

Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia

Quarterly Newsletter

January, February & March 2020

22 Neglected Horses in Henry County By Cynthia Anderson GERL Vice President

On Friday, February 21st I received a call from Patty Livingston about the 22 neglected horses in Henry Co.

Patty explained that Henry County animal control had contacted her asking for GERL's assistance with a severely neglected large herd of horses. Henry County Police was investigating the case and their Animal Control would be responsible for the care of the horses. They were going to need some help, that's for sure!

GERL was founded in 1993 with the mission to support the GDA's impounded equine. Over the years the GDA started to hand more responsibility for equine cruelty cases over to the counties. In response to this GERL's mission has grown to support all Georgia law enforcement agencies that are willing to prosecute equine cruelty offenders. So here we are with

our first request for assistance with a large herd. With Henry County prosecuting the offenders; GERL stepped up and agreed to pay for the horses feed and hay. As we all know this is an expensive endeavor.

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Tuesday morning Patty Livingston, Linda Kundell, Cynthia Brayton and I went out to see the horses and

> assess the situation. Well, let me tell you it was absolutely horrific. It was all we could do not to burst into tears. There were 22 horses, according to the vet, with a body score of a .7 to about a 3.5. (I did not know you could score a horse below a 1) They are covered in rain rot just looking hopeless. They were in an overgrazed pasture with a couple of round bales of straw. Not even cow hay, just straw. For me the most upsetting was seeing the starving mares trying to nurse their starving foals. I just could not understand how someone could let this happen. The situation is just heart breaking. The intensive care and feed needed to rehabilitate these horses is overwhelming. Henry County

Animal Care and Control could not do this by themselves. We had to do all we could to help these poor horses.

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22 Neglected Horses in Henry County

By Cynthia Anderson, GERL Vice President

Continued from page 1

Working with Geri Yoder and her staff was a wonderful experience. Geri worked with the owner of the property to allow the horses to stay in his pasture. In order to follow the care and feeding instructions provided by the veterinarian. Geri and her staff decided to set up feeding stations. The vet prescribed the horses a very specific diet, specific amounts and specific times to be fed. It consists of Nutrena Safechoice Senior, Manna Pro Max rice bran pellets, Alfalfa and Coastal Bermuda hay. Using 24 panels brought out to the pasture by Geri Yoder and her crew from Henry County Animal care and Control we proceeded to set up the feeding stations. These feeding stations ensure the horses are fed according to the vet's specific instructions.



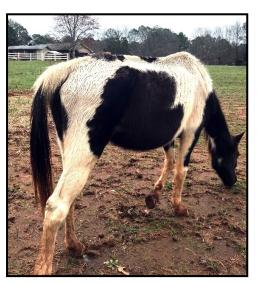
Once the feeding stations were in place, we went to tractor supply with animal control to purchase the feed prescribed by the vet. We also bought a couple mineral blocks and headed back to the horses. These poor horses proved to be smart and went right along with the feeding station plan. They walked in with little trouble, ate, and were then rotated out. I was surprised how quickly the horses caught on. What also surprised me was the competition for the mineral blocks. The horses just could not seem to get enough. Licking and even biting off chunks of the block. One horse tried to lick and guard both blocks at the same time. This was difficult for him since the blocks were about 50 feet apart. He ended up just running back and forth. His actions necessitated moving the blocks to opposite side of the feeding stations. With feed and feeding under control we needed find to hav. With the drought last year resulting in a hay shortage we were unable to find any Coastal Bermuda hay that afternoon and the situa-



tion was desperate. I was able to contact my hay supplier and purchase 3 round bales of coastal hay. I delivered the hay the next afternoon.

A couple of days later Carla Brown with Canine Pet Rescue (they also work with horses) came out and took 6 of the horses to her facility. The rest are under the excellent care of the dedicated staff of Henry County Animal Care and Control. So, where do we go from here? Well, that will depend on the outcome of the criminal case. The best-case scenario will be that the owners will sign the horses over the Henry County. Then the horses can be adopted out to loving forever homes. If the owners do not sign them over, then we

must wait for the case to be adjudicated. Even with 16 horses left on the property, the feed bill has already run over \$2500 after only 25 days into the seizure by Henry County Police Department.



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22 Neglected Horses in Henry County

By Cynthia Anderson, GERL Vice President

Continued from page 2

This is one of the most heart wrenching and difficult cases I have seen. Thanks to the hard working and caring folks at Henry County Animal Care and Control, Henry County Police Department, Canine Pet Rescue and Georgia Equine Rescue League the future for these horses is looking bright. I also want to thank all of the people who have already donated! With your help we ARE making a difference!

If you are interested in helping with the care and rehabilitation of these horses, please consider donating to GERL. 100% of your donation goes directly to the care of these horses.

To donate visit GERL's Facebook page or the website for https://gerlltd.org.





GERL Volunteers and Henry County Animal Control staff pose for a quick photo .

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Orion's Story By Amy Scruggs

When my mom died 4 years ago, I thought my world had come to an end. And it had as I knew it. My mom was diagnosed with Stage 4 Non-Small Cell Carcinoma in February. She would die Christmas morning of that same year. Around Thanksgiving of that same year she and I had had a very serious talk about the person I was in a relationship with (he was an extremely abusive person, and while I never said it to her, she of course knew), and she was lightly pushing me toward making some changes in my life in general. She told me that I should do the GERL Rescue Challenge the next year no matter what. So, I promised her I would. She told me: "You have to be brave baby girl. I know you have it in you." I wear a bracelet every day that simply says "be brave" that was hers as a reminder.

As promised, I applied to the Challenge and thankfully was accepted. When it was time to choose horses, the last one I wanted to draw was the recently castrated gelding. But I did draw him of course! The day I met him; it was not love at first sight. He was a hot mess and I knew I had my work cut out for me. Robin and Gene Garland had done such a beautiful job of helping this little guy get sound in body at their foster home, and now it was my job to



fix the rest. The first trailer loading took 5 hours. And a lot of tranquilizers.

