



# Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With Your Help ...  
We Will Make A Difference

Volume #176

[www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org)

May 2010

## The Saga of Leroy, Smokey, and Sable Continues!

By Steven Neal

It has been almost exactly 2 months since Leroy, Smokey, and Sable arrived at my place one gray, overcast, drizzly Saturday in February. In the March News Letter a collection of my emails about their first 3 days at their new foster home where collected together and published as an article. Fortunately for me the article ended with my last email before their 4<sup>th</sup> day. I say fortunately because when I arrived home that evening I discovered all three of them missing.

I searched the property end to end twice but no luck. I then got in my car and drove all around the area hoping I would find them grazing in a near by field. Fortunately that is exactly where they were but this field was just about a mile away across Hester Town Road. I managed to get close to them twice that evening and for a little while



thought that I was going to catch one. I put a bucket of feed down and walked away. Smokey started to walk toward it but the other two walked away so he turned around and followed them. The last time I saw them that evening they were headed into the woods that separates the field from Hester Town Road. At that point I decided that it was getting to late to continue to try to catch them and I figured that they would hopefully stay in this field. There was plenty of grass, a couple streams near by, and of course no one was likely to bother them.

So, to add insult to injury I got lost in the woods trying to walk back to my car. It got so dark so quickly that the next thing I knew I was lost in the woods. I called a neighbor who sort of knew about where I was and was kind enough to come and get me. (continued on pages 9 and 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**

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

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**\*Please submit all newsletter materials by the 10th**

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## **LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT**

**By Patty Livingston, President**

One of the things that I recently wrote about was our goal to meet with law enforcement and animal control agents to solicit their help in enforcing the Humane Care for Equine Act in order to help ease the burden on the GDA's (Georgia Department of Agriculture's) equine inspectors. Everyone attending the first kick-off meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> indicated via a questionnaire that they would like to receive a list of equine contacts from GERL to call in the event of an emergency. They also indicated that they would be interested in attending an equine training session sometime in the future.

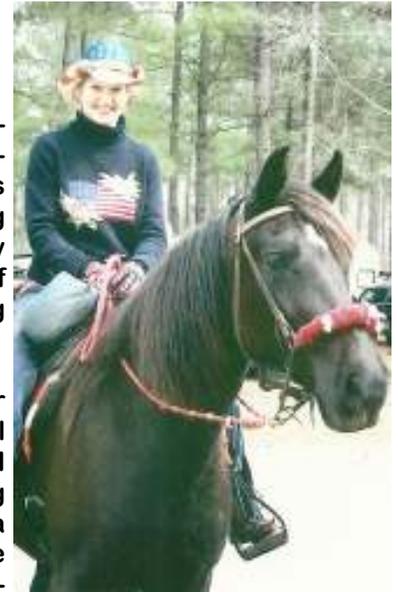
I sent out a communication to all of the attending GERL Area Coordinators for those ten counties asking them to contact their local Sheriff and Animal Control agencies, introduce themselves and provide them with contact information. I met with Robin Easley, the GDA Field Supervisor, to discuss an equine training session for the county Animal Control personnel, Sheriff Deputies, GERL Area Coordinators and others to attend. Robin is in the process of selecting a date and preparing for a training day that would include such things as how to properly body score a horse, how to handle a horse, and other helpful information.

Since that meeting, we've had a call from Rockdale County Animal Control to help with two impounded horses, which we took into our program. They've also asked GERL to help with some fencing needs and mats for stalls at their impound facility. The GERL Board gladly approved both. We've also received calls from the Jackson and Walton County sheriff's deputies asking for assistance with horses.

The GERL Board members met recently to discuss the next steps that we want to take with regard to the first meeting follow-up training, our plans for more meetings in the future and our ability to help the potential large numbers if and when they need it. We have offered vaccination and castration funds, help with transporting horses, fencing and temporary holding pens. All of these things seem relatively simple to provide since we have access to grant funds available for vaccinations and other funds for feeding and castrations. However, one of our big concerns is the possibility of a large influx of horses brought in that we would not be able to accommodate since we rely solely on foster and adoption homes to house horses in our program. We continue to brainstorm and look for more creative ways to find new homes. We feel that by providing them with holding pens this will buy some time to allow them to find homes within their own county for the horses that they may impound.

We previously discussed leasing a large parcel of land near one of our board members where we could take impounded horses from law enforcement while we search for new foster or adoptive homes. However, it always seems to come back to the welfare of the horses as to why this isn't a good idea. How many times are you able to put several horses in the same pasture who all get along? Even horses that already live together have established a pecking order and have a tendency to pick on the weaker, less dominant horses. It is not feasible to think that we could put strange horses together in the same pasture and have no injuries. Not to mention the fact that somebody is going to have the burden of taking care of them. For that reason, we're sticking to the program that we already have in place...foster homes. So, let me say this, about that...would you consider fostering a horse for GERL in order to allow us to help more law enforcement agencies get involved in enforcing the Humane Care for Equine laws?

If so, please contact Donna Piepier at (404) 797-333 or [gerldonna@bellsouth.net](mailto:gerldonna@bellsouth.net).





## **A Note from the Secretary's Desk** **By Anne Ensminger**

Spring is here and with it comes both blessings and problems. I just received an email photo from GDA Lead Inspector, Robin Easley, of a new Paint foal, very recently born at the GDA Mansfield Impound. I don't know a thing about this baby but the fact that it was born at a GDA Impound facility, would imply that the dam has been through some very tough times during her gestation. Still, through some miracle of nature, she was able to carry and deliver a healthy foal, thus new life begins.

True to the balance of nature, another life ended yesterday. GERL President, Patty Livingston, arrived at my house last evening for our monthly Board of Directors meeting with the sad news that her dear, thirty nine year old TWH gelding, Midnight, had to be euthanized yesterday. Our hearts were heavy as we conducted the business of GERL, knowing that Patty was hurting and that we would all miss seeing Midnight quietly grazing in her pasture, spending his old age in a way that GERL is working so hard to insure for all horses.

Meanwhile, the GERL Phone Line continues to ring with some very sad stories and many requests for our help. I doubt that our general membership has any idea of the magnitude of the problems concerning unwanted horses or those receiving insufficient care.

It is almost a daily occurrence for us to hear about lost jobs, homes being repossessed, and marriages broken under the stress. It is usually a wife in this position who calls us. She is left with children to feed, no home, and one or more horses which are, of necessity, very low on her list of concerns. At least she calls for help before the horses are starved beyond help. I have never known GERL to turn down the opportunity to help in this kind of situation.

Still, there are many cases which are very frustrating to GERL. Having no legal power to enter private property, we often must simply offer help if owners are approachable, contact GDA, local law enforcement, or animal control to request intervention, and sometimes just pray. One example which easily comes to mind is a pitiful horse in north Georgia which has been concerning us since mid winter. This poor thing is practically skin and bone and spends a large portion of his life tied to a tree. Caring neighbors and friends of GERL have reported this to GDA more than once. GDA Inspectors have visited the site and issued cita-

tions. The owners seem to continue to meet the bare minimum GDA requirements for basic care for this horse but his condition still declines. One of our members has even offered to buy the horse but the owners will not sell. With our hands tied, GERL continues to urge the neighbors to call GDA repeatedly and get local law enforcement involved. It is going to take a miracle to help this poor animal. As I open my emails each morning, I am always hoping to see that the horse has been seized by law enforcement or GDA and is safe. That is when GERL can finally step in and help this animal.

