



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With Your Help ...
We Will Make A Difference

Volume #174

www.gerlltd.org

March 2010

One of the "If Only" Cases

By Susan Archer

The name on his registration certificate was "Lucky Jet". He was a nine year old American Quarter Horse. His Coggins was negative and current, vaccinations were up to date, and he wore a set of new shoes. I state these facts because having them in mind makes it hard to imagine the rest of this story.

It was a rainy and freezing Sunday night about a week ago. My husband, Ken and I received a call from our vet, Dr. Erin Brown from Countryside Animal Hospital in Jersey . She told us that she was around the corner from our farm at a small boarding barn with two emaciated horses that needed immediate and intensive care. She knew that we were very active with GERL and that if these horses, especially Jet, were to survive the night, our help would be needed.



Wanting to help in any way we could, Ken and I jumped into our truck and went over to the barn as quickly as possible. The scene that met us was unexpected and it is difficult for me to remember, much less describe. Jet was standing in the dim light of the barn with his muzzle almost on the floor. Ken and I have been members of the Rescue League since it began and have seen many "before" and "after" pictures of starving horses but the sight of this extremely thin and weak animal, in the flesh, right before our eyes, simply broke our hearts.

(continued on the following page)

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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

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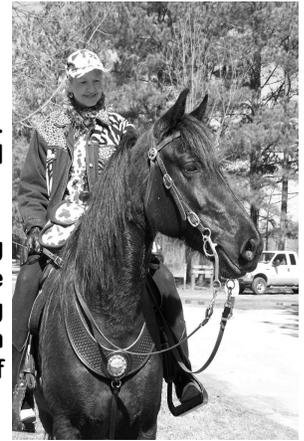
***If you are interested in becoming an Area Coordinator
for a county not listed here, please contact
Ronnie Pesserilo (770) 466-4515 or gerlrone@bellsouth.net**

LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President'

The GERL annual meeting was held at The Golden Corral in Winder on January 16th. We had a great turn-out, despite the cold, rainy weather. In fact, the room was filled to capacity, but maybe the great food was the reason?

Robin Easley, GDA State Inspector and Supervisor, kicked off the meeting by sharing a presentation which outlined the duties, responsibilities, and problems facing the GDA Equine Division. Robin also presented a review of the current laws concerning equine abuse and/or neglect. By the way, Robin will be sharing this presentation with law enforcement and animal control officers when GERL and GDA co-host the first of several meetings with these agencies on February 23rd.



Ed Gadrix, attorney and advocate for Thoroughbred Horse Racing in Georgia, attended the meeting and requested a few minutes to address the audience to talk about horse racing and what it could mean in terms of revenue for our state, including the horse industry. I encourage everyone to go online and do research concerning both the pros and cons of horse racing for Georgia so that you can vote responsibly on this very important issue.

I followed with the GERL annual meeting presentation, reviewing the goals we had made and met in 2009, along with other updates. I was proud to say that we had met every one of our 2009 goals. I then presented the GERL goals for 2010. For those of you who couldn't attend the meeting, here are those goals in no particular order:

- Continue to support/fund all GDA impounds
 - Continue to partner with the GDA to help with auctions and fundraising events
 - Provide funding to White County Animal Control for new impound facility
 - Offer assistance to County Animal Control agencies which impound horses
 - Host educational clinics for Animal Control and Sheriff's Depts. as a way to promote equine rescue by these agencies and offer our assistance
 - Fund vaccination program for all GDA impounded equine
 - Fund castration program for all GDA impounded equine
 - Apply for grant money for our new Stallion to Gelding Program and offer equine castration to the public where financial assistance is needed
 - Promote new foster/adoption possibilities ("Horses for Heroes", more prison impounds, etc.)
 - Increase the number of GERL Area Coordinators
 - Increase GERL membership to include 750 members
 - Replace office @ Mansfield Impound – Done
 - Pay for winch equipment for Mansfield horse trailer – Done
 - Provide assistance for care of equine to horse owners who have lost jobs or are experiencing illness
 - Expand our Foster Care Program as we continue to build our network of foster homes which will in turn, enable us to help more horses
 - Increase number of volunteers for GERL and GDA functions
- Education:
- Attend horse fairs, meetings and events held by other organizations for the purpose of educating the public & bringing awareness
 - Involve more youth in the education process
 - Continue to promote castration of stallions
 - Create educational handouts/brochures

As you can see, we have a very busy year ahead of us. We've already taken 19 horses into our program since January 1st. This translates into GERL having accepted a new horse every 2 ½ days! I believe that the harsh winter can be blamed for some of the activity we're seeing, but let me say this about that ... the horse problem that we have is the same everywhere in our country and is going to require the help of many to get it turned around. With your help, we WILL make a difference!

A Note from the Secretary's Desk

By Anne Ensminger

As is normal for me, I sit here before my computer, knowing that it is time to write something for our newsletter, but having no idea what will hop out of my brain and onto my computer screen. It is especially difficult this morning because my cat, V.J., insists on sitting between my keyboard and the monitor. He keeps swatting at the words as they progress across the screen. I have nicely placed him on the floor five times and now fear that I am about to do something that would be considered unbecoming behavior for the Secretary of an animal rescue group. Just kidding, I love my cat.

I also love my horses and my mini donkey. Until yesterday, I was happy to say that I had two horses and one donkey. Now I must say that I have THREE horses and one donkey.

In spite of the extreme and growing need, I have been able to resist personally taking on the care of a GERL rescue horse. I guess it was my feeling that the many hours I spend in my office working on GERL business or attending meetings on behalf of the horses, was enough.

That all changed three days ago when we received a call from Hall County Animal Control asking us to take eight horses! There were five other horses in Conyers waiting to have their paper work cleared so that they could come into our program. Where in the world were we going to put all of these horses!? Not knowing the answer to that question, GERL President, Patty Livingston, without hesitation, said "Yes, we will take them" and immediately started working with Foster Home/Adoption Coordinator, Donna Pieper to find foster homes for all thirteen horses. I knew that there were also others that were waiting for our help.

As I sat in my office trying to digest all of that, an email popped up on my computer screen from GERL member, BJ Morris of East West Morgans in Fannin County. She was very concerned about a terribly thin horse in a pasture three miles down the road from her farm. He had no shelter and no food. BJ and friend, Anne-Maxwell Searcy, had been watching the animal's body condition slowly decline for months. Finally, not being able to watch it any longer, BJ approached the people who lived on the property and asked, as only BJ can, "What's up with that poor horse in your pasture?" To make a very long story, somewhat shorter, BJ learned that the horse had been "dumped" in the pasture, without permission, by the lady's nephew. He had never returned to even check on the animal, much less provide feed or hay.

This eighty year old lady was more than happy for BJ and Anne-Max to take the poor animal away. Knowing that their facility was already full to capacity, BJ hoped that GERL could help this horse.

BJ's email to GERL arrived at exactly the same time that an email arrived from Steven Neal who was graciously agreeing to foster three of the five Conyers horses. Steven has a lovely facility near Hard Labor Creek State Park in Walton County. He is on the GERL Board of Directors and is our webmaster. He had never kept foster horses before and we were all greatly moved by his decision to care for these three recently gelded and hungry colts.

BJ's email about the horse she had just acquired, mentioned that he was an Arabian in his mid twenties. If GERL could not find a home for him, she was forced to project a very bleak picture concerning his future. If there are two things in this world that I am passionate about, it would be ARABIAN horses and OLD horses. Combined with the fact that this horse was BOTH, and the fact that my friend, Steven Neal had just very graciously stepped up to take THREE foster horses, I felt that I had no choice. It is now a fact that every member of the GERL Board of Directors, our Area Coordinator Director, Foster/Adoption Coordinator, and Events Coordinator are all personally caring for GERL rescued horses. Our Volunteer Coordinator has just agreed to become a foster caregiver and will, no doubt, have one very soon.

As soon as BJ received my email that I would take this horse, she and Anne-Max went into action ... and I do mean action! They could not get their trailer into where the horse was, so they rode their horses three miles in a sleeting rain to get him and ponied him back to their place. They then transported him to Ocoee Animal Hospital that afternoon for an evaluation. Dr. Fran Miske agreed with them that the horse was, indeed, in his mid twenties. She assigned a body score of two, drew a Coggins and did a fecal exam which showed an extremely high egg count indicating quite a heavy parasite load. She recommended a worming program to start immediately. Additionally, he needs



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A Note from the Secretary's Desk
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a dental "power float" and has a terrible case of rain-rot. Dr. Miske assured us that the horse is sound with no blemishes or detectable health issues. She predicts that he will surprise us all with how nice he will look in a few months.