During our 120 days, Orion and I spent every moment together that I wasn't at work or sleeping. About 20 days in, I had mounted him for the first time. We had gone on 2 walks with a handler. Walk number 2, he exploded under saddle. I gave it a pause in the riding training and went back to the ground work. This just wasn't his personality. He could be a jerk, and dramatic, but he just wasn't explosive not like that anyway. We tried again. It happened again. I went to Tamma Trump and pleaded my case - I had no proof other than my gut feeling that something was physically wrong with my otherwise sound horse. It was all part of "being brave" and I knew my mom had hand-picked this horse for me. I just didn't know why yet. Tamma spoke with Patty Livingston and she got approval to take him to UGA for testing.

Come to find out that the huge scar he had on his right hind



was actually a recently healed fracture. Well no wonder! UGA gave us physical therapy to do with him and that would become the remainder of my training with him. So, we started going on walks. And we started jogging. And we spent time reading books together. We would do everything that we possibly could on the ground for hours and hours. And that's when we fell in love.

We went on to the Challenge, and he was a complete super star throughout the entire thing. The night before the Challenge, I finally got to ride him again. This time without a handler, and we walked the complete arena together as one. He did all the tests the next day and did them all with amazing skill and I was so proud of my little yellow pony. Later that night, we dropped him off at Robin and Gene's house again and I knew that would be the last time I saw him because obviously a horse this nice would be adopted right away! I was saying goodbye to my best friend because I couldn't afford two horses. I have never cried that hard in my life.



Orion arrives at Gene and Robin's March 2016

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Fast forward 7 months - I had been to visit him on a couple of occasions but it was not the same - he just seemed so sad and a touch angry. And not because of anything anyone was doing (he was getting the absolute best care), but I knew his sadness was because we were apart - and I knew that because I felt it, too. Even Robin had mentioned that this was not the same horse she had before, and not in a good way. He ended up going on to Steven Neal's foster home for a while. He was still struggling hard to handle his new life. In truth, so was I. I now didn't know how to be me without him.



I had met a man through a mutual friend who lived in Arizona. We had been seeing each other since before the Challenge, had recently gotten engaged, and I was moving out there. Cece Calli heard about my plan to

move and she and I talked about perhaps bringing Orion with me. I asked my fiancé what he thought, and his response was "just get that horse on the trailer already. Anyone can see how much you love each other." And so, we did. And someone anonymously paid his adoption fee as a wedding present to Chris and me. What a gift that was!

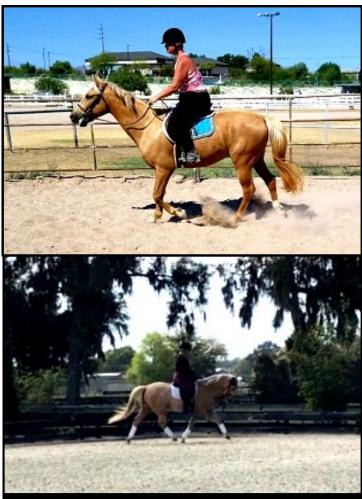
We were in Arizona for a year and a half before my husband was transferred to South Georgia a year ago. While we were in Arizona, the little guy had been re-started (again ha ha!) under saddle and had decided that he wanted to dance for a living. He was flourishing again, and he was happy! So, this very hunter rider hung up my jumping saddle for a dressage one. We worked with an amazing trainer out there, Mike Goss, who not only taught me how to be a true partner to my horse, but also that dressage can fix most of what ails a horse physically if done correctly.

We have continued on that journey and he had a very successful horse show season last year! He even won an end of the year award even though we only did two shows. Last weekend, my little feral throw-away horse had a lesson with the great Conrad Schumacher. Mr. Schumacher told me after our lesson that the same throw-away horse was "a very nice horse and you should have good success with him." Even in this moment, I cannot put into words how this makes me feel. The past two and a half years of seeing my best friend every day, learning from him, watching him flourish, holding his hand as he holds mine as we navigate life and become true dancing partners - I could never have asked for a more amazing gift. Had GERL not taken a chance on him, and had they not worked with me to find a way to bring us together permanently, my life would certainly not be the same, and certainly it would be a life half lived. I know we are both so thankful for this or-



Orion horse show 2019

ganization and the people who make dreams for both humans and horses come true.



Top photo is "Before"; Bottom photo is 2.5 years later!

GERL Finds New Homes for Three Ponies

The GERL hotline and Facebook page receive requests regularly from people trying to rehome their horses or ponies. One such call came in from a man who was actually the neighbor to the owner, an elderly woman who had 2 mini horses and a pony. All were broke to ride and came with tack. Her husband was very ill, and she was his primary caregiver. Her own health had become compromised and she was no longer to take care of the ponies. GERL arranged to pick up them up the next day. They names are Molly (the mini), Selena (larger mini) and Abey, a 12 hand, 20-year-old sorrel pony.

Within a month we had found perfect homes for all three. Selena went to GERL Vice President, Cynthia Anderson's farm. She has several grandchildren who will enjoy her. Molly is living large at "Your Angel Wings", a therapeutic non-profit located in Monroe that specializes in children with special needs. And, Abey went to a special family that has adopted from GERL in the past, but now have four children!



Abey with her new family.

Molly with a guest at "Your Angel Wings".



Abey with her kids.



\The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) is excited to announce a brand-new program that will promote and support therapeutic equine services to our veterans. This program, much like GERL's other programs, will be part of the Equine Get Well Plan that was written and designed to fix Georgia's unwanted horse problems. The mission of GERL's "Horses Heal Veterans" program is to support and promote non-profit equine therapeutic organizations that cater to veterans with PTSD.

The 2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Report shows a staggering rise in veteran suicides from fourteen to seventeen per day. Twenty out of one hundred veterans are currently suffering from PTSD. There is a need to help heal visible and invisible wounds and help our heroes adapt their lives back into civilian society.

