucky

Bob & Shirley Guhl
for fostering Lobo and Tyree

Patty & Nick Howard
for fostering Ekyra & Rosie

Greg & Tiffany Bergdorf
for fostering Afire Extinguisher

Ken & Susan Archer
for fostering Pretty Boy

Patty Livingston
for fostering Brutus

Diana DeMoss
for fostering Apache & Cheyenne

Jacki Moore & Leslie Lambert
for fostering Vandy

GERL WOULD LIKE TO
EXTEND A BIG THANKS TO
THE MIDDLE GEORGIA
RIDERS & DRIVERS/
REGION 5
FOR DONATING \$456.00
TO HELP US BUY AN
OFFICE TRAILER FOR THE
MANSFIELD IMPOUND

Christmas Party 2009



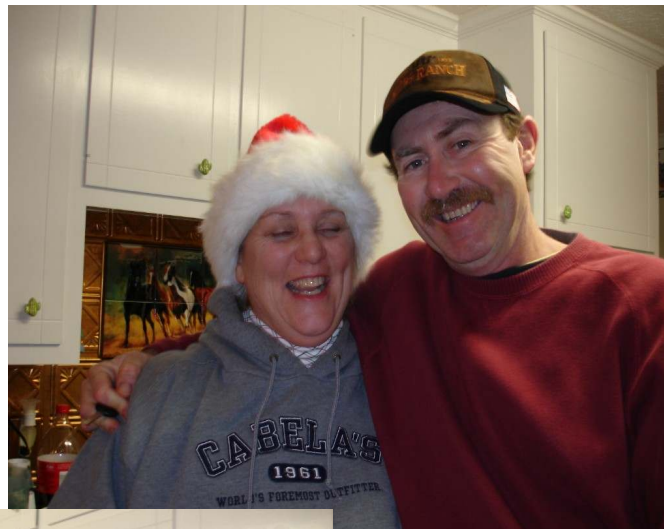
Gail Mann, Thomas Threatt & Keith Fleming



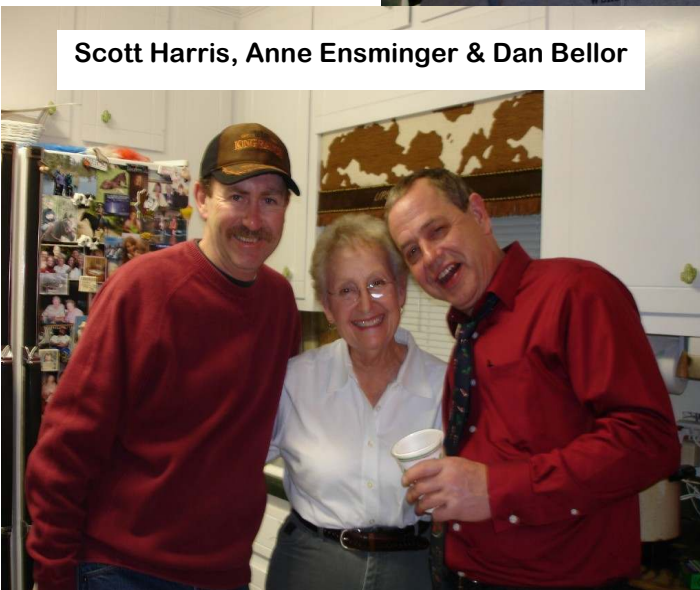
Betty Sue Hearin, George & Sue-Wrensen & Thomas Threatt



Jade Taylor



Sandy Wedlake



Scott Harris, Anne Ensminger & Dan Bellor



GERL Board of Directors
Patty Livingston, Anne Ensminger, Diana DeMoss
Ken Archer, Steven Neal

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November 18, 2009

Dear Patty Livingston,

Enclosed please find a donation from our 1st Annual Pampered Pony Horse Show/GERL Benefit in the amount of \$2000.00. The show was a huge success!

Thanks to all of our sponsors that helped out as well as our volunteers. Our sponsors made it possible for us to keep expenses down so that all of the proceeds were able to be given to The Georgia Equine Rescue League.

I am not sure if you can name all of our sponsors but here is a list of them for your newsletter.

Georgia Plumbing Services
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Amanda Viggiano
Racing Heart Stables

Tommy Griffith
Georgia Event Photography
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Morgan Co. Extension
Jason & Christina Minyard
Lilly Marie Sheller, Christine Roberts
Pat Zaghi, The Fortson Family
Debbie Ryals
Charlene Stamey
Katy Janousek
Samantha Croy

Also we cannot forget to thank our wonderful volunteers!!!

Elisabeth Runyon for planning and coordinating this event with me
Margaret Carden – Our Super Judge! Laura Leopard – Our Super Announcer!
Nancy & Jordan Facloner The Runyon and Fortson Family
Jody Hudson Best Photographer www.equinerotoesdesign.com for pics
Jane Estes, Sue Vetsch, Kim Flemming, Christina Minyard, Pat Widener, Donna Smith &
All of GERL folks especially Ken Archer for presenting ribbons!