Back at their farm, BJ and Anne-Max gave the horse a good rain-rot treatment with Nolvasan. The next morning, they loaded the old horse on their trailer, met a farrier in Blue Ridge to administer some much needed foot care, and then set out on the three hour trip to deliver "Honor" to my farm. Yes, I named him "Honor". They brought several bags of chopped hay, alfalfa cubes, and pelleted horse feed and gave me a very welcome "crash course" in equine rehabilitation. After a short visit and some refreshments, they were gone and I was on my own with this precious old gentleman.

I don't suppose it was necessary for me to write all of this in such detail but I did it because I want everyone to know that these two women went WAY beyond the call of duty on behalf of this old horse. The moment they hitched their lead line on his halter, his life started to improve. They made certain of that. Now, all Honor needs is lots of love and some regular "groceries". I am looking forward to providing both.

I would like to end my article this month with a desperate plea for more of our members to agree to foster one or more horses for GERL. The horses seem to be coming faster than we can possibly continue to



Ann Maxwell Searcy & Honor upon arrival at Anne's

place them. Now that we are reaching out to law enforcement and animal control agencies, we expect the number of requests for our help to grow even more rapidly. Prospective foster homes are asked to fill out an application and agree to provide care and a safe environment. All expenses for these animals, for which a receipt can be provided, will be reimbursed. If you choose to bear all or any part of the expenses, GERL will provide a tax letter so that you can receive an appropriate tax deduction.

For more information or a Foster Home Application, please contact Foster/Adoption Coordinator, Donna Pieper at (404) 797-3333 or gerldonna@bellsouth.net. Please think seriously about helping GERL and the horses in this way. The need is great.

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.

**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL East Fork directly
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For additional info contact**

Carol Martel - BCHNG at (706) 374-7075 or carolmartel@bellsouth.net

Leroy, Smokey and Sable Move To Rutledge

By Steven Neal

Leroy, Smokey, and Sable all arrived at Shiloh Farms a little before 3:00PM today. They were unloaded without any problems and introduced to their new stalls where they will spend the night. They have all been fed and given hay and water. I will feed them again in the morning and then will introduce them to the rest of the place before I turn them out into the pastures. Leroy has already introduced himself to Titan and Destiny, my two horses. I think it will be fairly easy to introduce Smokey and Sable to my two boys tomorrow. There is plenty of forage in the pasture and I have put out a nice big round bale for good measure.

While all three at first were very skittish and seemed on the verge of panicking I think they have settled down very nicely in their new surroundings. All three had an adventure today that I'm sure for them was a bit over whelming.



Victoria with Leroy & Destiny



Steven & Sable

My friend, Victoria, was very instrumental in helping us get these fellas loaded, unloaded, and moved into their stalls. Two young men showed up just to visit and were enlisted in helping to get all the horses loaded. Both of these gentlemen confessed to not knowing anything about horses and also being a bit afraid of them. However, without their help I think we never would have got-

ten the job done. It was just another fun filled action packed day of adventure!

Day two and so far, so good ...

Introductions were made all around this morning when I turned Leroy out with Destiny and Titan and, of course, there was a fair amount of running around, but there wasn't any kicking or biting. I also turned out Smokey and Sable in the drive in area in front of the barn that is fenced off from the pastures. When Destiny and Titan noticed them they came over to exchange greetings across the fence. Leroy, being a good daddy came over to check on his two boys. By the way, if they didn't before, all three now know about electric fences!

I left them this way until early afternoon when I let Destiny in with Smokey and Sable. There was a fair amount of interest and then disinterest between the three with Smokey and Sable pretty much remaining side by side as though they were joined at the hip. After about an hour I let Titan in with them. After a bit of running around it became apparent that the two youngsters weren't going to let my two boys get within 50 feet of them. Smokey and Sable then joined up with Leroy and the three spent the afternoon in the woods in the back of the barn. Destiny and Titan spent the day pretty much ignoring them. I noticed with interest that the three seemed to prefer to graze near the barn even though there was a large pasture open to them and a large round bale. (continued on the following page)



Victoria & Smokey

Leroy, Smokey and Sable Move To Rutledge

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I'm guessing that because they were use to being in a barn at home and had spent the night in mine that they considered it a place of safety.

Throughout the day I would wander out to them and offer them alfalfa cubes. Leroy and Smokey would come up to me but Sable always stayed behind Smokey. This technique paid off at 5:30 PM when it came time to bring them into the barn for the night. I was able to walk up to Leroy and put a lead rope on him. It still took a little encouragement to get him to step onto the concrete. I almost had Smokey and Sable follow him into the barn but he suddenly tried to back out. After I got him into his stall I found the two youngsters heading away from the barn. After a short stroll though the woods I managed to put a lead rope on Smokey. Luckily for me Sable followed him into the barn. Since the barn doors were closed I was able to herd the boys into their stalls and was then able to feed everyone their dinner.

Day three and I think we are making real progress!

Walked out into the barn at O'dark early this morning to find that everyone had spent a peaceful and restful night. Leroy, Smokey, and Sable were all covered with shavings - clearly they had all laid down and slept. I'm sure Smokey and Sable really needed it. Over the last two days these two little boys had certainly had more new and wondrous experiences than they have ever had since arriving planet side eight months ago. Of course everyone enjoyed their breakfast including my two. I have to admit that it was very nice to have all five stalls along the back of the barn occupied. It was just what I dreamed about when I built this place.

Once the last bowl had been licked clean they were turned out to greet the day. Sunrise was still about an hour and a half away and with only a sliver of a crescent moon it was still pretty dark. No problems though, as everyone calmly walked out to greet the new day.

Needless to say I was overjoyed to get home at about 5:00 PM and find five horses in good condition and all behaving themselves. I noticed that my two boys were out in the nice pasture while the three new arrivals were out behind the barn in a not as nice pasture. There is grass to munch on but they have to work at it a bit. Of course compared to where they came from my not as nice pasture must have seemed like a paradise.

So today's task is to figure out how to get them back into their stalls for dinner and beddy-bye. To make things interesting Destiny and Titan decided to hang out in their stalls, I'm sure just to see how I was going to accomplish this miracle. Just what I needed!

After due consideration I devised the following plan:

- Step 1: Close and lock the front gate
- Step 2: Close Destiny and Titan in their stalls, just in case they decided to help
- Step 3: Open the gate between the pasture and the front drive area - open the barn door nice and wide
- Step 4: Put a lead line on Leroy and have him lead everyone into the barn
- Step 5: Close the barn door and escort everyone to their stalls

It was a great plan and everything was working smoothly up to step 4. Unfortunately while I led Leroy into the barn Smokey and Sable turned around and ran off. I followed them around for a little while trying to entice Smokey with a treat. Of course, as I suspected would be the case, Smokey wasn't so easily taken in a second time.

I decided my time would be better spent filling water buckets and putting out the feed buckets so they would be ready when I finally got my two truants into the barn. By the time I was finished it was starting to get dark and I found that Smokey and Sable were grazing but had gotten separated. When I managed to placed myself between Smokey and Sable Smokey would then let me walk up to him and put a lead line on him. I was able to walk them both back to the barn and of course with their feed buckets already waiting for them they walked right into their stalls. So far Human 3 - Equines 0!

I'm sure as they catch on to the pattern that this will become less of a daily adventure. In some ways I hope it is sooner than later, but in other ways I know I'll miss the challenge (yea, sure!).