Rescue horses are exceptional therapy animals for veterans because they share a keen sense of their surroundings for survival. Most also share a history of trauma. Just as soldiers are taught to be aware of their environment at all times for their safety, horses share this hypervigilance as a prey animal. Dependence on the herd for survival makes the horse an expert at relationships. Their authenticity and ability to mirror a human's behavior can help teach a veteran how they come across to others and to recognize and acknowledge their own emotions. Veterans tend to isolate themselves. The purpose of rehabilitating a rescue horse shows them they are needed and gives them the ability to put their skills to work.

The number of returning veterans suffering from PTSD who could benefit from this type of therapy is staggering. The number of equine therapeutic organizations in Georgia are few, causing a long backlog of veterans who could benefit. For some, they may not have a lot of time. GERL thinks that giving back to our veterans is a worthwhile endeavor and has budgeted monies in 2020 to help support and promote existing and start-up non-profit equine therapeutic organizations that work with veterans. Waypoint Ranch in Carrollton, Unbridled Joy in Bold Springs and The Calvin Center in Hampton are 3 such facilities. We hope that our members and supporters will join us in this wonderful endeavor!



January, February & March 2020

Spotlight on Our Area Coordinators

Brian Greene

I'm honored to be serving the equine community as GERL Area Coordinator in Walton County. When I retired from Hewlett Packard three years ago, I moved to a small acreage farm in Covington, where I keep my two horses, Legacy and Dreamer. Currently, most of my riding is on trails and cross-country at Ashland Farm in Walnut Grove.

In 2005, I began training hunter/jumper, and bought my first horse the following year. Since that time, I've enjoyed getting to know some of the great people at GERL and others in the community. I adopted a GERL horse in 2018, so I experienced firsthand the good work that GERL does to re-home and care for horses in Georgia.

Brian Greene GERL Area Coordinator – Walton County







FOX 5 Visits with GERL

FOX 5 news reporter, Emilie Ikeda, requested an interview with GERL President Patty Livingston to talk about the Henry County Horses that had been seized recently. It wasn't possible to meet at the location of the seized horses, so it was decided that the interview would take place at Patty's farm in Bethlehem. Volunteers Rylee Nash and Linda Kundell were also present and were interviewed by Emilie. The story will air towards the end of March. If you missed it, check out the GERL website for a link to the interview.



FOX 5 News Reporter Emilie Ikeda with Maggie Mae and Garth Brooks.

AreaCoordinators

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> Area Coordinator Director Patty Livingston (770) 867-0760 gerlpatty@yahoo.com

AREA COORDINATORS NEEDED in MIDDLE AND SOUTH GEORGIA!

We Need You!! Please consider volunteering to be GERL's horse "go to person" in your area. The types of things that you might be asked to do would be to perform a "drive-by" to check out a "skinny horse" report in your area. Perhaps someone in your area has applied to adopt one of our horses and we need someone to perform a farm visit. Please call Patty Livingston at the number above if you can spare a little of you time.

BIO's online: https://gerlltd.org/area-coordinators/

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING GERL THROUGH THE AMAZON SMILES PROGRAM.

As of August 2019 GERL has received \$3,162.82. That is very encouraging, thank you to those who always go to the Amazon Smile link and support GERL while you do your shopping. If you shop on Amazon through their Amazon Smiles program, 0.5% of your purchase is donated to GERL. In order to support GERL through the Amazon Smiles program, all you have to do is go to https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-2080606 and choose Georgia Equine Rescue League as your charity. You also have to begin shopping via that link in order for your purchases to be credited toward GERL. What a great way to support a great cause without spending any of your own money.

You can find links to both of these programs on the GERL website at https://gerlltd.org. Our thanks go out to all of you who have chosen to support GERL through these programs.

amazonsmile You shop. Amazon gives.



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Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipe

Chicken Fajitas

INGREDIENTS FOR THE MARINADE

- 1/2 c. plus 1 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 c. lime juice, from about 3 limes
- 2 tsp. cumin

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- 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 3 bell peppers, thinly sliced
- 1 large onion, thinly sliced
- Tortillas, for serving



- 1. In a large bowl, whisk together 1/2 cup oil, lime juice, cumin, and red pepper flakes. Season chicken with salt and pepper, then add to bowl and toss to coat. Let marinate in the fridge at least 30 minutes and up to 2 hours.
- 2. When ready to cook, heat remaining tablespoon oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add chick-

en and cook until golden and cooked through, 8 minutes per side. Let rest 10 minutes, then slice into strips.

3. Add bell peppers and onion to skillet and cook until soft, 5 minutes. Add chicken and toss until combined. Serve with tortillas.

Condolences

Many of you may remember a horse named Juliet that graced the cover of our July Aug Sept 2019 newsletter. She was a very skinny, pregnant mare that was picked up by the Georgia Department of Agriculture back in July of last year and was also the "hands-on" model for the law enforcement training meetings hosted by GERL. She recently foaled and unfortunately, the colt had a very rare problem where he had no bone tissue in his hocks and knees. He would not be able to support his own weight as he grew so euthanasia was recommended. In order to cause the least amount of trauma to Juliet she was allowed to stay with her foal after he was put down in order for her to better internalize her loss. All of the caretakers at the barn were devastated by this news. Condolences from GERL. Thank you for what you do! RIP little foal.



Juliet attended LE training in LaGrange

Juliet the day before she foaled.



Jessie Murray and Juliet

Who's Who Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

Board Members

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> **GERL Advisory Board** Rhonda Veit, DVM

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

Interested in becoming an Area Coordinator?

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

GDA and Other Updates

For those of you who like to know where GERL spends your donated dollars, below is an update since our last quarterly newsletter:

- GERL provided \$684 to assist individuals under our Crisis Intervention Program. The money went toward feed, hay and vet care while their owners overcome short term issues such as job loss or medical issues.
- GERL provided \$317 for vet care for horses at the Mansfield impound barn.
- GERL provided \$1,244 for feed for the 3 GDA impound barns
- GERL provided \$2,511 for feed and hay for the horses at Henry County.
- GERL provided \$600 for building materials for an equine shelter Effingham County Animal Control.