Then there is the heartbreaking subject of Mustangs. It makes my blood boil to think of the pitiful plight of some of these living symbols of the old American West which have made their way to Georgia. The BLM regularly rounds up wild horses because their numbers are greater than the land can support. They transport them all over the United States and place them in un-inspected homes for the "adoption" price of \$125. Oh yes, they have rules concerning the trailer needed to transport the horse, shelter, and fencing requirements. Beyond that, there is no requirement that the adopters have any experience with horses. This works out beautifully as long as the horse can be safely maintained in the required fence with the required shelter. No doubt, the new owner has a warm, fuzzy feeling every time they look out and see the animal peacefully grazing and safe from the plight faced by many other wild Mustangs.

Always lurking is the fact that the horses are generally unapproachable and the inexperienced new owners are usually wise enough not to get too close. What about when it is time to vaccinate or worm the horse? If an injury occurs, there is no way to administer treatment to these animals. God forbid that it should need its feet trimmed.

GERL has been faced with this scenario several times recently. We have been asked to take some of these Mustangs because, for one reason or another, the owners "can no longer care for them". While this breaks our hearts, we can not even consider putting our foster homes at the risk involved with keeping a wild or unsafe animal. That has always been our rule.

Many discussions have taken place via email, by phone, and in our meetings to determine what GERL can do to help. The fact keeps emerging that there is not much we can do in the way that we usually help horses. Even if we agreed to pay a professional trainer to work with the horses, there are few trainers willing to take on the special needs of these adult animals which have never been handled and which have

(continued on the following page)

## A Note from the Secretary's Desk

(continued from the previous page)

extremely strong self preservation instincts by which they have survived for hundreds of years. We imagine that it would take six months to a year to gentle these horses to a point where they could be safe for us to offer to prospective adopters. At the cost of \$550 a month or more, this would simply be prohibitive as it would absorb monies needed to rehabilitate many domestic horses which stand a good chance for adoption and a second chance for a good life.

By the way, we are aware that there are many Mustangs which have been trained successfully and that they make extremely reliable saddle horses. Long time member and GERL friend, Ray Ziebell has one of the best. I am speaking of his much loved Mustang gelding, Jack.

We also know that there are Mustang rescue organizations. As a matter of fact, we have recently been contacted by one of them and asked to take two horses which they can no longer keep. It would seem that they have overextended themselves and GERL must not let that happen to us.

Thankfully, we have members with special interest in Mustangs and we are contacting them for advice about alternative plans. One of our very active members, Sandy Stevenson, is familiar with a well known Mustang trainer, Eric Gray of Cumming who participates in the Extreme Mustang Makeover program. We will keep our fingers crossed that he can help.

I hope this gives our members a peek at just a few if the problems faced by your Board of Directors each month. We already have more horses in foster care than ever before so don't think we are just sitting around wishing we could help more horses. We ARE helping LOTS of horses.

Our hearts, our heads, and our pocket-book are often at odds and that never feels good.

## The Cherry Blossom Festival

By Leisa McCannon

Well, ya'll just don't know what you missed. It was so much fun. Only Eddie Ohern and I were able to attend. But we had a great time. We didn't get to leave the tent much since there was only the two of us. Tanya Kingsley was there but she was working with her dog but did come to help out when she could - and she got me there and home safe and sound. Thank you, Tanya.



We were the only non-dog group there in the Furever Friends area. Eddie called a friend of his Sean McKee and he brought us a 10 x 20 pop up tent. Thank You, Sean. We need one of these.

The lady in charge of the Cherry Blossom Festival came by and invited us to come back next year and said we could bring a horse and maybe it would bring more people by our tent. We were next to one of the main, if not the best attraction, but it was all about the dogs. We need to change that. This was the group that Tanya was with. They were all so nice and welcomed us to their group.



Also we have been invited to come to the Woof Festival in the fall also in Macon. Furever Friends will let us know when and where. There is no charge for either. We really need to make sure next year we have the trailer there and tee shirts with the horses on it. Since there was a big Ford Mustang Show some thought I was a mustang person. So I got a chance to explain. We didn't do much in the way of sales or donations (two tee shirts and a \$1.00) but I think it would be worth our time next year for several of us to go, especially if we can take a horse.



Eddie, thank you so much for spending your whole day there.

It has been a very long day but even if ya'll decide it wasn't worth the trip I will be going again next year.

**Sue Wrenson**  
**GERL Volunteer of the Month for May**  
**By Patty Livingston**

This month's volunteer of the month is Sue Wrenson, who happens to also be a great friend and riding buddy of mine. Sue has been a GERL volunteer for many years and has always graciously given of her time to GERL's needs and events.

I first met Sue at a GERL rescue function at Lakeview Plantation in South Carolina several years ago. It was a combined event with two other rescue organizations from South Carolina. I would later run into her at other GERL events over the years. Later, we both worked on the GERL auction committee together, which is when I really got to know her and saw how dedicated she was to GERL. She was always eager to volunteer and do whatever needed to be done and she still does that today. Her usual reply would always be "whatever you need me to do".



Sue recently volunteered to take over as the GERL Auction Coordinator, a job that I have done for the past several years. You can't imagine how excited I was when she let me know that she would take on this huge responsibility. Sue is also a GERL Area Coordinator for Cherokee county. She cheerfully checks out horses in her area, picks up donated auction items or anything else that might be needed, as well as attend GERL booths as various functions. She has such an uplifting spirit and when she is around she makes you feel like you're the only person that counts. She really has a genuine interest in the welfare of others and a soft spot in her heart for the horses.

Over the years, Sue has ridden many miles on her favorite horse, a palomino Quarter Horse named Joy. Recently, she added a black TWH named Traveler and he has become her main ride since Joy has gotten older and become semi-retired. We have ridden together at Buffalo River Trail Ride for the past 5 or 6 years and we always look forward to getting away and enjoying the company of our horses and friends. Of course, much of our conversation is about GERL and the horses. It is my pleasure to recognize the work and sacrifices that Sue has given to GERL over the years. Thank you so much, Sue!



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**2010  
GERL Calendar of Events**

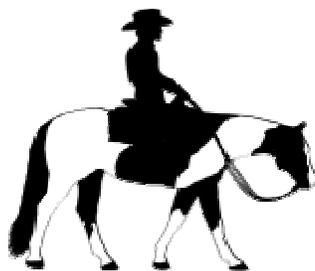
Gene Ensminger 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Memorial Ride  
April 30 – May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Ron & Adriane Cook's – Round Oak, GA

GERL Trail Ride & Fundraiser to Benefit the GDA  
Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>  
Fox Hall Farm – Douglasville, GA  
\*See flyer on page 26 for details

Fright Fest – 2010  
October 29 - 31  
Jake Mountain - Dahlonega, 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!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**



**Thank You  
Dr. Ken Marcella**

for providing our membership with such informative articles each month.

See page 11 for this month's article



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

Please save Proof Of Purchase seals from bags of these Southern States feeds ...  
Legends, Triple Crown & Reliance

and send them to:

Ginny Scarritt  
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Atlanta, GA 30342

**Thank You To Our  
Foster Homes**

**Belinda & Hannah Carruth**  
for fostering Aurora

**Dotti & Jack Carter**  
for fostering Big Man (aka Beau)

**Tamma Trump**  
for fostering Hope

**Randy & Lisa King**  
for fostering Shadow

**Jean Long**  
for fostering Lucky

**Bob & Shirley Guhl**  
for fostering Lobo and Tyree

**Patty & Nick Howard**  
for fostering Ekyra & Rosie

**Patty & Phil Henry**  
for fostering Afire Extinguisher

**Patty Livingston**  
for fostering Brutus & Thunder

**Diana DeMoss**  
for fostering White Cloud,  
Grant & Cheyenne

**Jacki Moore & Leslie Lambert**  
for fostering Vandy

**Anne Ensminger**  
for fostering Honor

**April & Stoney Goss**  
for fostering Highway

**Susan McCullar**  
for fostering Gray Baby  
& Hay Baler

**Steven Neal**  
for fostering Leroy, Smokey & Sable

**Donna Pieper & Keith Fleming**  
for fostering Snowball

**Scott Sauerbier & Family**  
for fostering Tidbit

**Christina Warren**  
for fostering Ebony

## Mini Updates

By Patty Livingston

Last month we ran a story in our newsletter about Mac and Sammi, two dwarf Minis who were castrated with funds from GERL's "Stallions to Gelding" program. The article was written by their owner, Nella Cz. Minis raise so much interest, not to mention the fact that they are so cute, I wanted to share more pictures with our readers.