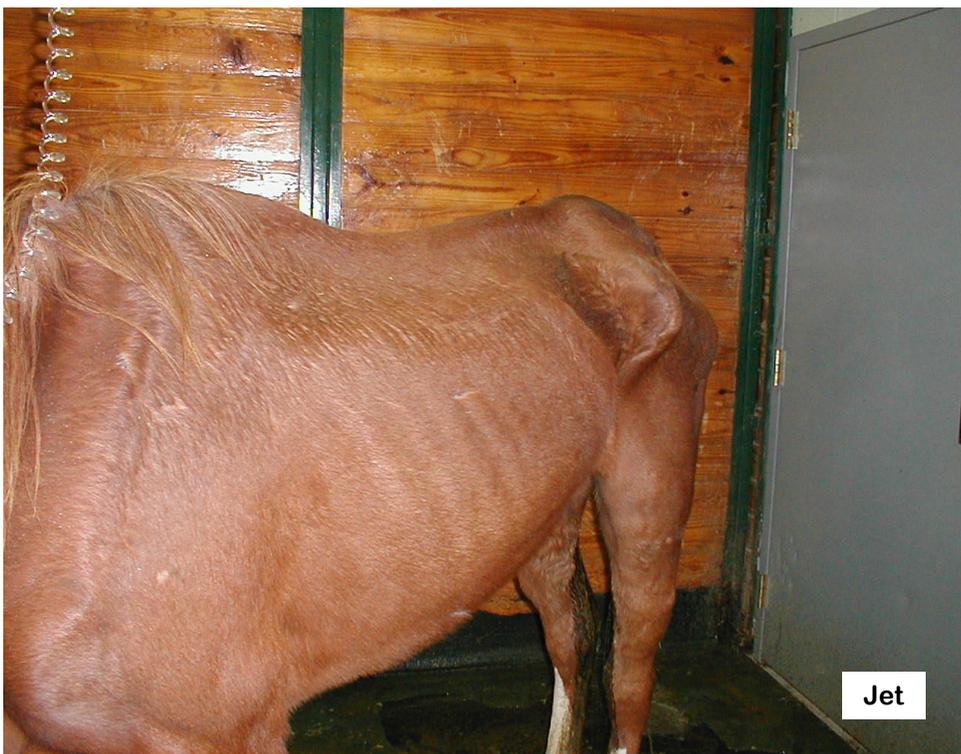
Sable hasn't admitted it yet but he and I are firmly on the path to becoming best buddies!

Well, time for one last check and then it's off to bed!

One of the “If Only” Cases
(continued from the cover)

The horse was about 16 hands tall. He was chestnut in color and had a lovely blaze and white socks. It occurred to me that just a few months earlier, he must have been a beautiful horse.

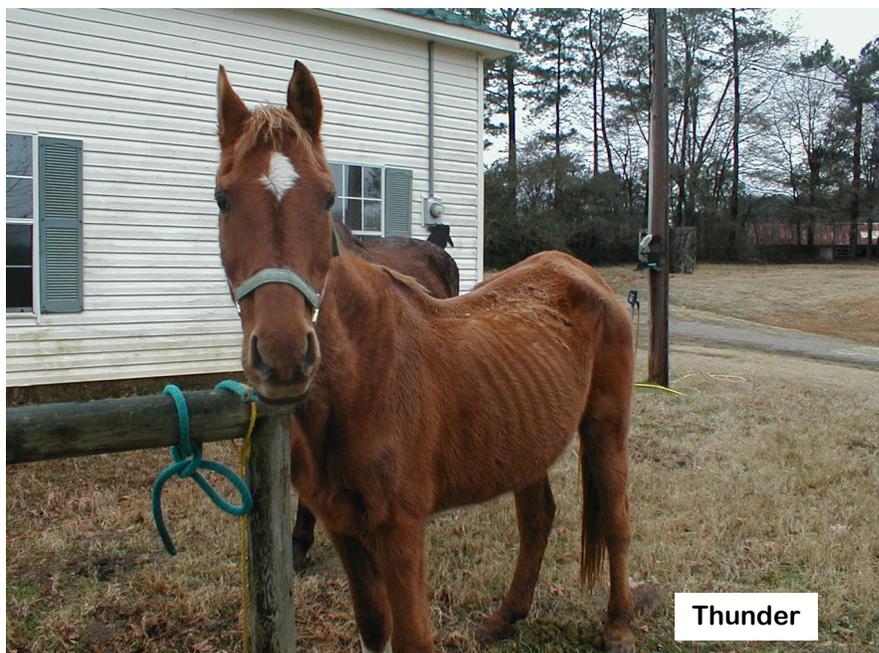
As we worked, we tried to piece together the events that led us to this sad scene. We were told that Jet’s owner boarded three horses at this barn. Except for what grass they could find in the pasture, they had received no supplemental feeding for the past four months. Dr. Brown had been called to the barn that night because Jet was having severe diarrhea which he had suffered for the past week or more. He had been down in the pasture, unable to get up. The manager of the barn and



some other boarders somehow managed to get him up and into a stall. It is our understanding that the owner had been notified of Jet’s deteriorating condition and had come by on Friday. On the following Sunday, she picked up her trailer and told the barn manager that she no longer wanted the three horses and he could do whatever he wanted with them. At this point, he called Dr. Brown. Realizing that Jet was critical and would need IVs during the night, Dr. Brown advised that the horse be immediately transported to Countryside Veterinary Hospital. I telephoned GERL President, Patty Livingston who assured us that GERL would pay for the needed care. We got the horse loaded onto a trailer and were on our way with very hopeful hearts. We also took Jet’s pasture mate, Thunder. It was determined that he had a body score of two. Although very thin, he was not in nearly as serious condition as Jet and would survive. He is now in a GERL foster home and doing well. The third horse belonging to this uncaring owner is in good condition and has been signed over to GERL but is not yet in our custody.

Back to Jet. A body score of one or below was assigned by Dr. Brown. He should have weighed around 1100 to 1200 pounds but was closer to 700 pounds. The diarrhea continued and Dr. Brown started IV’s with electrolytes and other additives in an effort to slow the bowels and give him some energy. Tests revealed that his blood components were quite depleted so he received a bag of plasma in an effort to boost and stabilize the hemoglobin. He rallied slightly. Ken and I went home knowing that “where there is life, there is hope” but we knew there was very little of either.

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This is What GDA & GERL Are All About!



Paulk
12/09 Newsletter



Paulk on her first ride



Apache
November Newsletter



Apache
February 2010
*See Adoptions & Page 28 for more info



Sling Photos - jet at Mansfield Impound
See cover for story

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

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Single Membership \$25

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

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GERL . PO Box 328 . Bethlehem, GA 30620

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**Please save Proof Of Purchase seals from bags
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and send them to:**

**Ginny Scarritt
4835 Kendall Court
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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



Sudden Death In Horses

By: Kenneth L Marcella, DVM

Death can be many things. It can be tragic, sad, shocking and even a relief in cases of long term pain and suffering. But when death occurs suddenly, seemingly without warning, and in a young, strong athlete it is definitely mystifying. If that athlete (horse or human) is well known, then the sudden death becomes a media story and everyone wants to know what happened and why. Unfortunately, in a large percentage of cases of sudden death in horses there are never any answers and only more questions. A look at what we do know however reveals how relatively common sudden death in horses is and the vast number of conditions that can bring about a horse's untimely end.

There are 23 entries as causes of sudden death in horses found in a current Cardiology textbook and while a large percentage of these causes relate to the cardiovascular system (the heart and related large vessels) there are many other reasons for sudden collapse and equine death listed. These 23 entries roughly parallel a number of studies that have been done in various countries and at numerous racetracks throughout the world. In a study of 22 cases of sudden equine death done by veterinarians from the Department of Veterinary Pathology at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology in Japan, 16 of the 22 horses died suddenly during racing or training. Eight of these horses showed multifocal or many different sites of myocardial (heart muscle) damage.

Another 4 had lesions related to rupture of the aorta or other large vessels. No cause of death could be found in 4 horses. In another study, involving 25 thoroughbreds that died suddenly at three Chicago area tracks, 21 of the 25 horses died suddenly while racing or training. Massive bleeding or hemorrhage into the thorax (chest) or abdomen (from a ruptured large vessel) was present and sufficient enough to account for the sudden death in only eight horses. One horse had lung disease, one horse had an inflammatory disease of the tissue around the brain (encephalitis) and 15 horses were listed as "primary cause undetermined".