Join our Feed A Horse Program

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!



Itty Bitty Before



Itty Bitty After

I would like to make a donation of: \$\overline\$ \$150.00 per month for 4 months to rehabilitate one horse. \$\overline\$ \$600.00 one time donation to rehabilitate one horse. \$\overline\$ \$ per month to help rehabilitate the horses. \$\overline\$ \$ any donation is gladly accepted! or donate online (@ https://gerlltd.org		"Feed a Horse" Program	
			https://gerlltd.org
Name:			
Address: Telephone #:	City: Email:	State:	Zip:
			Your donation is

Disaster Preparedness Training in Adel, Georgia

By Cynthia Anderson

Georgia Equine League (GERL) was invited to participate in a disaster preparedness training workshop in Adel, Georgia on March 5-7, 2020. This training was sponsored by Georgia Animal Care and Control Association (GACCA) and the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA). It was a very intensive 3 day training workshop and covered all aspects of disaster preparedness.

It started out on Wednesday with the usual introductions; then quickly moved into a more active mode. Attendees started out with Venessa Sims (GDA) presenting a FADSAFE exercise. This exercise provides training for those people involved in all major livestock industries. The training is designed to enhance the existing disease emergency preparedness and response. There were legislative updates presented by Claudine Wilkins from The Animal Protection/Animal Law Source. Venessa Sims (GDA) presented ZAHP (Zoo Animals and Aquarium all Hazards Preparedness) Fusion Center presentation and Exotic Survey This addressed developing partnerships with state and local emergency responders, private sector groups concerned with animal welfare and emergency management. After the break Mark Murrah (GDA) addressed the GDA disaster plan regulatory requirements. Venessa Sims and Mark Murrah (GDA) discussed evacuation recommendations, evacuee and host evacuation shelters. Then several presenters from the EMA and Animal services talked about lessons they learned from the Hurricane Irma and Michael disasters in Georgia.

Thursday started off with a presentation with Mark Murrah (GDA) answering questions from Wednesday's sessions. Then, Venessa Sims (GDA) presented on barn fires. She provided a lot of very useful information on causes and preventions of barn fires. The most common cause of barn fires are box fans in stalls and barns. So, please make sure if you have box fans in your barn that they are rated for dust. Remember that hay should not be stored in barns with horses, if at all possible. Make sure and check all electrical sources!

Then I was able to present on Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL). I discussed the history of GERL, our programs, and what we are able to do to support law enforcement and Animal control throughout the state. There was a lot of questions and discussion on the necessity of prosecution of animal cruelty laws and the need for restitution. The attendees were amazed on how much money GERL has spent over the years supporting the equine impounded by the GDA. They had no idea of the actual cost of taking care of equine or what is involved in the care. There were only a few attendees that had experience in dealing with equine. showed pictures of shelters and panels we provided to Adel. Adel animal control then showed pictures of how they were able to get the funding to remove the panels and put fencing around the shelters. The panels are now on the sides of their trailer and used to work with confining and loading animals at large. It was wonderful to see how GERL was able to help and Adel animal control was able expand their ability to deal with large animals. It also provided a real life example of how GERL is able to help animal control and law enforcement that are willing to prosecute animal cruelty offenders.

There was supposed to be some hands-on horse handling training. However, this was cancelled due to the torrential rain in Georgia on Thursday. This training was done indoors using the model horse. I was amazed how much basic horse handling could be done inside with a model horse. It was fun and innovative thanks to the GDA. Friday was presentation of Agricultural toxin by Dr. Robert Geller from the Georgia Poison Center and a wrap up of GACA old and new business.

As we have always known the training and support of law enforcement and animal control officers is very important. This is why we have been diligent in providing this free training at least twice a year to animal control and law enforcement officers throughout the state. With the GDA moving toward providing more training to animal control and law enforcement agencies, I think the money GERL used to providing free training could be better spent helping these agencies and equine throughout the state. I say let the GDA sponsor the training and we can just present the information on GERL and network. What do you think?



GERL ADOPTABLES

For adoption fees and additional information, please contact CeCe Calli, Adoption Coordinator. (706) 371-6804 / adopt@gerlltd.org



Kourtney is a 14.3 hh 4 year old Sorrel QH Mare. She had hernia surgery last year at UGA and missed the opportunity to go into the 2019 Rescue Challenge. She is such a nice horse we hate to keep her stashed for the next Rescue Challenge due to the fact that it is not until 2021. This is a nice mare! Look!



Braveheart is one of the "Six Amigos" herd of feral horses that GERL brought into the foster program recently. He is approximately 13.3 hh, 4-year-old Bay Grade stallion. He has been totally rehabbed since this photo and is currently at a trainer's to be halter broke. He will be gelded soon!



Sox is one of the "Six Amigos" herd of feral horses that GERL brought into the foster program. He is approximately 13.3 hh, 4-year-old Bay Grade stallion. He has been totally rehabbed since this photo and is currently at a trainer's to be halter broke. He will be gelded soon!



Yankee is a 15 hh 15 year old Blue Roan QH Gelding. He was a stallion when he was picked up by the GDA, but was gelded in October of 2018. He has an old injury to his left front pastern. Pasture Pal only.. He is easy to handle & good for farrier.