Your Horse Friend,

Anne-Marie Bitella

Dear GERL Foster Parents,

I wanted to personally thank each of our foster home families, past and present, for the love and care you put in to caring for the horses. These horses adapt quickly to their new homes and I think that is a testament to the care they receive in the weeks leading up to their adoptions.

I know each of you have very busy lives and there may be times when it doesn't seem like you have enough time or energy to do all you do. But, know the time you spend volunteering for the Georgia Equine Rescue League is very much appreciated. These equine are so fortunate to have you care for them and their new owners are blessed too. It just rolls on down ... I hope your lives were enriched during this time too.

Thanks again!
Donna Pieper
GERL Foster &
Adoption Coordinator

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO
HELP WITH OUR POKER
RIDE ON SATURDAY,
MARCH 13TH.

WE WILL NEED PEOPLE
TO CHECK COGGINS AND
HELP PARK, HAND OUT
CARDS AT CHECKPOINTS,
FOOD SERVICE AND
CLEANUP, MERCHANDISE
SALES, ETC.

PLEASE CONTACT
LEISA McCANNON @
gerlvolunteers@yahoo.com

STORMY UPDATE – HOME SWEET HOME
By Ronnie Pesserilo

It has been quite sometime since I have written an update about Stormy. He has continued his education with Daniel and like a young child he took it all in like a sponge. Both Daniel and I were amazed at his progress and it was very rare when Daniel had to repeat a lesson. This little horse took it in, used it and went on to new things at each lesson.

GERL Adoption Coordinator Donna Pieper called to tell me that 2 families were interested in meeting Stormy. Appointments were set up for a Saturday and Sunday in mid December. That week we had torrential rains again. My pasture and arena were very wet and I was concerned about riding Stormy in those conditions. Saturday was a very cold windy day and a lovely family with 2 children came out to see Stormy. They loved him at first site and Stormy was in heaven with their attention. However, they were hesitant to ride him at their first meeting. Sunday's weather was no better, however Rita Bandt called to say she was driving up from Fort Valley and was ready to ride no matter what the conditions were.

Daniel was available to ride Stormy for Rita while I spoke with her. She watched attentively while Daniel was warming him up and turned to me and said "it is very obvious that Stormy likes his lessons and enjoys his job". I was pleasantly surprised that she was so intuitive and I knew then and there that if she was comfortable riding him that it would be a great match. When Daniel asked her if she was ready to try him she mounted up and listened attentively as Daniel explained his training methods. She was a very good student and Daniel was as impressed with her as I was. Rita did beautifully with Stormy and I know that I saw a smile on his face at the end of their ride. It was



right for both the horse and rider and I knew that we had a good match.

GERL AC Tanya Kingsley had already approved Rita's farm as a safe haven for one of our horses. Rita picked up Stormy later that week and although I was sad to see him leave I knew that he was in good hands and was going to his new forever home. It was so nice to be part of this horses progress from being an un-trained stallion when he came into the GERL program to being a lovely, quiet, and willing riding horse with a great future ahead of him.

Thank you to Daniel Crowe for giving Stormy the foundation that he needed to be a successful horse. Daniel can be reached at (678) 361-7353 for any of your training needs.

GERL LOGO MERCHANDISE ON SALE!! Visit www.gerlltd.org for more selections & ordering info.



Youth Sweatshirt Navy M-XL \$15.00
 Long Sleeve T Navy M-XL
 \$14.00 (not pictured)



Adult Long Sleeve Shirts
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 S-XL \$15.00 XXL \$18.00



T-Shirts S-XXL All sizes \$10.00
 Blue Spruce, Oatmeal and Cactus

Dear GERL,

I hope this check helps the rescue and horses during the Christmas season. I am a member of the Rivendell High school Equestrian team in Gainesville, Ga. Our middle school and high school teams decided instead of buying each other Christmas presents, that we would donate money to help horses that are in great need. Our teams would love to

Wishing you peace and joy
this holiday season

come and visit y'all or help you all again. Please let us know what we can do to help the rescue. we think it is great what you all are doing. Thank you so much for all you do!
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! :)

Love,
Katie Beth Murray and Megan Owens
(on behalf of the Rivendell
High school and Middle school teams)

Can You TEMPORARILY Foster A Stallion??

GERL is in desperate need to find facilities where we can place a stallion when first bringing them into our adoption program. Four of the last five horses that have been released to us through County Animal Control Facilities have been stallions. GERL will always geld these stallions as soon as their health allows, but in that interim time, we need a safe place for them to be rehabilitated and then recuperate after surgery.

If you have it in your heart to help, and the facilities to accommodate our needs, please contact Donna Pieper at gerldonna@bellsouth.net or 404-797-3333.

To The Women at Hunter's Glen Thank You For Your Donation To GERL In Lieu Of Christmas gifts!

Alex Allen
Dede Anheuser
Virginia Bain
Amelia Carnes
Melanie Castelle
Tara Causey
Jen Del Nero
Marylynn Dundon
Sheri Harlow
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Lyn leRoux
Lulu Mann
Janett Nixon
Sally Thomas
Kendall Wammock
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_____ Although I do not own a horse, I would like to support the GERL

_____ I am interested in becoming a GERL Foster Home

_____ I am interested in becoming a GERL fundraising event volunteer

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