Drs Brown, Kaneene and Taylor of the Department of Clinical Sciences at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine looked at causes of sudden death in over 200 horses. Forty nine of these horses were observed to die suddenly. The remaining 151 were found dead but last seen acting normally with no history of problems. Gastrointestinal lesions were seen in 39.2% of those horses found dead making colic and related problems the most common cause of death in this study. Horses can twist parts of the in-

testine close to the major ileac artery (the large artery supplying the intestines) and death from either vessel rupture or lack of blood flow can occur in hours or less. Lack of blood flow or ischemia causes tissue death and very rapid bacterial spread throughout the body resulting in septic shock which can be rapidly fatal. Almost 9% of horses found dead had some type of respiratory system problem ranging from bacterial or fungal lung infections to allergic bronchitis to bleeding in the lung tissue. Brain and spinal cord problems accounted for 4.6% of deaths with infections, tumors and aneurysms (ruptured blood vessels) seen most commonly. Brain and spinal cord tumors are occasionally found at examination following a case of sudden death and it is not that the tumor developed overnight but rather that the tumor was growing for some time without interfering with any body functions so it was not suspected or detected. Problems developed seemingly immediately only when the growing tumor invaded crucial nearby tissues.

Toxins accounted for the remainder of those horses found dead and Dr. Bob Wright of the Animal Health Lab at the University of Guelph in Canada feels that toxins are probably under diagnosed as a cause of sudden death in horses and cattle. Quoting an old farmers' adage Dr. Wright reminds us that, "Where there is livestock there is dead stock", and there are numerous toxins that can kill very rapidly. Many times testing is not done or incorrect samples are taken for accurate analysis and the end result is a case of "no cause determined" says Dr. Wright, but some type of poisoning occurred. The major toxins causing sudden death in horses are Botulism toxin from decomposed tissue mixed in hay. Horses rapidly show muscle tremors, difficulty swallowing and death from heart and lung failure. Ionophore toxicity (chemicals used to kill parasites in poultry and as growth promoters in cattle) is especially severe in horses and animals can die with this contaminated food still in their mouths. Many organophosphate insecticides can be fatal as well. Numerous species of ornamental plants used in landscaping and other wild plants and weeds can cause sudden death in horses with Japanese Yew (death in 1-3 hours from cardiac arrest), poison hemlock, red maple, Oleander and the Cantharidin toxin found in blister beetles leading the list.

Of the 49 horses dying suddenly in the Michigan State University study 16 % showed hemorrhage in the respiratory system. This finding is consistent with many other such studies and lesions in the lungs seem to be particularly common in racehorses. Some of these

(continued on the following page)

Sudden Death In Horses (continued from the previous page)

cases are thought to be excessive instances of exercise induced pulmonary hemorrhage (EIPH). Cardiovascular problems were seen in 14% of the 49 sudden death cases and no cause was found in over 30% of those horses. Cardiovascular problems are seen in higher percentages in human cases of sudden death and there are fewer instances of unknown causes. Dr. Mary Sheppard, a human pathologist at the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial College in London and a forensic expert on sudden death with an interest in the comparative aspects of this phenomenon between horses and humans is working hard to even further reduce the number of unexplained sudden death cases. "We know that high performance horses have a mortality rate (during exercise) that is exceptionally high compared to people", explains Dr. Sheppard, "and while one third of these horses rupture a large vessel, experience pulmonary bleeding, or suffer some aspect of cardiovascular disease, the remaining two-thirds have no apparent reason for dying". Dr. Sheppard has uncovered subtle syndromes in people as she attempts to account for the nearly 400 human cases of sudden death each year. She has described "long QT syndrome", named for the slowing of a particular part of the electrical sequence of the heart beat which she feels leads to a fatal arrhythmia (heart beat irregularity). Long QT syndrome in certain individuals is triggered, according to Dr. Sheppard, by exposure to cold water or by loud noises and emotional shock. Many cases of apparent drowning are, in the opinion of Dr. Sheppard, cases of long QT syndrome. She feels that many as yet uncovered diseases exist in horses as well and will eventually account for some of the unexplained sudden deaths.

Dr. Meg Sleeper, a section chief of cardiology in the Department of Clinical Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and an accomplished equine endurance rider also agrees that there are probably many yet uncovered causes for apparent cases of equine sudden death. "It is amazing how many people and horses die each year without any apparent risk factors but we might find those factors if we were looking more closely", says Dr. Sleeper. She questions whether many horse owners or trainers know what their horse's resting heart rate is. A change from this rate could indicate potential early heart problems especially in an equine athlete. "The equine industry is slightly behind human sports medicine in cardiovascular evaluation", says Dr. Sleeper, "which may explain the higher percentage of unexplained deaths seen in horses versus humans". Dr. Sleeper explains that if a horse is having a performance related problem (not working up to expectations) or if an arrhythmia

or murmur (abnormal sounds to the heart beat or blood flow in the heart) is heard then that horse will receive an electrocardiogram (ECG), an echogram, and a treadmill evaluation. But if that horse shows no problems while racing or training then there is rarely any prophylactic or protective testing done. "It is just part of the culture of what we do- little is done until there is a cause for concern", says Dr. Sleeper and some potentially fatal problems are undetected until it is too late.

There are many people doing echo evaluations of potential racehorses looking at heart size as a predictive value for good performance. This should provide a reasonable screening step for possible early heart disease but not so says Dr. Sleeper. "People trained to perform echo examinations for heart size are not trained to look for pathology", according to Dr. Sleeper, "if you do not know what to look for and if you do not have the correct type of machine you will not be able to evaluate blood flow and valvular problems". A horse with a big heart may be a superior athlete or a case of sudden death waiting to happen and only a complete and correct cardiac workup can tell the difference. Dr. Sleeper also adds that the equine industry became slightly disenchanted with the benefits of echo evaluations when they were first done years ago, but that over the last ten years the quality of the machines and the information they can produce has improved tremendously. Routine preventative cardiac evaluations may help identify some early heart and vessel pathology and Dr. Sleeper, Dr. Shepard and others are all urging performance horse owners to utilize this technology.

It is unwise to think that just because your veterinarian, or a trained equine cardiac specialist for that matter, does not hear a murmur or other heart abnormality, then your horse has no problems. A study done at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada looked at the ability of cardiac specialists, equine practitioners and veterinary students to accurately evaluate a series of auditory tapes of heart sounds from normal and abnormal horses. This study found that specialists made a correct diagnosis (consistent with echo exam findings) on only 53% of the cases with practitioners and veterinary students scoring even lower. "Just because you cannot hear an abnormality it doesn't mean a problem does not exist", cautions Dr. Sleeper who hopes that increased use of advanced testing equipment will lead to better early diagnostics and to some answers for the many cases of unexplained equine sudden death.

(continued on the following page)

Blankets for GERL

By Ronnie Pesserilo

In October I received a call from Peggy Miles of Horseware Ireland in regards to an upcoming sale on Rambo Blankets starting in November. Horseware Ireland was offering a \$75 discount towards the sale of a new Rambo blanket with a trade-in of a used (clean) Rambo blanket. The Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. was chosen to be the recipient of the blankets that were traded in after the sale was over in December.

We have received many used blankets, most in good condition and some needing slight repairs. We are

handing out these blankets as needed for the horses in our Adoption Program.

Thank you to Horse Power Equestrian in Newnan, Atlanta Saddlery in Alpharetta, Horsetown South and East in McDonough & Snellville and Horse and Hound in Sandy Springs & Gainesville for keeping the blankets until we were able to pick them up. An extra thank you to Marion Cobb, Estraya Laslie & Leslie Brass for going out of your way to pick up the blankets at these tack shops. Last but not least, thank you to Horseware Ireland and Peggy Miles for choosing the Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. as the recipient of these blankets.

Sudden Death In Horses

(continued from the previous page)

Until then we have the explanation of Dr. Robert Fritz, attending veterinarian to Swale, winner of the Kentucky Derby, 7th in the Preakness and who died suddenly after training, 8 days following his Belmont victory in 1984. Speaking in a Times magazine interview following Swale's death and necropsy which failed to reveal any specific cause of death, Dr Fritz summed up his frustration at the loss of a spectacular horse and the state of veterinary knowledge at the time by saying, "sometimes horses die on you and you never know why". Hopefully veterinary medicine is getting somewhat closer to being able to de-mystify sudden equine death.