Visit our website for up to date adoptable horses: https://gerlltd.org

Donations to the 22 Horses in Henry County

Andrea Blaesing	Nicole Parker	Sandy Allen
Alice Brown	Susan Harris	Janice Raiford
Jill Carbonaro	Andreia Brandon	Tiffany Connor
Casey Lawless	Katharine Tate	Hannah Bowden
Alexandria Walker	Jennifer Hutchinson	Mary C Karom
Lynn Williams	Dana Ashford, The Ashford Law	Barbara Bruno
Neal Frenkel	Firm	Mary-Ellen Mateyka
Gwynn Glasscock	Teri West	In Memory of Bandit by Debbie
Summer Crawford	Melanie Kirk	Vidzes
Barbara Colquitt	Heather Breedlove	Carole Paige
Yvonne Everson	Debra Anderson	Barbara Beck Pryor
Teri West	Martina Hemming	Stephen Boot
Melanie Wilhoite	Tonya Krajc	Greg & Linda Cook
Keota Golden	Nancy Fox	Bob & Margaret Wallace
Lisa Hawkins	Linda Gresham	Sylvia Wade
Amelia Bolton	Beth Jones	Lisa Sikes
Frances Wechsler	Jennifer Ward	Jane Estes
Christine Dixon	Mark Tucker	Alice Farrar
Jennifer Suarino	Crystal Francis	Jane Buckler
Paula Adams	Becky Phillips	Carol Brady
	Ziggy Fulton	Martina Hemming

In Memory of

Sydney Marcus by Marilyn Kirkover Gina, Mushy, Whiskey, Kimmy, Nicky, Mickey, Ranson, Delilah & Sheriff by Thomas Zilahi Chris Altizer by Renata & Luigi Grugni Da-Koh-tah by Dr. Ava Talmage Donna Overdorf by Jennifer Donahue Blue, beloved horse of Louisa Branscomb, by Dr. Ava Talmage Billy Skinner by Denise Stiles & family Bob Hatcher by Denise Stiles & family Carol Doeffinger and family by Jenna Reid Silvia Mooney, Andee Rogers, Jeff Carroll and Clifford Herrington by Diana Kelsey

Please visit our website for articles, membership application and general information: https://gerlltd.org

Georgia Equine Rescue League's Annual Meeting

By Cynthia Anderson

On February 8, 2020 Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) held their annual meeting in Winder Ga. The annual meeting is held to inform the members of GERL of the events of the past year, monies raised, monies spent, and the annual budget. All changes and the events scheduled for the upcoming year are also discussed and plans made. Members also get to socialize and enjoy a wonderful potluck. Well, Let me tell you this was one of the more eventful annual meeting GREL has held.

I arrived early with other members to help with the set up. Shortly after arriving I noticed that a few snowflakes were starting to swirl around. As we unloaded and set up it started snowing harder

and harder. By the time we were unloaded, had the flea market set up there was a couple of inches on the ground. Coming up to Winder from middle Georgia, I had no idea there was a chance of snow. We don't see much snow in middle Georgia, and it was beautiful. What I did not think about was how it was going to affect our meeting. I was just excited to see it accumulating on the ground.

That snow drastically affected the meeting. We ended up without a silent auction, as Sue Wrensen could not get to the meeting. Our guest speaker could not get to the meeting and we about 20 or more people show up. What were we to do? No silent auction no guest speaker We decided to eat. After eating lunch Patty Livingston, president of GERL, gave us an update on the budget, the changes with the GDA, upcoming event, and the direction GERL is moving.

Since our guest speaker did not show up Cindy Burtt, from Unbridled Joy, talked about her facility and where she is wanting to start a program to help Veterans through equine therapy. What a great program she is trying to start. I was very impressed with what she is trying to do. This program goes right along with the new program GERL is starting this year call Horses Help Veterans. Before Christmas someone contacted



Patty about a facility in in Carrolton Ga. called Way-

point Ranch. Waypoint Ranch has a program that works with veterans. This contact is where the idea for Horses Help Veterans came from. Now with Cindy Burtt speaking at the meeting and her help the program Horses Help Veterans is coming to fruition.

Nancy Cox spoke about the Georgia Horse Council, (GHC) progress with the Horse Fair GHC is putting on in 2021. The facility is secured with a date. Leads needed for the event are in place. The Rescue Challenge will be held during the horse fair and seems to be moving forward. It looks like the Horse Fair is going to be quite a success. Remember, volunteers will be needed and appreciated for the Horse Fair.

Jacki Moore's hard work with the flea market proved to be quite successful. Apparel sales and memberships were also quite successful. GERL actually brought in more money at this meeting over some others. All in all, the meeting was quite a success and the weather was suitable for all of the attendees to drive home. A good time was had by all that attended, and the snow was beautiful!



Feed A Horse

John Lynn Carol Royer Erik Wittenzellner Bonnie LaVoie Constance Burchette Bennett J. Hudson Addyson Giametta Lori Gooden Vickie Hall Teresa Hlywa Susan J Bourbeau Bill Craig Mark Tucker Henry Bell Christopher Gregory

Thank You For Your Donations

Linda Kundell Lauren Norwood Kim Hampton Sherry Massey Susan Lang **Beulah Newton** Max Resnick Angela M. Samuels Cecelia Severens Terri Milburn Steven B. Neal Victoria Daniels Carol Sauers Karen Stubbs Victoria Joyce Tonia Epps & Family Stacy Hurd Angela King W Payne Consulting

Welcome New Members

Anna Lanier Laurie Wilder Carolyn Love Casey Caddell Lisa Clark Gudrun Dees Hannah Bowden Verleen Flaig Shelby Fields Kimberly Ann Deloney

Donations To The Six Amigos

Marge Mabey in Memory of Keeper Bar G Horse & Cattle Supply



Please visit our website for articles, membership application and general information: https://gerlltd.org



Please visit our website for articles, membership application and general information: www.gerlltd.org

GERL Calendar of Events - Mark Your Calendars!

September 5, 2020 Andee Rogers Memorial Poker Ride

Register online—https://gerlltd.org



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! *Visit our website for up to date information on events: https://gerlltd.org*



LET ME SAY THIS...ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

I received a call back in February from Henry County Animal Control requesting GERL's help with feeding a herd of 22 horses that had been seized by the City of McDonough Police Department. The GERL Board of Directors approved the expense and we immediately set up a visit to see the horses. It was a first-time event for most of the employees at the Henry County Animal Control, but they rose to the occasion by buying a load of panels to contain the skinniest horses to allow them to eat. They got the vet out there right away to evaluate them. Of course, they had picked up horses in the past, but dealing with 22 horses was a whole different ball game!