We first heard about Mac and Sammi from Susan Williams, a long-time friend of GERL who was also involved in rescuing dwarf Minis and using them as service animals to visit patients in hospitals and nursing homes. Susan contacted me recently about "Stuart Little", an 11 month old Mini that needed to be gelded. She requested that GERL



Stuart visits patients

consider approving Stuart for castration in our program and the GERL Board agreed. Susan shared some pictures of Stuart on the job.

GERL recently took in a Mini named Thumper, who was adopted by Ken and Susan Archer. This is Ken and Thumper below with Ken's granddaughter, Maddie (photo below).



Mac & Pumpkin



Below is an email that I received from Susan Williams, along with a picture of Bonnie and Clyde:



Bonnie & Clyde

Patty, I just wanted to show you a pic of Bonnie and Clyde in case you haven't seen them yet. They were really abused and scared of people and sick (on antibiotics over 40 days now) but are finally coming around to people and their health is slowly improving.

Thanks again for everything GERL has done for us!!! I honestly can't thank you enough!

## The Saga of Leroy, Smokey, and Sable Continues!

(continued from the cover)

Unfortunately events prevented me from being able to form up a posse for two days. The afternoon of their second day of freedom I and six volunteers headed out to gather up my truants. As expected they hadn't left the area where I first found them. The posse split in two and we approached them from two sides. It seems though that all our careful strategizing and planning turned out not to be necessary. A couple buckets of grain and we had Leroy and Smokey hooked to lead lines within ten minutes of locating them. It took about 15 more minutes to clip a lead line on Sable. I guess they had had enough of their big adventure and were ready to come back.



Later that week when I went to the back to repair the fence I found that they had managed to find a section that was down. It seems that they wandered to about the middle of the back fence line of my property. How or why they were there in the first place is a wonder in itself because this area is a virtual swamp. It's muddy, marshy, covered with privet trees, vines, and littered with decaying plant material. Even I wouldn't go back there if I didn't have to. On the back side of the privet trees is a barbed wire fence that was put there to keep the cows in their own pasture. I could see their hoof prints right up to this fence but they weren't able to cross at that point. They then wandered between the privet rows until they found a section that was down and just stepped over it. From this point it was a short stroll to the right and they were back in the woods. They must have made their way through the wood until they reached and crossed Hester Town Road.

Since our big adventure Leroy, Smokey, and Sable's stay here has settled down to a fairly routine schedule. We start and end each day with a nice bucket of



feed, the barn has become a place of safety and comfort, and their trust in me is growing a little every day. I can now walk out into the field and put a lead line on any one of them. Sable and I still haven't become best buddies yet but I'm working on it. While he is out in the pastures I have found that I can extend my hand in one smooth fluid motion and take hold of his halter. However, most times I only get one try. If I miss Sable will walk away almost as to say "better luck next time!" The best thing with this little boy though is that he no longer behaves as if my every move is a sign of pending death. With my seemingly endless supply of alfalfa cubes I managed to get all three to consider me a good thing in their lives.



They have all discovered the 7.5 acre former hay field with its lush green grass and have not had an occasion to explore the swamp at the back again. They

(continued on the following page)

## **The Saga of Leroy, Smokey and Sable Continues!**

continued from the previous page

have even managed to make peace with my two horses Titan and Destiny. It's a treat to come home from work and find all five grazing peacefully together. I have also very much enjoyed those occasions when Smokey and Sable play chase through the woods, with Leroy close behind. It's wonderful to see these three running for the sheer joy of being a horse.

We still have one or two small moments when our relationship becomes a little strained but I think that is to be expected with young horses. One of the funnier moments is when either Smokey or Sable, while being led, will plant their feet and give me a "You're not the boss of me glare!" It's hard not to laugh while at the same time giving them an "Oh yes I most certainly am!" response.

During these months they've been wormed and have had their feet trimmed. They took to being wormed with a paste wormer pretty well which was a nice surprise. Getting their feet trimmed was another matter. Even though I had gotten them used to having their feet picked up they became a little agitated when that foot started to get clipped and rasped. Fortunately my farrier, Stan Davis, is very adept at handling these situations and so we managed to get them all trimmed without anyone getting hurt. Maybe next time this too will even become routine.

If you are interested in adopting one of these wonderful boys please contact

Donna Pieper  
gerldonna@bellsouth.net  
(404) 797-3333

## **4-H For Our Future!**

**Kriston R. Glushko & Annette Raybon**

I recently had the honor of speaking to the Paulding County 4-H Horse and Pony Club in March.

Boy, has 4-H changed since I was a member back in ... well, that's not important. But here's what is important; these kids rock! This is a very energetic group with a large membership.

Following the actual meeting conducted by the Officers, their feature for the evening was a very entertaining Tacky Prom Queen contest. Never have I seen so much tacky-ness in one room. Well, maybe once on "The Real Housewives". Anyway, the competition was fierce but everyone seemed to have a great time.

So, if you want to read into the future, you've got to attend your local 4-H meeting sometime. These kids are focused but still know how to have fun.

Many thanks to the following Officers: President Alyssa Williams, Vice-President(s) Ashley Humphreys & Samantha True, Secretary Lindsey True, Parliamentarian/Treasurer Alayna Tichenor, Reporter(s) Taylor Brock, Olivia Hamilton, Points Keeper Shannon Welch.

This following is from their Volunteer Leader, Annette Raybon. She is currently an Area Coordinator for GERL.

The Paulding County 4-H Horse and Pony Club is a youth group dedicated to the betterment of our youth members. They will get the most out of this experience if they are allowed to run and manage the club's functions. Our purpose is to best utilize the resources of the club to serve the community by providing equine educational programs and activities for all children.

Our priorities are:

1. To grow mature and responsible leaders through various 4-H programs and activities;
2. To promote interest in the Equine Industry;
3. To provide opportunities for children to have hands-on experience with horses.

I have been the volunteer leader of this club for about 8 years. Our club has grown from 6 members to more than 83 members. As you can tell from our meeting, we are very active and have a lot of fun. We were able to assemble 74 Easter baskets which were donated to the Murphy-Harpst Children's home in Cedartown.

Our 4-H'ers are very interested in GERL (our club has been members for more than 10 years). Several of my high school 4-H'ers have gone with me on prospective foster home inspections, horse inspections and three of our officers (Alyssa, Ashley and Olivia) came to the area coordinator's training at Diana DeMoss' house a while back and Alyssa has attended the annual meetings with me a few times. I like to keep them involved with as many hands-on experiences as much as I can!

Great job Annette!