Causes of Sudden Death in Horses

- Rupture of aortic or pulmonary arteries
- Rupture of a major pulmonary (lung) vessel (severe EIPH)
- Rupture of the carotid artery as a result of fungal infection of the guttural pouch {we did an article on this}
- Rupture of a major abdominal artery
- Rupture of a uterine artery (post foaling in generally older mares) {we did an article on this}
- Severed artery associated with skeletal trauma (fractured femur or other long bone which lacerates artery)
- Abnormal heart rhythm (beating too fast)
- Abnormal heart rhythm (beating too slowly)
- Rupture of a Chorda Tendinea (literally the "heart strings"- the ligaments that hold the heart valves in place)
- Congestive heart failure (bacterial, fungal, viral)
- Abdominal catastrophe- trauma and rupture of spleen, liver, kidneys
- Acute (occurring very quickly) colitis – infection (bacterial, viral, toxic) of the colon and resulting septic shock
- Trauma to the brain (falls, kicks)
- Poisoning
- Gunshot trauma
- Hypomagnesaemia (a severe reduction in magnesium causing muscle malfunction leading to heart and lung distress)
- Heat stroke/exhaustion/ severe electrolyte abnormalities caused by exercise in hot, humid conditions
- Cancer- brain, lung, heart
- Electrocution, lightning strike
- Severe allergic reaction
- Anaphylactic shock

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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...**

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.



Lots of Prizes Awarded!

*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.

“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!***

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.



Apache

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

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.

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.

Brutus appears to be a 20+ year old Morgan cross gelding. He was an extremely gentle stallion when he came into our program, and was successfully gelded with no problems. He has been socialized/pastured with both mares and geldings and has gotten along with all. His foster mom has now ridden him on trails. He doesn't seem to have any health problems and has good feet. We believe he will make an intermediate rider a great mount.



Charmer



Brutus

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

**Countryside
Hospital
For
Animals
Jersey, GA
770-788-PETS
countrysidevets.com**

**Offers GERL members
10%Off
vaccines and Coggins tests**

**Puttin On The Feed Bag
Artichoke Salad**

- 1 Small Jar Marinated Artichokes (chopped)
- 1 Box Chicken Rice-A-Roni
- 9 - 12 Olives with Pimentos (finely chopped)
- 1/2 cup finely diced green or red bell pepper (optional)
- Perdue Honey Roasted Chicken Breast (optional)
- 1 Cup Mayonnaise

Prepared the Rice-A-Roni as directed on the box (cool completely).

Drain the oil off of the marinated artichokes (save the oil).

Toss together all the ingredients except for the mayonnaise and oil.

Combine oil from the artichokes and the mayonnaise. Toss together with the other ingredients.

REFRIGERATE OVERNIGHT. Great as a salad or as a dip.

TIMOTHY ALFALFA HAY FOR SALE

Let us be your source
for excellent Midwestern Timothy / Alfalfa horse hay
at an extremely competitive price.

We offer several varieties of hay (lower to higher % of alfalfa with a Timothy / Orchard grass mix). Samples have been tested & lab analyses confirm that this is excellent horse hay. We work directly with the grower to bring this hay to Georgia & the SE. Contact us for pricing, samples, etc.

(706) 265-5045 / (706) 265-9708 / gerlbetty@aol.com

Pulaski Prison Impound Wish List

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bleach | Shampoo/Conditioner |
| Water Hoses | Show Sheen |
| Listerine | Dewormer |
| Antibiotics | Antibacterial Soap |
| Feed/Treats | Hoof Care Tools/Products |
| Feed Buckets | Weight Tapes |
| Mane & Tail Brushes | Fence Supplies |
| Wound Treatment Products | Horse Blankets |
| Pooper Scoopers | Feed Containers |
| Salt & Mineral Blocks | Digital Thermometer |

Please call Patty Livingston (770) 867-0760 if you would like to donate any items to the Pulaski Prison Impound.

**North Georgia Mounted
Search & Rescue
("NGMSAR")**

Call for info and date for next meeting.

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

Betty Evenson
GERL Volunteer of the Month for March 2010
By Susan Archer

Back in 1992, a group of inspired women started an equine rescue group, later to be known as the Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. The idea for this awesome endeavor came from Betty Evenson of Dawsonville, Georgia. She and the other ladies were becoming aware of a rapidly growing problem in our state concerning horses that were being starved, abandoned, or abused in other ways. The problem was not new but very little had ever been done to punish offenders because of the fear of retaliation for “sticking one’s nose into someone else’s business”. Betty and the other ladies were not going to subscribe to that kind of thinking and were determined to do all in their power be advocates for horses.



At about this same time, our Georgia Legislature passed the Humane Care for Equines Act. With these new laws came the formation of the Equine Division of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Betty and friends soon realized that, while it was wonderful to have laws which protected horses and the GDA Equine Division to enforce the laws, there was no allocation of public funds to pay for care and rehabilitation of horses that were seized from cruel owners by GDA Inspectors. It was plain to the founders of GERL that one of their main purposes was going to be raising funds to help support GDA impounded horses.

So, with a \$100 cash outlay, they started a corporation and, in time, were granted their all important, 501c3 status. Betty Evenson served as President of GERL for 11 years during which the organization formed a Board of Directors, developed by-laws, and grew to a membership of over 700. She produced a monthly newsletter which contained articles about, and pictures of horses helped by GERL. Still today, Betty is the editor of the GERL Newsletter and it is a very eagerly anticipated part of every member’s month.

Her work with GERL soon required 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. She managed to keep up with these demands as well as maintain her career as a recruiter of anesthesia personnel and owner of a horseman’s catalog business, The Barn Door.

As the years passed, a strong bond was formed between GERL and the GDA Equine Division. GERL raised and contributed thousands of dollars to the GDA Equine Impound Program. Partly because of this relationship, hundreds of horses were removed from undesirable conditions and found new homes where they would receive the care they deserve. In addition, GERL eventually formed their own Foster Care Program which enabled the organization to rescue additional horses in need and provide care until they could be placed into good homes.

There are many who have been members and supporters of GERL from the beginning and might possibly have “gone by the wayside” or on to other interests had it not been for Betty’s example. She has been tireless in promoting her dream of ending equine abuse in Georgia. When the time came that she felt she could no longer shoulder the responsibilities of the GERL Presidency, she continued to maintain her very active membership and support. She has been extremely generous in giving donations from her catalog business to insure the success of GERL Auctions and other events she supports.

Last year, Betty again agreed to produce the GERL monthly newsletter. She approached the job with new determination to make our newsletter better than ever and that is just what she has done. The positive comments keep flowing and every member must feel a new sense of pride as they leaf through the pages and enjoy the upgraded format and color pictures.

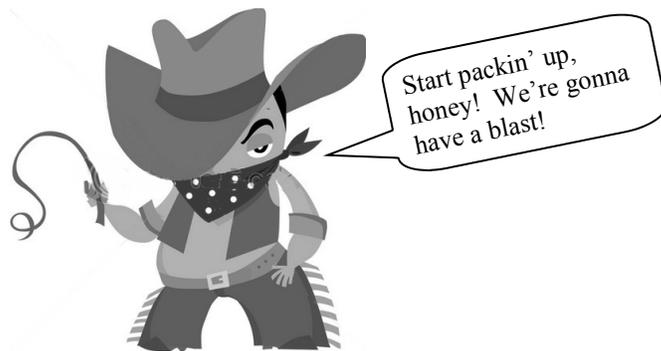
Betty Evenson, it is your time to be named GERL Volunteer of the Month. In reality, you could have rightfully received that recognition for ANY month during the past 18 years!

2nd Annual GENE ENSMINGER MEMORIAL RIDE TO BENEFIT THE GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE

April 30-May 2, 2010

Fundraiser to be held at the farm of Ron & Adriane Cook,
Round Oak, GA, near Monticello & Hillsboro.

- Cross Country riding in the Oconee National Forest
- Bring a dish and join us for Pot Luck Dinner
Friday Night
- Breakfast Sat. AM, Dinner Sat. PM and Breakfast
Sunday AM included!
- Dance on Saturday Night
- Live Auction Saturday Night with
Mickey Farmer—Famous Auctioneer!
- Silent Auction on Saturday
- Limited Power and water hook-ups available
- Plenty of primitive camping
- High ties provided with power sites, pens o.k.
- GERL Merchandise will be for sale on site
- Please pre-register—space goes quickly!!



