

GERL Helps Horses in Georgia

By Anne Ensminger

Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. (GERL) has been raising money for the rescue of starved and abused horses in Georgia since 1993. The need for this kind of help seems to grow with the passing of time, this due largely to the ailing economy and the fact that there are simply more horses than there are responsible horse owners to care for them.



While members of the Rescue League realize that they can do little to boost the present economy, Patty Livingston, GERL President, strongly believes that reducing the number of horses born in our state each year will eventually create a more beneficial ratio of supply and demand. Smaller numbers of higher quality horses will change the fact that a horse can be bought for only a few dollars and will make horse ownership out of reach for those who now own horses and cannot afford the required care.



As a way to work toward reducing the number of horses used for breeding in Georgia, GERL recently sponsored the first annual “Stallion to Gelding Day”. The event was held on Saturday November 12th. The Rescue League was able to enlist the services of twelve veterinarians all over Georgia who agreed to perform castrations for the reduced rate of only \$100 per stallion and GERL paid half of that; leaving the cost to stallion owners at only \$50. Additionally, senior students from the University of Georgia School Of Veterinary Medicine as well as Veterinary Technician students were invited to take advantage of this learning opportunity. A large number of students participated and actually performed or assisted with the surgeries at Countryside Hospital for Animals near Jersey, GA. These students were under the supervision of UGA Vet School Instructors and the veterinarians at Countryside.

Generous sponsorships were given in support of this event by Pfizer Drug Company, The Unwanted Horse Coalition and Kel-Mac Saddle Club. Other donations were received as well.

The day was a huge success with approximately 100 stallions being castrated safely and at a hugely reduced fee to their owners.