## **Trailer Disinfection- A Clean Getaway**

**By: Kenneth L Marcella, DVM**

The recent herpes virus outbreak in south Florida has brought infectious diseases, quarantine procedures and the entire issue of biosecurity much closer to home for many horse owners. This type of outbreak is hardly new of course. Herpes outbreaks have occurred in each of the past three years with 2006 seeing cases in Florida, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia and Iowa. Horses were affected at Churchill Downs in May and at Monmouth Park Race Track in October as well as other smaller outbreaks occurring periodically. Any location where many horses are brought together in close proximity serves as a potential site for such disease outbreaks and the racing community, because of the numbers of horses involved, the stress of racing and the high number of miles traveled for these athletes, is generally more accustomed to this type of threat than the hunter/jumper or dressage communities. And herpes is not the only culprit. An outbreak of Salmonella newport occurred in 2004 at the George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals at New Bolton Center at the University of Pennsylvania's College of Veterinary Medicine. This disease outbreak prompted university officials to close the hospital in order to sandblast, disinfect and repaint the facility. The College of Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital at the University of Georgia is currently undergoing disinfection procedures and equine movement restrictions in order to deal with an outbreak of equine influenza cases there. Streptococcus equi (Strangles), rotavirus, Rhodococcus and any number of other equine pathogens periodically pop up across the United States in small barns, show facilities, race-tracks, veterinary schools and every type of horse operation in between. Equine infectious diseases are always present in the environment waiting for the opportunity to cause problems but, as stated in the United States Department of Agriculture recommendations for infectious disease control, "you are the best protection your horses have".

One crucial step in protecting your horses, and a well recognized component of disease quarantine, is the proper cleaning and disinfection of horse trailers. Anyone driving along I-75S through Georgia and into Florida at this time of the year cannot help but notice the number of trailers on the road. Trailers carrying horses to the dressage competitions, polo tournaments, and show facilities blend with those carrying horses to training facilities and breeding farms in the Sunshine state. And those same trailers leave Florida heading to numerous other parts of the country. Like so many flies or mosquitoes leaving one barn for another, these very trailers have the potential for wide-spread disease transmission and their proper clean-

ing and disinfection is critical. Dr. Roberta Dwyer, a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Preventative Medicine has stated, "preventative medicine rests not only on properly timed vaccinations, detailed farm management, deworming and adequate nutrition, but also on disinfection". Cleaning your trailer correctly and completely disinfecting it may be one of the most important things you can do this year to keep your horses healthy.

There are several factors that should be considered before beginning the process of disinfecting your trailer. What organisms or pathogens are you concerned with? Many chemical cleaners and disinfectants are effective against some but not all disease agents and you should use one that kills the types of germs that you are likely dealing with. Unless you are traveling in a restricted or quarantined area and know the exact pathogen, use of a broad spectrum disinfectant is recommended.

Next you should consider the types of surfaces and materials that must be cleaned. Most trailers will be steel, aluminum, fiberglass or some combination of these non-porous smooth materials. These surfaces are relatively easy to clean. Floor boards of wood, rubber mats and porous surfaces are much more difficult and may influence your choices in cleaners and disinfectant chemicals. The chemicals themselves should be factored in. Some are toxic to skin and eyes and are difficult to use- requiring special clothes and protective equipment. Some are environmentally dangerous and require special runoff and disposal planning.

It is important to remember that most chemicals generally work less efficiently in the presence of organic material- manure, hay, straw, mud and dirt. The first actual cleaning step, then, is the physical removal of all the organic material on and in the trailer. Park the trailer away from barns and horse stalls on a flat preferably sunny location that does not drain into horse contact areas, streams or ponds. The trailer should be away from horses because the use of a pressure washer or steam cleaner will aerosolize debris in the trailer and could help promote airborne spread of certain infectious agents.

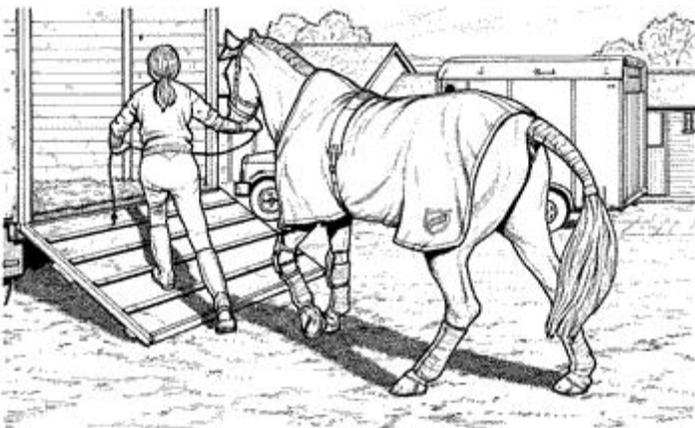
First remove all mats or protective floor coverings and then start at the top of the trailer and scrape and brush the ceiling, sidewalls, divisions gates (removable gates and dividers should be removed and washed separately), floor and ramps to remove

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## Trailer Disinfection- A Clean Getaway (continued from the previous page)

all organic material. Remove any mud, straw or dirt from the outside of the trailer as well, paying attention to the wheels, wheel wells, mud flaps and exposed chassis. You may need to use a stiff brush as well as a pressure washer to adequately clean the outside of the trailer since road dirt and mud can be caked on and difficult to remove.

Using a pressure washer, steam cleaner or hose, next soak all trailer surfaces with water and detergent and allow at least 10 minutes for contact time and a loosening of dirt. The outside of the trailer, wheels and undercarriage must be done as well. Take caution with the wheels and remember to clean the tire treads as well. You will have to move the trailer slightly at least once during the cleaning to be able to clean all tire surfaces otherwise a dirty potentially infected area of tire will remain in contact with the ground. Many different detergents can be used from antibacterial kitchen soaps to commercial products. The effort you put into scraping and scrubbing the surfaces of the trailer will far outweigh your particular choice in cleaner. The best way to understand this is to think about your teeth. Many bacteria produce a film or protective covering that makes them resistant to external agents. This "biofilm" is similar to the plaque produced by bacteria on your teeth. Simply rinsing your mouth with disinfectant may kill some surface bacteria but will do little to remove the plaque and the bacteria living below it. Brushing and flossing, similar to scraping, scrubbing and cleaning a trailer, removes the bacterial film and makes the organisms susceptible to the second step- disinfection.



After rinsing off the cleaner, the trailer should be allowed to dry. Applying disinfectant to a wet surface further dilutes the disinfectant and may make it too weak to effectively kill the pathogens for which it has been chosen, formulated and mixed. Attention should

be paid to the type of water being used as well. Some disinfectants do not work as well in hard water or water containing metals, organic ions and other compounds. Disinfectants will be labeled with a "ppm" reference which tells you the parts per million (ppm) or water hardness range of efficacy for that particular product. Be sure to select a product that matches your water source.

Disinfectant should be applied to all surfaces of the inside and outside of the trailer, wheels and ramps. The trailer should be parked on a slight slope to allow it to drain and the disinfectant should be allowed to dry on. This increases contact time and produces greater pathogen destruction. Next clean all the brooms, scrapers, squeegees, shovels and brushes that you used to clean the trailer. This entails removing organic matter, cleaning, disinfecting and air/sun drying these items. Your clothes and shoes should be similarly treated.

There are many types of disinfectants to choose from and they fall into a number of basic categories. The iodophors, such as povidone iodine are commonly found around the stable and these compounds will kill many viruses and bacteria but are best used as cleaners rather than as disinfectants. Bleach, a hypochlorite, is a commonly used disinfectant and has been shown to work well on many surfaces and against many pathogens. It is very easily inactivated by organic material however. Alcohols and Chlorhexidine (Nolvasan) have similar shortcomings. If the trailer can be well cleaned with steam or a pressure washer so as to remove almost all manure and debris then these products can generally provide good disinfection.