It was thought in the beginning that Henry County might be able to move the most critical care horses to the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Mansfield barn, but that didn't happen. The barn was practically empty, so it wasn't a matter of not having room. There was a lot of commotion over that on social media and many people were enraged. It made me realize how horse neglect/abuse cases would be handled in the future. And let me say this, about that...I am good with it. As a personal witness to the process that has been followed for the past ten years, I can honestly say that it was not working, and something needed to change.

For years the State inspectors have been reaching out to the county to get involved in equine neglect/abuse cases in their community. If the horse needed to be picked up, the State would negotiate with the County to prosecute the offender if the GDA took the horse(s) to their impound barn. The County usually agreed, and the horse drove off into the sunset as the property of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Most equine that have come into the State's impound barns are very thin, therefore it is expected that they will be a resident for a minimum of 3 to 4 months. The problem was that many of them were there for 1 or 2 years. GERL was spending a whole lot of money feeding horses that were fat.

Months down the road, and in some cases years, the case would go to court and seldom would the offender be prosecuted. In addition, restitution was never sought. I do believe that it is necessary for each participant to have some skin in the game in order for the mutual respect to exist among the parties. Having said that, GERL hasn't had restitution except one time in 12 years and I can vouch for the fact that we have spent a boat load of money rehabilitating other people's horses!

The auctions that were held to sell the horses were somewhat of a disappointment. Not by any fault of anyone in particular. Very few people showed up to bid on the horses and the majority of horses brought very low bids. Horses that didn't ride, including babies, didn't sell. This left a glut of unrideable horses between the three impounds that nobody wanted.

GERL and the GDA have been educating law enforcement on how to prosecute equine cruelty cases for 10 years now. We have had hundreds of animal control, sheriff's deputies and police attend our classes. Why are we not seeing more people prosecuted?

Since GERL was now dealing directly with Henry county, we were able to negotiate a couple of prerequisites for furnishing the feed. I requested that the prosecutors ask for restitution for GERL via the "Cost of Care Act" and I also asked that GERL have first choice of the horses when they are released by the owner(s). They agreed to both and I'm hoping that we have turned a corner in the way we do things in the future when dealing with horse impoundments with the counties.



With Your Help we...Will Make A Difference!

A Note from the Secretary's Desk

by Lisa Muffley



My name is Lisa Muffley and I am the newly elected Secretary of GERL. Most of you know that Tamma moved at the end of last year, so Cynthia moved into the vice-president position. That left the secretary position open, so I filled it at the January meeting. I will do my best to follow in Cynthia's footsteps!

I have been married for 35

years to my wonderful husband Bob, who although has nothing to do with horses, willingly volunteers along with me. We have 2 grown children, Bobby is 33 and Morgan is 31.

I always had horses growing up, so when Morgan was 6 years old, I bought her a very gentle standard size donkey. I knew ponies could be a handful and dangerous until you learned how to handle them. So for 2 years she rode her donkey, Maude. Then someone told me about the United States Pony Club, and I enrolled Morgan. Pony Club originated in England, and "Pony" refers to the child, not the mount. Children are allowed to be members until the age of 21. But there are actually more horses in the clubs than ponies.

I became the club leader, which was called the District Commissioner, {D.C.},and I also was in the Horse Management program. At pony club rallies, parents are not allowed to help kids, so a barn full of 60-100 pony clubbers is overlooked by 5-7 adults trained in the horse management program. Believe me, it is much more interesting being in those barns, than gossiping with the parents! I also was the event leader for several of these rallies which took place at the International Horse Park.

After Morgan aged out, I continued volunteering, but it just didn't feel as satisfying any more. There were so many parents of participating pony clubbers who could do what I was doing. So when a friend invited me to a GERL Challenge event, I knew I had found my new opportunity. I've been getting my feet wet, meeting people and volunteering at events, and I am an area coordinator for Clarke, Oconee and Madison Co. So hopefully I will be able to tackle this position and do a good job over time. If you have any suggestions, Please call, text or email me!

Thank you!

GERL Volunteer of the Quarter

By Patty Livingston

Seldom do you meet someone who loves to clean tack. I didn't believe it when Jacki Moore told me that about herself. She had just volunteered to take over GERL's flea market inventory. Nobody likes to clean tack, do they? Well, if I had any doubts I didn't have to wait long to see. Jacki showed up at our annual meeting with great looking tack. It was all clean and neatly organized. I could hardly believe that this was the same stuff that she had picked up at my house a few weeks prior to the meeting. They say presentation is everything and I would say from the amount of money that Jacki was able to pull in from the flea market, nothing could be more true!

Jacki did the same amazing thing at the flea market that she set up and manned at the Rescue Challenge the last couple of years. It may not seem like a big deal, but what a difference it has made in revenue and in people's interest in shopping and supporting GERL flea markets.

BIG thanks to Jacki Moore for stepping up and helping out in such a unique way!

GERL Provides Equine Shelter to Effingham County Animal Control

Dear Patty and Members of GERL,

We at Effingham County Animal Shelter appreciate your donation of supplies. We strive to make sure our animals are as comfortable as possible if they come through our doors. GERL has made sure we will be able to do just that.

Thank you to Inspector Miller for letting us know GERL had this program.

Sincerely,

Lorna Shelton, Director Effingham County Animal Shelter



Photos of equine shelter at Effingham County Animal Control furnished by GERL, recently.