Contact Patty Livingston @ 770-867-0760 or
gerlpatty@yahoo.com for more info.
Registration forms available on our website:
www.gerlltd.org

Registration Form - Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride

If registered before April 16th:
 GERL Members: Adults \$55 / Children 12 & under \$ 25
 Non-Members: Adults \$65 / Children 12 & under \$30
If registered April 16th or after:
 GERL Members: Adults \$65 / Children 12 & under \$30
 Non-Members: Adults \$75 / Children 12 & under \$35

There are a limited amount of power and non-pottable water hook-ups, sites will be assigned as registration forms are received.
 All reservations must be made on this form through GERL, please do not call Ron & Adriane Cook!
 For further information, please contact Patty Livingston, 770-867-0760 or gerlpatty@yahoo.com
 Additional forms available on our website: gerlltd.org

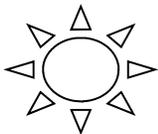


All attendees must register, riders and non-riders alike!
Single & non-family members, please register separately.
See website for additional forms: gerlltd.org

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Negative Coggins Required

<i>Adult Campers/GERL Members</i>	_____	<i>X \$55 ea. =</i>	_____
<i>Adult Campers/ Non-Members</i>	_____	<i>X \$65 ea. =</i>	_____
<i>Children/GERL Members</i>	_____	<i>X \$25 ea. =</i>	_____
<i>Children/Non-Members</i>	_____	<i>X \$30 ea. =</i>	_____
<i>Power & Water Site</i>	_____	<i>X \$20 per night =</i>	_____
<i>Primitive Camping</i>	_____	<i>X \$10 per night =</i>	_____
<i>Sat. nite only: Dinner, Auction, Dance</i>	_____	<i>X \$25 ea. =</i>	_____
<i>After April 16th: Late registration fees: Add \$10/adult and \$5/child =</i>			_____
		<i>Total Amount Due =</i>	_____
		<i>50 % deposit due at time of registration =</i>	_____
		<i>Amount Due at Check-In =</i>	_____



Please make checks payable to: GERL
Mail to: P.O. Box 328 Bethlehem, GA 30620

WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS

Referred By

Dennis & Sue Ashley
Cynthia Brayton
Jim & Helen Cooper
Yvonne Couget
Eric & Katie Ford & Family
Kristina Fournier & Family
April Goss
Bradley & Chandra James
Michael Lowder, DVM. MS & Family
Marla Morris
Dianna Neal
Patti & Phil Henry
Rod & Virginia Stiltner
Kay Watson
Debbie Wilson
Anne Wohlert

Belton, SC
Conyers, GA
New York, NY
Gainesville, GA
Dahlonega, GA
Boulder, CO
Cumming, GA
Alpharetta, GA
Watkinsville, GA
Barnesville, GA
Tallullah Falls, GA
Monroe, GA
Box Springs, GA
Lawrenceville, GA
Monroe, GA
Marietta, GA

Anne Ensminger
GERL
GERL
Mickey Farmer
Mary Waits
Internet
Marge Mabey
GERL
GERL
GERL
Richard Buckley
Donna Pieper
Robert & Barbara Arnold
Margaret Korges
Kathy Chandler
Marge Mabey

Thank You For Renewing Your GERL Membership

Susie Bond
Judy C. Close
Steve & Diana DeMoss
Dave & Pam Forcier
Lee Hager
Nick & Patty Howard
Sherry & Dennis Irwin
Jerry Johnson & Linda Tucker
Patty Livingston
Marge Mabey & Family
Betsy Malcolm
Jeanie McJunkin
Marshia Milam-Medford
Nancy & Dick Mittendorf
Cheryl Pritchard
Marie Simrod
Butch & Sheryl Slate
Hoyt "Slick" Tatum
W.R. & Jean Vandeventer
Bob & Margaret Wallace
Debbie Whitworth
Susan and George Wrensen
Pamela Wright
Dr. Sheila Smith, DO

Social Circle, GA
McDonough, GA
Good Hope, GA
Canton, GA
Marietta, GA
Dawsonville, GA
Canton, GA
Hoschtion, GA
Bethlehem, GA
Alpharetta, GA
Atlanta, GA
Marietta, GA
Covington, GA
Greensboro, GA
Conyers, GA
Marietta, GA
Temple, GA
Cartersville, GA
Lavonia
Shady Dale
Elberton
Canton
Clarkdale
Lawrenceville



WITH YOUR HELP ...

We Will Make A Difference

The Story of Chips Ahoy

By Marla Morris

Towards the end of November, 2009 I agreed to take on a pony that was in desperate need of a home. I had seen his ad on craigslist and had passed it by because, quite frankly, I was not looking for a companion horse. He was listed as "not good for riding due to arthritis in his back leg" ... I never would have even imagined how dead wrong that description would turn out to be. I had contacted the current owner and agreed to take him without ever seeing him because it sounded like he needed a new life really badly and none of us knew just how true that really was until we met Chips Ahoy. I am lucky enough to have friends that were willing to go and get him for me since I have a virtual zoo here but no trailer. They sounded upset when they let me know that they had located him and were trying to get the poor little guy loaded to get him out of where he was. I saw him for the first time when he limped out of the trailer into safety at my home.

After welcoming him home, I started doing some research with what little paperwork that had been passed along. In June of 2006, he belonged to a person in Gay, GA and his coggins shows him being 16 years old at that time. He then relocated to another owner who had a coggins drawn at the end of July of 2006 and he resided in Peachtree City, GA. I was able to contact that former owner and ask some questions. I was told that Chips Ahoy was purchased for a child and was a trained hunter/jumper pony. He had a fall at the barn where he was boarded and even though the knee showed obvious signs of being affected in the fall, the vet said that he had pulled the radial nerve in the right shoulder and would no longer be able to perform in the events he was purchased for. He was rehomed to a family with young children while healing and the new owners were informed that he was not going to be able to be ridden past the extent of leading the children around for short periods of time. In July of 2009, Chips Ahoy was given to Calvin Center in Hampton, GA and his shots indicate that he was there until at least the beginning of August of 2009. After they evaluated him and his condition, he was returned to the family that had neglected him for the past two years. I know of two homes that he was passed along to before coming to mine. Apparently nobody else bothered to do anything to make this little guy more comfortable nor did they get him vet checked or there would have been more records than what I have. He was simply passed around because he had become "useless".

What I really know personally about the story in regards to Chips Ahoy covers the last two months of his life. Chips Ahoy was a sweet pony that loved food and

occasional attention. He liked to be groomed, hugged, and given cookies on a regular basis. He was supplied nutritious feed, hay, supplements, liniments, etc. and love. He had a blanket to keep him warm and dry along with a bedded shelter that he could walk into and back out of without having to turn around when he chose to use it. He was somewhat pampered but he certainly deserved it. This little guy had been through hell and it was time to relearn that love, compassion, and comfort really did exist. He had his feet tended to and a vet check that got him an evaluation that certainly did not sound happy but I opted to give him every chance to be able to exist in a happier world for as long as he chose to do so. We tried the cortisone injection and anti-inflammatory paste that were made available to him to see if there were any positive reaction and there was not so the other remedies continued.