Aldehydes, such as formaldehyde, are very effective in killing germs but they are highly toxic, difficult to use and not practical around people and animals. Peroxides and alkali products are effective in the presence of organic material but they too can be caustic and difficult to handle and dispose of. Quaternary ammonium compounds are commonly used as disinfectants in many commercial areas but they are inactivated by organic material and are unable to protect against rotavirus. Phenolic disinfectants or phenols are active in the presence of manure and dirt and are effective against rotavirus and Salmonella but are irritating to use and require special protective clothing, eye goggles and air filter masks. These compounds are the most common choice

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## Trailer Disinfection - A Clean Getaway (continued from the previous page)

when stalls and barns are to be cleaned because, even with diligent scrubbing and scraping, it is impossible to remove organic material from a location with many porous surfaces. Trailers are somewhat different and allow a wider choice in disinfectants. One product that meets most of the criteria for a good disinfectant is Virkon S. This peroxygen has good activity in hard water, low temperatures and on most surfaces. It is not toxic or harmful to human workers or the environment when used at the correct dilution and it has efficiency against equine herpes virus, equine influenza, equine viral arteritis (EVA), E.coli, Clostridium organisms, Salmonella organisms, Pseudomonas bacterium, Staphylococcus and Streptococcus bacteria including Strep. equi, the causative agent of equine strangles.

It is important to know that there are procedures and products available to horse owners that can allow them to better protect their animals. Something as simple as properly cleaning and disinfecting your trailer can be an important step in preventing disease spread and reducing the chances of an infectious outbreak. The high number of such outbreaks in various locations this winter makes using these cleaning and disinfection techniques even more important.

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Thoroughbred Times

**\*Editor's Note ... Although this article was written in 2007 and references the Herpes outbreak of 2007, the information is quite pertinent as show and riding season it back upon us.**

## TIMOTHY and/or ORCHARD ALFALFA HAY FOR SALE

Let us be your source  
for excellent Midwestern Alfalfa-Mix 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.

HORSE HAY DIRECT, LLC  
Betty K. Evenson  
(706) 265-5045 . (706) 265-9708 . gerlbetty@aol.com

## Bar G Tack Swap

David and I attended the Bar G Tack Swap on Saturday, April 10th. This was hosted by Bobby and Donna Griggs owner of the Bar G Horse & Cattle Supply in Bishop, GA to help support GERL.



Bobby, Donna  
& Morgan Griggs

We had such a great time and met some really great people. We received some donated blankets and found some wonderful bargains on used tack. We would like to thank them for their Support of GERL and hope we will be invited back next year.



# “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](http://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!***

## WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS

John Absalon  
John & Kathy Basnar  
Rhonda Hackeba & Carl Stowers  
Tina Caroline Crowe  
Verleen Flaig  
Dave & Judy Furbish  
Dorinda Hennings  
Taylor Kiss  
Bob Long  
Shelley MacMillan  
Frank Mann  
Marsha Prestridge  
Chris & Linda Thomson  
Tamma Trump  
Todd & Christina Warren  
Larry Webb & Family  
Rebecca Williams  
Dick & Kay Wrobel  
Hearts & Hooves GA

Cartersville, GA  
Cordele, GA  
Dawsonville, GA  
Dahlonega, GA  
Canton, GA  
Cumming, GA  
Lizella, GA  
McDonough, GA  
Winder, GA  
Madison, GA  
Conyers, GA  
Toccoa, GA  
Jackson, GA  
Acworth, GA  
Bethlehem, GA  
Adairsville, GA  
Toccoa, GA  
Young Harris, GA  
Conyers, GA

## Referred By

Donna Pieper  
GERL  
Betty Evenson  
GERL  
GERL  
GERL  
GERL  
Henry 4H Club  
GERL  
Tanya Kingsley  
Susie Bond  
Dr. Alice Beretta  
Andee Rogers  
GERL  
Gina Lance  
Deborah Stewart  
Dr. Alice Beretta  
Jack & Dotti Carter  
GERL

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### We Need Your Help! Auction Items are Needed

We have upcoming events that will include auctions.

We need you to help by donating auction items. These items can include new or used tack, home décor items, gift certificates, etc. Remember... our auctions are only as successful as the items that we have to offer.

Do you have a beach house? A cabin rental? Do you have a timeshare that you do not use? Perhaps you would consider donating a few nights or a week for one of our upcoming auctions? It's tax deductible and benefits a great cause.

### Thanks You In Advance For Your Support!

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

Sue Wrensen  
(770) 331-6947

[swrensen@comcast.net](mailto:swrensen@comcast.net)

OR

Patty Livingston  
(770) 867-0760

[gerlpatty@yahoo.com](mailto:gerlpatty@yahoo.com)

**WITH YOUR HELP ...**

**We Will Make A Difference**



# GERL ADOPTABLES



Lobo

**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

**Leroy** is a 5 yo bay Thoroughbred cross gelding. He stands close to 15.2hh and is gentle to handle. We were advised that Leroy has been trained to ride, but we have not yet assessed his level of training due to his weight condition.



Leroy



**Smokey** is a 9 month old dark bay gelding (he appears nearly black), also a son of Leroy, and currently measures about 13.3hh. His dam was stocky, light sorrel with flaxen mane and tail, and stands about 14hh. She was one of a matched pair used to pull a wagon.

**Hay Baler** is another 9 month old sired by Leroy, chestnut is color. Currently he stands at 13.1hh. His dam was a bay Qtr Hrs type mare, about 14.2hh.



Hay Baler



Sable

**Sable** is a 9 month old bay gelding, son of Leroy, currently measuring close to 14hh. His dam was stocky, light sorrel with flaxen mane and tail, and stands about 14hh. She was one of a matched pair used to pull a wagon.

**Snowball** is a precious little 11yo white pony mare, standing just 10-11hh. She acclimated quickly to her new pasture mate in foster care. She is saddle trained and lead lines well. We are looking for a loving family to adopt Snowball for their kids or grandkids.



Snowball

**Shadow** is a 4 year old Palomino gelding. He continues to improve through his rehabilitation, and his foster parents continue to work with him on his training. We should shortly be able to assess his training/riding level. It appears that he has been ridden in the past. Shadow, like Highway, is getting ready to find his forever home where someone can take him 'on the trail' to success.

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

# GERL ADOPTABLES

**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](http://www.equinoxhorse.net/Charmerproject.html).



**Charmer**



**Brutus**

**Brutus** is 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.

**Cheyenne** is a red roan pony mare, about 13.2 hands. She is a very easy keeper. Although shy when she first came into our program, Cheyenne has gentled very nicely and is a very calm pasture mate. Due to a front knee injury, she would best be suited as a companion only, but to the right home, could possibly be used

for very light riding by a smaller child (maybe lead line). We are currently assessing whether she is saddle trained.



**Cheyenne**



**Gray Baby**

**Gray Baby** is a 16yo flea bitten grey mustang mare, about 14.1hh, carrying the mustang brand on the left side of her neck. She has a very sweet disposition and loves to be brushed. Her foster mom has put a Western saddle on her and she seemed very at ease with it, so we believe she has been ridden before. As she gains a bit more weight, we will work with her further to determine her level of training. We are looking for a home that is ready to give her a job.

**Thunder** is an Arabian X gelding, sorrel with a blaze and white stockings, about 20 years old. We understand that he was a great trail horse, but we are waiting for additional weight gain before we ride him. His foster mom states: *Thunder constantly amazes me as to how alert and energetic he is for a 20 year old horse, let alone a starved 20 year old horse. A lady who knew him well said that Thunder was actually her pick of the 3 horses because he was so wonderful on the trails.* Thunder is looking for a forever home that

will keep him in shape, but not overwork him at his age. Are you looking for seasoned trail horse for light duty??



**Thunder**



**Highway**

**Highway** is a 4-5 year old QH sorrel gelding. He is blind in his right eye, but gets around great. He is not broke to ride yet. He loads, clips and has great ground manners. He is also a very smart and willing pupil, and gets along extremely well with other horses. His foster parents continue to work with him in the round pen, so, updates to follow. Highway loves people and is ready to find his forever home where someone can take him 'on the trail' to success.