GERL 2019 Financial Results

INCOME

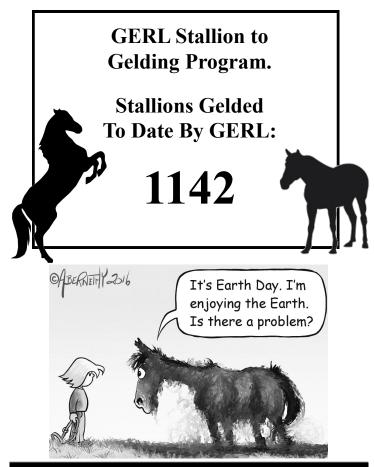
- We raised \$34,186 at FUNDRAISERS.
- We received \$9,355 in MEMBERSHIPS.
- We received \$52,951 in DONATIONS.
- Feed-A-Horse Program brought in \$6,600.
- Program donations (Amazon, Kroger, etc.) brought in \$3,734.
- We received \$26,500 from Foundation Grants and Trusts.

TOTAL INCOME 2019 = \$114,244

EXPENSES

- We spent \$79,487 assisting horses.
- We spent \$1,153 on MERCHANDISE.
- We spent \$10,240 on the NEWSLETTER.
- We spent \$10,897 on FUNDRAISING
- We spent \$25,788 on OPERATIONS (insurance, postage fees, technical support, etc.).

TOTAL EXPENSES 2019 = \$129,679



Horses in our Foster Care Program

CeCe Calli—Foster Care Coordinator (706) 376-2410 foster@gerlltd.org

HORSES	FOSTER HOME
Kourtney	Susan McCullar
Sox	CeCe Calli
Ladybug	Steven Neal
Ransom	Steven Neal
Cooper	Steven neal
Rocky	Patty Livingston
Yankee	Patty Livingston
Ellie	Rylee Nash
Braveheart	Tinker Moffitt
Forrest	Angie Hammond
Jenny	Angie Hammond

Cargill Announces new Ultra Premium Line of Horse Feeds

Cargill Feed has a new ultra-premium line of horse feed, ProElite which has now been incorporated into the SHOW program. Triple Crown POPs will also be accepted.

Please save Proof of Purchase seals from ProElite and Triple Crown and send them to:

Ginny Scarritt, 4835 Kendall Court, Atlanta, GA 30342



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

Please save Proof Of Purchase seals from bags of these Southern States feeds, Legends & Reliance and Triple Crown. *and send them to:* Ginny Scarritt 4835 Kendall Court * Atlanta, GA 30342



Henry County Extension Service – 4-H Horse Program

By Cynthia Brayton, Area Coordinator for Henry and Rockdale Counties

As the GERL Area Coordinator for Henry County, I was asked to make a GERL presentation at the Henry County 4-H Horse Club meeting. I shared the mission of GERL and showed the 4-H Club member the video on our website featuring information from our President, Patty Livingston. I provided information about our horses that are in foster care and available for adoption. The presentation included horse rescue stories with before and after images. There were questions from the students regarding ways their horse club can volunteer to help GERL. We talked about preventing horse abuse and how the 4-H club members can keep us informed about suspected abuse. The students wanted the GERL hotline phone number to report information about a horse that may need attention.

Madison Crawford is the 4-H Volunteer Program Assistant for the Henry County Extension Service. She had this to say about the Henry County 4-H Horse Club:

"Our Club is open to 5th - 12th graders. Most of the children in our club have little to no horse experience though we do have a few that have experience. Our goal is to foster a lifelong love and respect for our equine partners by instilling quality horsemanship while building lasting relationships. We try to provide a variety of equine learning opportunities for every age and all experience levels that are in our club. Some meetings we have hands on experiences with horses. Other meetings we have guest speakers involved in the equine industry. Additional speakers included a horse feed representative from Nutrena who spoke to us about equine nutrition. All in all I want to be able to provide a club that offers the opportunity for kids to learn about the animals I am so passionate about. I hope that it will allow those with little experience and means to be able to be involved with horses. I also hope that those in the club who have horse experience will also be able to further their own knowledge while also sharing it with those less experienced."

The mission of Georgia 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become selfdirecting, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is accomplished through "handson" learning experiences focused on the following core values: Agriculture, Citizenship, Communication Skills, Environment, Family & Consumer Sciences, and Leadership. The 4-H Horse Program is one of the most exciting and enjoyable facets of Georgia 4-H. competitive events include the State 4-H Horse Show, statewide 4-H judging competitions and 4-H Quiz Bowls.



Henry County 4-H Horse Club at Horsenality Clinic with Madison Crawford



4-H Horse Club meeting that we had at High Flight Farm. Owner Pam Levy gave The Club members a tour of the facilities and spoke about what it's like being a professional in the equine industry.



GERL Recognizes Georgia Veterinarians Who Support our Stallion to Gelding Program

by Marian Finco

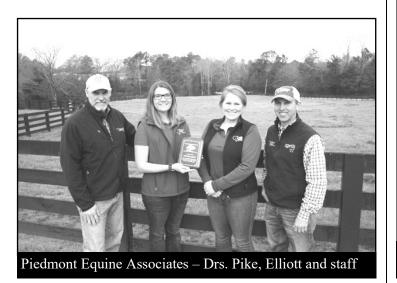
2019 was a successful year for the Stallion to Gelding program with 105 castration procedures done. This very important program, coordinated by Marian Finco, could not have been done without the partnership and volunteerism of 11 veterinary practices throughout Georgia.

The Stallion to Gelding program supports the GERL mission of reducing the number of starved, abused and neglected horses in Georgia. Since the start of this program 9 years ago, more than 1,000 stallions have been gelded.

Plaques recognizing the contributions of these generous equine professionals have presented to:

- Amicalola Veterinary Services, Ava Talmage, DVM
- Barrow Veterinary Service, Robin Barrow, DVM
- Barnesville Animal Clinic Mark Korb, DVM
- Big Spring Veterinary Services Rhonda Veit, DVM
- Countryside Veterinary Services Dan Carter, DVM
- Fulton Equine Clinic Melissa Fulton, DVM
- King Equine Vet Services Logan King, DVM
- Maggie's Menagerie Veterinary Eric Sjoberg, DVM
- New South Equine Medicine Ross Kittrell, DVM
- Philema Veterinary Service Trey Morrison, DVM
- Piedmont Equine Associates Daniel Pike, DVM and John Elliott, DVM
- Royston Animal Hospital Wanda Thompson, DVM
- Southern Crescent Equine Services Jason McLendon, DVM

If you are interested in participating in or learning more about this program, please contact Marian Finco at 706-340-4368. Or go to the GERL website at <u>www.gerlltd.org</u> and click on Events/Programs, then Stallion to Gelding.