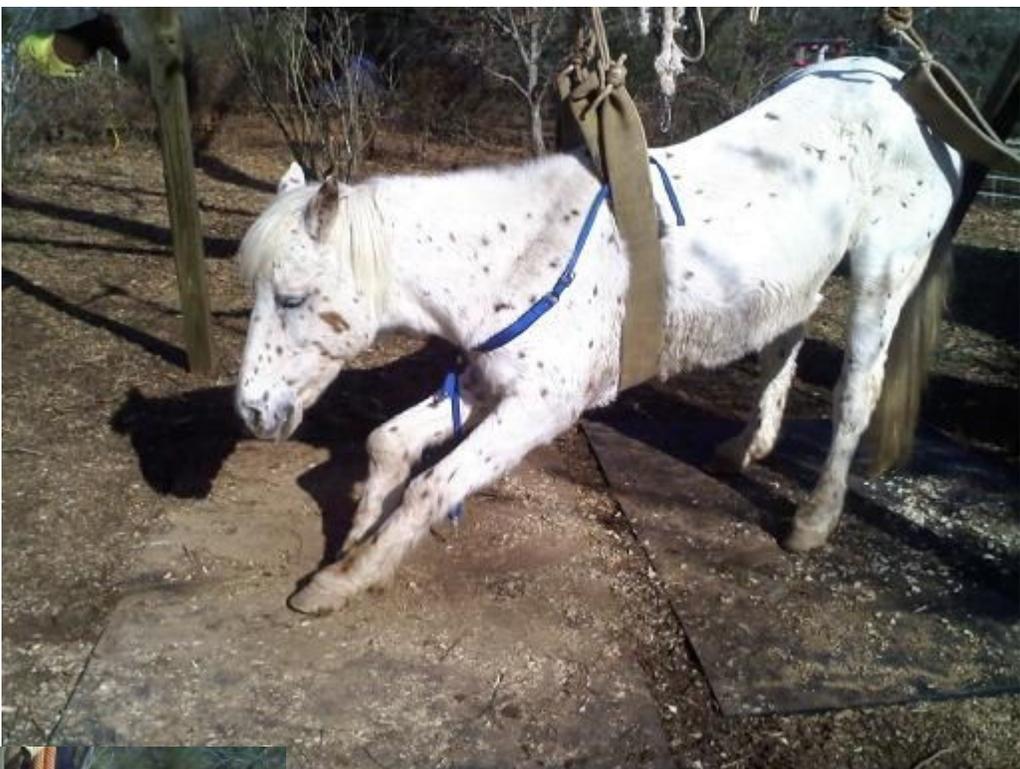


After realizing that the only way this pony's feet were going to be able to be tended to was to have a sling readily available at home. I sent emails to every rescue group I could find online in efforts to locate one to use. Patty of GERL called me to discuss what I needed a sling for and then let me know that she had a sling available and would even deliver it during the holidays. A sling stand was assembled and once everything was in place, Chips actually rested for the very first time in months. With the help of that sling, he laid down on the ground and was able to go to sleep for the first time in a very long time. He started hanging out at the sling stand and appeared to be telling us with his stretching poses that he wanted to lay down more so he could rest.

(continued on the following page)

The Story of Chips Ahoy (continued from the previous page)

His last trimming was done on Friday, January 29th ... When I went out to feed him on Saturday morning he was standing there in the rain looking at me. His blanket was off and he had mud caked on his bad knee. I will never really know or understand how this came to be since he was always so protective of that knee and now he had managed to cause it further injury. The leg was rubbed and wrapped but that didn't seem to help and he was content with doing his stretching and eating across the yard from the sling. On Sunday, we made him go to the sling and that is where he remained. He immediately laid down, with little assistance. He napped and wanted up so we allowed him to get



up but soon after he wanted back down again. He stayed down for several hours and was rolled and then eventually forced up. He laid himself back down without the assistance of the sling and apparently decided that he had had enough. He spent most of Monday laying under his precious sling stand and it was decided that it was time to call in the vet so that little Chips Ahoy could have some assistance in giving up the struggle that his life had become and he could peacefully cross that rainbow bridge where he could run and jump without pain once again. Chips Ahoy crossed his rainbow bridge at approximately 6:00pm on Monday, February 1, 2010

Chips Ahoy won the hearts of many people in his short time at my home. He had several rescue groups, individuals, and even Molly, the three legged pony, cheering him on. He will be forever in our hearts.

R.I.P. Chips Ahoy ... You touched so many lives in such a short period of time and your nicker will be greatly missed ... May you find the greenest grass and the happiest of runs on the other side of your rainbow bridge.

Countryside Hospital for Animals

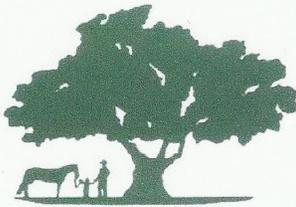
Jersey, GA

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Georgia Equine Rescue League**

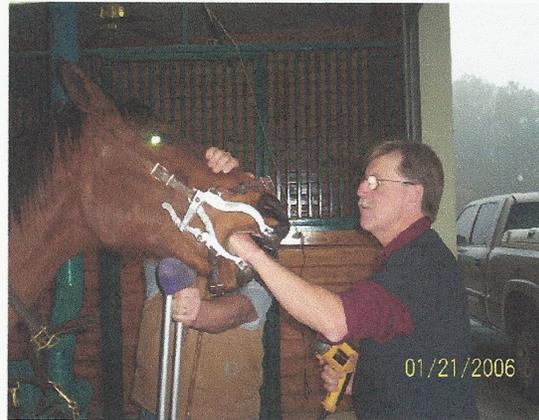
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March 20, 2010

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**2010
GERL Calendar of Events**

GERL Poker Ride
March 13th
Dawson Forest - Dawsonville, GA
*See flyer on page 14 for details

Gene Ensminger 2nd Annual Memorial Ride
April 30th - May 2nd
Ron & Adrian Cook's - Round Oak, GA
*See flyer on page 20 for details

GERL Trail Ride& Fundraiser to Benefit the GDA
Saturday, June 5th
Foxhall Farm - Douglasville, GA
*Details in upcoming newsletters

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!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

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 / gerlanners@windstream.net

for additional information

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Jean Long
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Patty & Nick Howard
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Greg & Tiffany Bergdorf
for fostering Afire Extinguisher

Ken & Susan Archer
for fostering Theo

Patty Livingston
for fostering Brutus & Thunder

Diana DeMoss
for fostering Apache & Cheyenne

Jacki Moore & Leslie Lambert
for fostering Vandy

Anne Ensminger
for fostering Honor

April & Stoney Goss
for fostering Highway

Susan McCullar
for fostering Sweet Pea, Gray Baby
& Hay Baler

Steven Neal
for fostering Leroy, Smokey & Sable

**GERL
and
THE HORSES
THANK YOU!!!**

Our Thoughts & Prayers Are With You

Condolences to Tommy Nash and family as they grieve the death of Tommy's father, Mr. Thomas Nash of Lawrenceville. No doubt, a large dose of quality saddle time will make you start to feel better, Tommy.

GERL has learned that Mike Medlock is again facing a fight with cancer. He is scheduled to undergo both chemotherapy and radiation over the next few weeks. Mike is a long time and faithful GERL member and has been a tireless worker for the Georgia and National Equestrian Trail Systems. He asks for our prayers that he will receive complete healing and suffer minimal side effects from the treatments. Mike, we are honored that you requested our prayers and it will be done!

Sylvia Mooney. We hope you are feeling better soon!

Thank You For Donating To Our Feed A Horse Program

Carol Royer
Marsha Earp
Lee Hager
Rod & Virginia Stiltner
Bob & Margaret Wallace

Thank You

to Vickie Fekete from Watkinsville for donating over 200 bales of Timothy hay to GERL and the Mansfield Impound

to Penny Kwirant of Carroll County for donating the box of fly masks to GERL. We can't wait to be able to use them!

Thank You For Your Change Jars

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

Donations In Memory Of

Sara Papp by Randolph Parro

Maggie Ford by Erin & Elizabeth Murphy

Melissa, Ginny Scarrit's horse,
by Betsy Malcolm

Sassy & Molly by Chris & Anna Wohler

Donations In Honor Of

Amelia Bolton by Christopher Bolton

Ken & Susan Archer, who fostered Pretty Boy. Thanks to all of GERL by Cheryl Bra.

Spy by Chris & Anna Wohler

Dr. Billy Myers by Marshia Milam Medford
For all of the kind, gracious,
humane things he does.

Marco by Butch & Sheryl Slate

Thank You For Your Donations And Continued Support

Samantha Ball
J.R. Derrick
Dick & Nancy Mittendorf

Special thanks to Nance Fitzgibbons for her generous support!



The GDA Pulaski Prison Impound Horse Auction

Saturday, February 6th was the rain date for the GDA Pulaski Prison Impound horse auction held at the harness racing facility in Hawkinsville. It was windy and cold, but there were a lot of folks who braved the weather and attended, anyway.

Many were there specifically to bid on Blaze, an 8 year old Spotted Saddle Horse, in hopes of taking him home with them. Blaze brought the highest bid of the day and went for \$1600.00. There were a total of 33 horses that were in the auction and all of them, thankfully, went to new homes.

The majority of these horses were handled by the Pulaski Prison inmates who participate in the equine impound program. This has proven to be a wonderful program that is helping the inmates as well as some of the starved and abused horses in our state. Special thanks to Mickey Farmer for donating his auctioneer services to the State as he has done many times in the past.



Blaze



Mickey Farmer

Indian Pony Ready for Adoption

By Anne Ensminger

GERL has two large ponies which are ready to be adopted. Patty Livingston's article in the November GERL Newsletter gave the details about how they came to be in our care so I will not re-visit that subject. They have been in foster care since September of 2009 and have both done well.