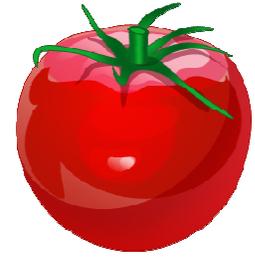
**Shadow** is a 4 year old Palomino gelding. He continues to improve through his rehabilitation, and his foster parents continue to work with him on his training. We should shortly be able to assess his training/riding level. It appears that he has been ridden in the past. Shadow, like Highway, is getting ready to find his forever home where someone can take him 'on the trail' to success. (look for photo in next month's newsletter).

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



- 4 Tomatoes (Sliced)
- 10 Fresh Basil Leaves Chopped
- ½ Cup Green Onions
- 8 Slices Of Cooked Bacon – or can use fresh bacon bits
- 1 Cup Mozzarella Cheese
- 1 Cup Sharp Cheddar Cheese
- 1 Cup Mayonnaise
- 9” Deep Dish Pie Crust – Pre Bake
- Salt and Pepper – To Taste

Preheat oven to 350.

Put sliced tomatoes in a single layer in a colander – sprinkle with salt and let stand for 10 min.

Layer tomatoes, bacon, basil, and onions. Season with salt and pepper.

Mix cheeses and mayonnaise and spread on top.

**Feed Bag Recipe  
Submissions**

Do you have a wonderful, easy recipe that you would like to share?

Putting On the Feed Bag is a new section in our newsletter and we want your suggestions.

Please submit your recipe contributions to [gerlbetty@aol.com](mailto:gerlbetty@aol.com)



**TRAILER NEEDED  
FOR MANSFIELD IMPOUND!**

4 Horse Gooseneck Aluminum Stock Trailer  
Center Divider and Dressing Room

Contact Patty Livingston @ 770-867-0760  
[gerlpatty@yahoo.com](mailto:gerlpatty@yahoo.com)

Donation is Tax Deductible!

**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  
[foragednstl@windstream.net](mailto:foragednstl@windstream.net)  
or  
Steve de Lyra  
(706) 265 8182  
[stevd@windstream.net](mailto:stevd@windstream.net)

## Thank You For Renewing Your GERL Membership

Judy Berringer  
Tom & Shirley Brady & Family  
Margaret & Jeffrey Clower & Family  
Debbie & Jessica Crowe  
Elizabeth Dees  
Gloria English  
Nancy Fitzgibbons  
Mark, Melinda & Kelsey Hulsey  
Dell Keeble  
LaVon Kern  
Denise Mortensen  
Tommy & Sherry Nash  
Carole Paige  
Olivia Schubert  
Christine & Barry Sheehy  
Deborah Stewart & Family  
Althea Walker  
Pat Widener  
Fran Wilde

Waverly Hall, GA  
Warrenton, GA  
Loganville, GA  
Loganville, GA  
Stockbridge, GA  
Conyers, GA  
Mableton, GA  
Covington, GA  
Bloomington, GA  
Dawsonville, GA  
Marietta, GA  
Monroe, GA  
Mitchell, GA  
Alpharetta, GA  
Rincon, GA  
Cartersville, GA  
Lawrenceville, GA  
Monroe, GA  
Bogart, GA

A big **thank you** goes out to Michelle Leach with Michelle's Feed & Seed in Jersey for her generous donations!

**SOUTHERN STATES  
PROOFS OF PURCHASE**  
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT TAKES THE TIME TO CUT THOSE PROOFS OF PURCHASE OFF OF YOUR LEGENDS, TRIPLE CROWN AND RELIANCE FEED BAGS. WE RECEIVED A CHECK THIS MONTH FOR \$607.00!!

## GERL Attends Horsemen's Feed & Supplies Grand Opening

I recently attended the Grand Opening of Horsemen's Feed & Supplies, owned by Patti Jo and Cesar Sanchez. The new feed store is located in Indian Springs, just South of Jackson. Patti Jo just happens to be one of the Georgia Department of Agriculture's (GDA) equine inspectors. Her husband, Cesar, is also very involved with the GDA and volunteers to work with some of the horses and helps at many of their horse auctions.

GERL members Mike and Andee Rogers set up a booth beside the GDA booth and gave out newsletters and GERL literature. Mike is a farrier by trade and he was busy making hoof picks out of horseshoes, which he sold and donated the money to GERL. Thanks Mike! And, thanks to Patti Jo and Cesar for raffling off 25 bales of hay and donating the money to GERL.



Patti Jo and Cesar had a huge stage set up and the band was playing Santana when I arrived. Andee was dancing, along with some of the volunteers and patrons. The neighbors were cooking and selling BBQ dinners. It turns out that Patti Jo and Cesar are both in the band and before long Mike was invited to go on stage and sing a couple of songs. The sun was out and it was a warm and beautiful day. It was a very festive atmosphere and a lot of fun which attracted a good crowd throughout the day.

Photo at Right - Andee Rogers & Patti Jo Sanchez

## **Madison's Story**

**By Diane Bond**

We purchased Madison as a weanling from a Department of Agriculture Auction in 2001. Her feet were in terrible condition and she was full of worms. A possible explanation for this is that she was as wild as a deer! It took three men just to get a halter on her and the same three men had to actually pick her up and put her on our trailer. When we let her out of the trailer at our place, I wondered if we would ever catch her again.

We were never able to learn much about Madison's heritage but we are certain that she is a pure bred American Quarter Horse. Her former owner was a reining horse breeder and apparently felt that feeding them was optional.

Shortly after Madison came to us, I began attending John Lyons workshops and to study his methods. Thus our work together began. It was not long before Madison became quite gentle and her training progressed to the point where I was able to start riding her as a two year old. She never tried to throw me or buck. We even completed a four day police horse training course together. That experience gave us both a great deal of confidence.

Because, at only 14.3 hands, Madison was too small for my husband to ride, we sold her to a very nice lady who was an accomplished rider. After a couple of months, she called to say that the mare was just too much horse for her so we gladly bought her back.

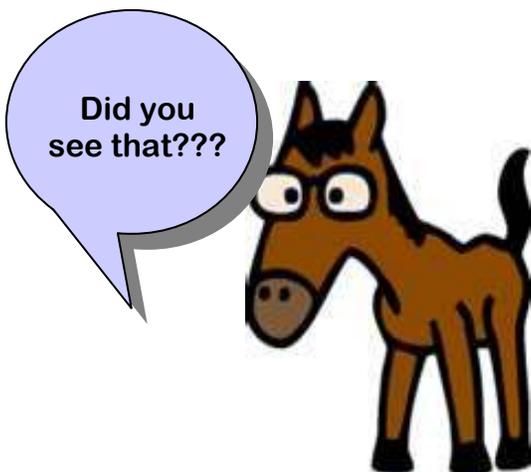
A few years went by and Madison mysteriously became lame in her right foreleg. Exams by several veterinarians and our farrier forced us to face the fact

that she suffered from a chronic shoulder problem and could never be ridden again. At this point, comfort became our main goal for Madison. We put her on anti-inflammatory drugs and tuned her out to live the rest of her life as a companion to our other horse. Just as with former horses of ours which became too old to be of service to us any longer, Madison will be with us until her days are lived out. We feel great joy when we see her feeling well enough to run and buck in the pasture. We love her. We are not about to turn



our backs on her just because she has suffered this unfortunate circumstance. She is our responsibility and we gladly accept that.

This article is simply written as my lament and as a protest on behalf of the growing number of unfortunate horses being discarded or mistreated when their usefulness is passed. Our pets and our horses are a commitment just as is our marriage or our children. That's the way I see it. It is the way it will always be at our house. I know every member of GERL agrees.



**GERL:**

We would like to present this \$1015.37 check as our contribution from our GERL Day at Countryside. It was a huge success! GERL does wonderful work helping our neglected equine.

**Billy C. Myers, D.V.M.**  
Countryside Hospital  
for Animals

## **Helping Horses in Distress; a Practical Guide** By Patricia Mack Newton

The sight of it hits you like a ton of bricks; a starving horse. Your reaction actually becomes visceral, and once you begin to recover from the initial shock, you are eventually moved to disbelief, then to anger. You don't have to be a horseperson to feel these things; you just have to be human. Most of us tend to shake it off and wonder why someone hasn't done something. But for some of us, the overwhelming and inescapable call to action finally supercedes our emotions and we suddenly find ourselves on a mission.

### **What can you do to effectively help animals stuck in perilous conditions?**

You may think the answer is a no-brainer -- simply call the local animal control or humane society. They come to the rescue and everyone lives happily ever after, right? Not quite. In fact, it's rarely, if ever, that simple. To be an effective advocate for animals at risk, you must be prepared to commit a potentially substantial amount of time and effort toward achieving some sort of resolution to the suffering.

### **Background on some causes of neglect.**

I advise you not to approach an owner, even if you know them. It is helpful to understand that people generally allow animals to decline and languish for two basic reasons, i.e., they do it out of ignorance, or because of financial hardship, or sometimes both.

At worst, any intervention on your part may evoke hostility, possibly putting you into a volatile and dangerous situation. At best, your interference may elicit strong feelings of shame and embarrassment, putting the owner on the defensive. Ultimately, such confrontations are generally unproductive, potentially explosive and, frankly, not worth the risk.

Ignorance that allows such blatant cruelty can be beyond your comprehension, but you must try to understand if you are to begin to deal with its consequences effectively. Hard as it is to imagine, the ignorant owner just doesn't see what you see, nor do they have the ability to recognize for instance, the horses down the road with their glossy coats and rounded muscles look different from those they keep. The ignorant owner doesn't always live on Tobacco Road either -- many a rescue has been conducted in the priciest neighborhoods. Ignorance transcends socio-economic status.

Neglect resulting from financial hardship can be exceedingly difficult to deal with for a number of reasons. Neglected, starving horses are a (sometimes) highly visible symptom of an extremely sensitive, intensely private malady. Over time, pride evolves into denial, then spirals into neglect, which is generally succeeded and compounded by embarrassment, further denial, and shame. An emotionally charged environment like this can and does create unique legal barriers to providing relief for the animal, which, in the eyes of the law, is private property. Sadly, the thorny issue of private property can become an insurmountable barrier to critical rescue efforts.

Occasionally animals fall victim to willful, malicious cruelty or depravity, but, thankfully, these instances are far less likely. The link between such behavior and the potential for ensuing criminal behavior is so demonstrably strong that the state of California has mandated rehabilitation for convicted offenders. If you observe such behavior, do not intervene, but do call the appropriate law enforcement agency.

### **Where to begin.**

For starters, assess the situation as best you can without trespassing. Note the condition of the animal, the environment in which it is kept, if there is food, water, and shelter, the address, and any other pertinent information. No matter how bad it is, even if there is no water or shelter and it's 100°, DO NOT attempt to help the animal yourself. This can work against you and the animal. First, no matter how noble your intentions, you are trespassing onto private property. Second, if, for instance, you give the animal water, when the humane society investigates and finds it has water (even if it knows *you* gave it to the animal), you've inadvertently sabotaged the animal and your efforts.

Once you've made the decision to get involved, be prepared to commit some time and energy to the task. Get a notebook, a pen, and call the local animal control, humane society, or other governing agency. If at all possible, enlist others to call and register their concerns. Don't underestimate the strength of allies - they are powerful tools in establishing and maintaining credibility and helping to motivate agencies to action.

(continued on the following page)

## Helping Horses in Distress; a Practical Guide

(continued from the previous page)

Befriend animal control/humane officers assigned to the case and keep in touch with them. They are important resources and can provide, among other things, insight into protocol. They can advise you regarding the tools at your disposal and, perhaps most importantly, they can tell you what their limitations are.

At the risk of insulting you, I advise you to be professional, courteous, patient and, above all, be persistent. Dealing with county or state agencies charged with the welfare of animals can be an enormously frustrating process, especially when you are emotionally invested and can see that time is of the essence. Take detailed notes of your conversations, the names of people with whom you spoke, dates, and times. Get them to open a file, investigate, and monitor the situation.

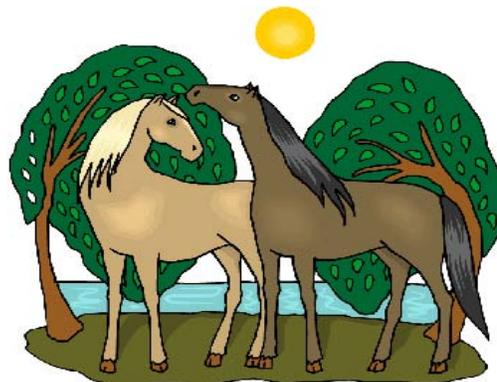
Follow-up is essential. You'd be amazed at how common it is for a case to fall through the cracks. For instance, my efforts to aid a starving horse were significantly delayed because Animal Control saw that County Humane had an open file so it closed its files; trouble is, County Humane saw Animal Control had an open file and closed its files too. It happens, be vigilant.

In the meantime, familiarize yourself with local ordinances and state laws relating to animal abuse and neglect. Ask for copies from agencies or search the Internet. Be prepared to accept the ambiguous definitions of the law; the nebulous language makes it difficult to prosecute even the most heinous offender. For example, the law might, in part read, "...or in any manner abuses any animal or fails to provide the animal with proper food, drink, or shelter or protection from the weather..." "*Proper* food, drink, or shelter" are all left to interpretation. You'd be amazed how this language can hamstring efforts to rescue an animal.

What I have found is animal control officers are reluctant, and often unwilling to take even the most egregious case to the District Attorney because they know it cannot be prosecuted. Officials can be extremely reluctant to intervene because horses *are* private property, residing *on* private property. Such private property issues and the legal ambiguities combine to make prosecution extremely difficult, if not impossible.

News media are quick to cover stories showing ani-

mal control officers impounding neglected and starving horses. We've all seen these incidents and even taken some comfort in the knowledge our tax dollars are working to protect such animals in need. However, the astute viewer will note (or the media may neglect to report) that one or more horses had died prior to or during the impoundment procedure. *This* is a *prosecutable* case. Anything less is legally problematic.



### Alternatives.

You may reach a point where the bureaucratic inertia makes it clear there is no measurable relief in sight for the animal you are trying to help. There are a number of rescue organizations and volunteer groups willing to get involved. Some work with animal control officers, some contact owners, and some provide funding for rescue efforts. Georgia Equine Rescue League is often a part of all of the above mentioned solutions.

The media can be a useful ally in your attempts to rescue an animal. Contact the local "troubleshooter", "human interest", or "environmental" reporter. This can be dicey since it again involves the "sacrosanct private property" issue, but the media can make the call. The power of the public hue and cry over such stories can pay big dividends. Give great thought to your "visible" involvement – it could come back to haunt you in ways you never imagined.

I realize the tone of this article borders on pessimism. My intention is not to discourage you from answering that call to action, but to arm you with information to keep you from becoming discouraged and giving up. And I've tried to steer you toward some resources to help you along the way. There are an awful lot of people out there working on behalf of animals in need, but remember, despite their apparent numbers, they are a rare breed. Count yourself among them, take a deep breath, and never lose sight of the nobility of what you are trying to accomplish.