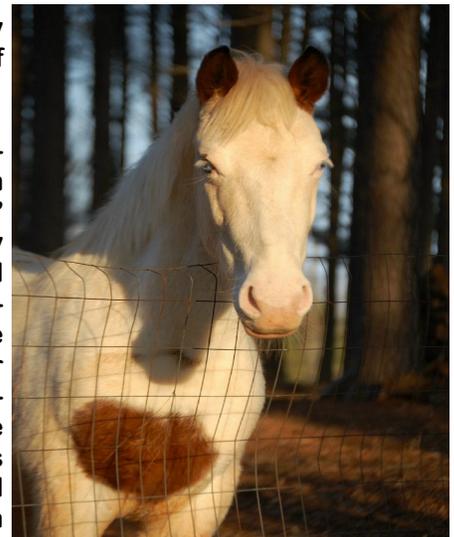
I would like to tell you about one of these ponies. His name is Apache and he is approximately two years old. He was gelded shortly after he came to us. Though Apache is still a bit young to be trained for riding, he has an exceptionally gentle disposition and we are certain that he will train easily and will be the treasured friend of some very lucky young horse lover.

When I saw his photograph in the November 2009 edition of our newsletter, I thought he was about the ugliest equine I had ever seen and wondered how in the world we would ever find a home for him. Wow! Have I ever changed my mind! His foster caregiver, Diana DeMoss, has done a beautiful job with his rehabilitation. Not only has his skinny little body filled out to reveal a nice conformation, but it turns out that

Apache is a very special type of Paint.

The American Indians called them "Medicine Hat" Paints and they were highly prized as war horses because they were thought to render their riders invincible in battle. The markings on his head are called "war bonnet". Both ears are red and

there is a space of white on top of his head between the ears to form the perfect war bonnet. The large spot on his chest was known as a "shield", certainly appropriate for a war horse to carry. The Indians thought these horses brought much good fortune and we know that this lovely pony carries his share of that. No doubt he will share this good fortune throughout his life, with those who will care for, and love him.



One of the "If Only" Cases (continued from page 8)

On Monday morning, Dr. Fuller called to tell us that the prognosis was not good. I begged Ken not to give up quite yet for I had seen a small flicker of the will to live in Jet's eyes. After discussions with the Countryside Vets on Monday, it was decided that we would keep trying for another day. I prayed very hard that night that Jet would make it and somehow have a chance to be the beautiful, wonderful horse that we were told he had been.

On Tuesday, Ken and I went to Countryside to visit Jet. It was not a surprise that we found him very weak and were told that he had gone down in the stall during the night. He was again receiving plasma. Everyone at Countryside was working hard and pulling for this horse which had been abandoned so cruelly by his caregivers. Needless to say, very high emotions concerning these events were being felt by everyone, especially me. I could not get it out of my mind that these three horses were living just around the corner from my fat, spoiled and well cared for horses, while Jet was literally starving to death! We had no idea. Still, we had to control our sadness and anger as we kept working to save him.

Ken was making calls trying to borrow a body sling while Dr. Billy Myers was making arrangements to obtain some scaffolding to support Jet in the sling. About that time, we received news that the GDA Equine Division wanted to help try to save Jet. They have a sling and all of the equipment needed to care for a horse in this condition. They also have years of experience in bringing starved horses back from the brink of death. The Vets at Countryside graciously agreed to continue treating Jet at the GDA Mansfield Impound. Robin Easley from the Department of Agriculture phoned and told us that she and Equine Inspectors Adrienne and Megan were on their way with the GDA truck, trailer and board/skid to pull him out of the stall and onto the trailer. I remember looking up at the sky and saying "THANK YOU LORD"!

For the average lay person, the process of moving a horse that can not walk or even stand was a pretty traumatic sight to behold. The "GDA GIRLS" came right in and went to work like the pros they are and we were able, with the help of several from the hospital, to carefully drag Jet onto the skid and into the trailer.

We were thankful that Jet seemed to tolerate the 45 minute trip. A Gator (small off- road vehicle) was used to pull the skid and Jet off of the trailer and into the

hall of the barn where The Anderson Sling was rigged and waiting. After considerable but unsuccessful effort by several people working together to try to help Jet stand, it became evident that he was growing weaker. It was decided to let him rest for awhile. I made a warm mash and was able to get a little into him and he drank a little warm water. At this point, a check of his body temperature revealed that, in spite of the fact that he was receiving warmed IV infusions; his temperature had dropped to a dangerous level. After one last effort to help him, we knew that



he was just too tired and weak to stand, even with the help of the sling. We could see that he was not responding. At this point, Jet was bedded down on fresh shavings and covered with blankets. It was our hope that, after some rest and more IV fluids, he would gain enough strength to stand up in the sling the next morning. We all sadly bid goodnight to our stoic friend and prayed that God would be kind to him either way.

A very strange thing happened to me during the wee hours of Wednesday morning. I don't know how you feel about "connecting" and Karma but I think Jet did bid me "adieu" on his way across the Rainbow Bridge. For some reason, while in a sound sleep, my left leg was kicked like the devil (enough to knock it off of the side of the bed) which immediately woke me. I wondered to myself what in the dickens had just happened and then I thought about Jet. I looked at the ceiling and said quietly out loud, "He is Gone". I knew it as surely as I have ever known anything.

(continued on the following page)

One of the "If Only" Cases
(continued from the previous page)

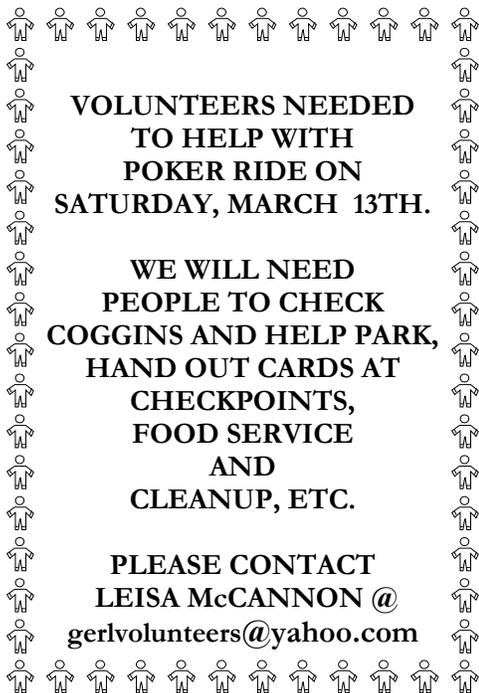
We received the call first thing Wednesday morning ... Jet had passed on sometime during the night, very quietly and peacefully. I can only hope in my heart that he forgives us for putting him through the stress of being trussed up, put on a skid, dragged onto a trailer and then enduring our efforts to help him stand. My prayer is that he knew we were trying to SAVE him and not do him any more harm.

At this point I cannot say enough wonderful things about the Countryside Animal Hospital doctors and employees, especially Mandy and her friend Ernie who even came to the Impound to help. The GDA was fabulous. We knew they wouldn't let us down just like we have not, and will never, let them down. Finally, last but not least, I must express my great appreciation to GERL for giving Ken and I the opportunity to be involved in this huge effort to save just one more horse ... for it is only with the help of GERL that we

were able to try so hard to make a difference for Jet. "If Only" we had gotten there sooner

Editorial comment by Anne Ensminger, GERL Secretary:

Why do we suppose that Susan did not write about consequences for the owner of these horses or the barn manager who most certainly watched Jet's condition get to this critical point before taking action? I suppose that she is wise enough to realize that it would do nothing to change things. While we are very proud of our Georgia laws which are designed to protect equine from this kind of abuse, the reality is that, at the present time, there are very few legal avenues that will bring remedy after the fact. GERL is pleased to be able to help these equine victims in many ways but sadly, we must leave the punishment of humans who cause such tragedies, to the good Lord and to their personal, greatly lacking, value systems.



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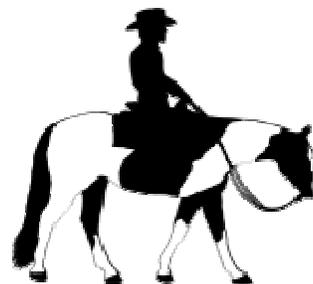




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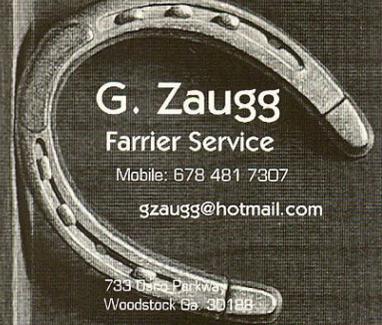
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