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

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Bob Cooper  
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Brian & Cathy Dees  
Edward dePeterse  
Jane Estes  
Alice Farrar  
Debbie Ferrell  
Jo Ann Hitman  
Jacquelin Twiss  
Mary Waits

**\*Membership form is on the back cover.**



**In Memory of Midnight 1973 - 2010**

Our condolences to Patty Livingston as she mourns the loss of her long-time companion, Midnight, who passed away on April 6th at the age of 37.

**Thank you for your support!**

**With your help ...  
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## Springtime at Mansfield (AKA: Babyland General)

By Robin Easley

The number of horses at the impound barn is increasing almost daily; not just because of the impoundment of more horses, but due to the birth of several new foals.

A little over a month ago a group of mares was impounded and transported to the Mansfield impound facility. They were thin, their hooves long and cracked, their hides covered with rain rot, and when we looked even closer, their skin was crawling with a lice infestation. Their backbones were prominent, their hip bones protruding, their ribs were visible, and they appeared pot bellied. Parasites maybe? Nope! It was confirmed soon after their arrival that ALL of them were definitely in foal. "Faith" and "Mercy" could be considered geriatric and "Charity" suffers from chronic lameness due to an old hock injury. So why on Earth were they bred?



Faith & Easter



Easter



Amity

The mares were put out to pasture and have free choice hay and are fed three square meals a day. While their top lines have remained bony, their bellies grew and grew and some are still growing! "Faith" and "Mercy" have successfully foaled so far and I bet by the time this newsletter hits your mailbox, there will be more little hooves on the ground. Willie Moore, employee at the Mansfield barn, is for sure a proud PaPa! He spends every spare moment checking the mares that are still due and loving on "Easter" and "Amity", the fillies that have been born. It is bitter sweet. While we all try to find an excuse to trek to the barn just to watch the foals play and discover a whole new world, in a few short months we will be trying desperately to find them new permanent homes.



Willie & Easter

This story is another testimony to the point that GERL President, Patty Livingston, has been trying to make. We are facing an overpopulation of equine and folks will continue to breed more. Let's get on the bandwagon of the "Stallions to Geldings" program: a good stallion will make a great gelding!

As you read in last month's article by Miss Anne, the selling prices of a grade colt or filly average below \$50. I hope that you will fall in love with one of these impound babies and offer it (and its mama) the kind of life that will foster love, trust, and loyalty. These foals deserve to keep the innocent faith they have in humanity.

## More Success ...

By Donna Pieper

### What a little tender loving care will do... And when a love story begins...

Our February 2010 newsletter cover story was about a Paulding County Animal Control case where 4 horses were turned over to GERL for rehabilitation and placement. We are happy to say that all four have new 'forever' homes.... Also in the February newsletter was a follow-up story showcasing **Little Bit**, now known as Sugar. Here are the other 3 ...

**Dallas**, a 5 year old palomino paint gelding and now an excellent trail horse, was adopted by Rich. Rich is the dad of our foster parent, and he worked with Dallas as soon as he arrived at the farm. He soon fell in love with him and decided he couldn't let him go and wanted to adopt him. They are now working on miles of trail time.



Dallas

**TidBit**, the 1½ year old paint filly, went to the same foster home for her rehabilitation and training.. Although Rich was the one that has worked hard and started her training, it was Scott's wife Laura who fell in love this time, and Scott decided to surprise Laura with Tidbit as an Easter present. Who needs bunny rabbits???

**Sweet Pea**, aka **Butterscotch**, was by far in the worse condition of the bunch. She is a 3yo sorrel pony mare and was certainly the low one in the pecking order – she apparently only got leftovers if anything. I was headed to Foster Mom Susan McCullar's home to send Sugar off to her new home when I receive a call from a gentleman looking for a pony for his granddaughters. Long story short, after hearing what I had to say about the pony's disposition, Danny B. beat me over to Susan's house and another love story began – if not about Danny, certainly about his granddaughters.



Tidbit



Sweet Pea



**Thank You !!!**  
**to all GERL supporters ... this is what it is all about!**



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**LIVE GDA  
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**Saturday June 5, 2010**

*Registration/Check-in Starts at 9am!*

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- Enjoy breath-taking terrain at one of Georgia's Premier & Private Equestrian Facilities!
- Includes Lunch & a Drink!
- All proceeds will directly benefit horses in our state and your fee is tax-deductible!
- LIVE & Silent Auctions on Quality Items Donated to G.E.R.L.!
- Short Equine Massages!

Come out and ride at the gorgeous Foxhall Farm to benefit horses impounded by the Georgia Department of Agriculture— Equine Division! Truly an event unlike any other, we will have guided trail rides for beginners through advanced, clinicians such as Drew Olsen from Southern Horsemanship who will do a brief demonstration, an Equine Massage Therapist, a live auction of rehabilitated GDA horses and a live and silent auction of horse items donated to G.E.R.L. All disciplines are welcomed and the donation is \$25 per rider if you pre-register, which includes lunch. If you would like to just come out and enjoy the festivities and have lunch, the donation is \$10 per person if you pre-register. Be sure to bring your checkbook and leave room on the trailer, as we are doing this to raise funds for the horses and would also like to find a few lucky GDA horses a ride home! For additional info. and registration forms, please e-mail event organizers or visit [www.gerltd.org/events.htm](http://www.gerltd.org/events.htm).

**PLEASE COME OUT AND JOIN US FOR A GREAT AND TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CAUSE!!!**

## GERL Dollars At Work!

These are photos of the run in sheds that GERL paid for at the Pulaski Prison Impound in Hawkinsville.



Dear GERL,

Thank you for your generous sponsorship of the Georgia Department of Agriculture equine impound auction on February 27, 2010 in Morgan County. I am greatly appreciative of the donation of items for the silent auction table and most of all for all of the volunteers who showed up to help. GERL took on many tasks that day; everything from bid taking, to grooming, to leading horses through the ring, to public relations. The Rescue League certainly helped make the event a success. Thanks to the support of GERL our program is able to respond to the needs of horses requiring impoundment due to inhumane treatment.

Again, I appreciate your donation, your concern, and your willingness to help support our efforts towards the care and rehabilitation of abused animals. Please be assured that your willingness to take supportive action plays a vital role in alleviating suffering and saving lives. Thank you for helping to give impounded horses a second chance.

Sincerely,

Robin Easley  
Equine Health Field Supervisor

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*Watch for our new Spring merchandise in your next newsletter!*

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### **Our Thoughts & Prayers Are With You**

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!

### **Donations In Memory Of**

Captain Charlie by Shelley MacMillan

Savannah by Bob Long

### **Thank You**

Gillian Hayward of Snellville  
for the donations given at the GERL Day  
at Countryside Hospital for Animals

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

John Lynn  
Mary Jane Mallady  
Susie Hansen  
Charlene Schubert



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

Samantha Ball  
Covered Bridge Equine  
Nancy Fitzgibbons  
Kay Watson  
Clarence Gissendanner  
Dr. Kathy Basnar

### **Donations in Honor Of**

Barry Sheehy by Christine Sheehy

### **Thank You For Your Change Jars**

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

**GERL has several areas in which  
volunteers are needed.**

**We need help manning booths at various  
events, speaking to groups about GERL,  
helping with GDA auctions and more!**

**If you are interested in volunteering your  
time to help GERL, please contact  
Leisa McCannon  
gerlvolunteers@yahoo.com.**

**Thank you!**



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**Eden & Megan**



**Amity**

## More Impound Photos

Eden (mare at the impound) and Megan — GDA Equine Inspector are both “in foal”

Amity as written about on page 24

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