Dr. Robin Barrow Barrow Veterinary Service

Dr. Dan Carter, Countryside Vet. Services





Barnesville Animal Clinic

Dr. Jason McLendon Southern Crescent Equine Ser.



Dr. Melissa Fulton Fulton Equine Clinic



Dr. Kittrell's secretary Sheila New South Equine Services

GERL Recognizes Georgia Veterinarians Who Support our Stallion to Gelding Program by Marian Finco



Some photos of participating vets were not available at the time this newsletter went to print. Our apologies for those omissions.

Please visit our website for articles, membership application and general information: https://gerlltd.org

GERL Visits Waypoint Ranch

By Patty Livingston

On March 17th the GERL Board of Directors, Cynthia Anderson, Linda Kundell, Lisa Muffley and myself, along with Cindy Burtt and Lindsay Ragan of Unbridled Joy, took a road trip to Carrollton to visit Waypoint Ranch. They are a non-profit organization that specializes in helping veterans with horses. They are also one of the non-profits that GERL is considering partnering with. Everybody was very impressed with their program and their mission and are looking forward to working with them in the future. Check out www.waypointranch.org.

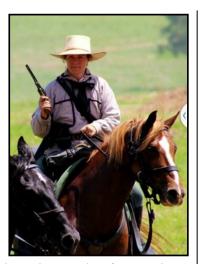


January, February & March 2020

Lucy and Dixon: Where We Are Now

by Jenny Fox

Dixon was one of the horses in the Rescue Challenge in 2014. I was selected as one of the trainers for the challenge and I drew Dixon's name. When I went to pick him up from his foster home, he greeted me with pinned ears and gritted teeth. I think he even kicked at me as I led him to my trailer. I



remember thinking "this is going to be fun." Dixon was pretty aggressive. He was a stallion when GERL took him in. As I began to spend more time with Dixon, I felt a lot safer on his back than I did being on the ground. At least from there he wasn't able to kick and bite me. I also realized how unsocialized he was. I went riding with a group of people and he proceeded to lunge at and attack other horses. Yeah more fun! In the 4 months I had Dixon in preparation for the Rescue Challenge, we really started to get somewhere. So...I just couldn't separate myself from him and was able to adopt him.

Fast forward 5 years. We are participating in about 8 civil war reenactments a year and Dixon is becoming a seasoned battle horse. The horse that used to attack others can stand stirrup to stirrup with different horses. Yes, I have to keep a close eye on him to keep everyone safe, but there has been so much improvement. He is super playful; he loves doing things like grabbing my hoody, playing with the other horses, and moving feed tubs all around. He definitely has a ton of personality. Oh and his looks, he sure is handsome. He has muscled up and is just stunning. I am incredibly proud of Dixon. He keeps me on my toes. He requires a lot of attention and if I wonder off, he is good about keeping me focused on him, usually by grabbing whatever is in my hand, my shirt sleeve, or my hat, whatever he can get a hold of. He is an absolute mess. I love him dearly and life with Dixon is never dull.

I am continually working on things with Dixon. He is teaching me to be a better rider and how to improve my timing. It is a fine line between micromanaging him and giving him an opportunity to make his own decision. Here lately he has not been aggressive to me or other horses and is not rearing (yes he started rearing when he wasn't allowed to attack another horse. More fun things with Dixon). It seems like we are starting to figure things out together.

And then there is Lucy. Lucy was one of the horses in the 2015 Rescue Challenge. I am not sure of where she came from, but what I do know is that Lucy was passed around to



different foster homes and trainers. A lady eventually adopted her, but due to human injuries and illnesses, Lucy was not ridden much. I was asked to help get Lucy going again for her owner. When I went to pick Lucy up, she was so nervous and scared. It was difficult to catch her. I actually had to corner her in a stall to get a halter on her. I remember touching her and it was like touching a tight rubber band. She was unsure of me. My heart went out to her. The hour or so drive I had home with Lucy there was something about her that was grabbing at me. By the time I got home she was dripping sweat even though it was 30 degrees. A few weeks later her owner decided it would be best to re-home Lucy.



Continued on page 27

Lucy and Dixon: Where We Are Now

by Jenny Fox

Continued from page 26

I happily accepted. So now Lucy has her forever home with me. I have had Lucy for a year now. We have learned so much together. For example, we are both learning to slow down and relax. When I first started working with Lucy, she would run around in circles or she would stand still and not move. She was frozen in fear. Lucy can be pretty deceiving. She looks ok even when she's not: she'll start to move and she'll break in two bucking and boy could she buck. She has also required sedation to have



her feet trimmed in the past. I have spent countless hours handling her feet. The farrier can now trim her without sedation! Likewise, we got caught in a vine on a trail ride. She stood perfectly still while I got her untangled. It sure does pay to spend quality time roping feet!

I have started to understand Lucy better and have been able to help her learn to relax. She is balanced now and her confidence is blossoming. I tell her everyday how much I love her and how beautiful she is. She and I trail ride often and she loves working cows. I'm not sure what her job will end up being but for now she's helping me watch for subtle signs and improving my timing in knowing when to help her out. She and I are gaining trust in each other and she is an absolute joy to be around.

Through Lucy and Dixon I have started taking the



timelines away. I have removed the pressure of needing things to be able to be accomplished by a certain time with the horses. It is amazing; not being in a hurry is actually having things happen faster. I thought I would put a couple of rides in on Lucy and she'd be good to go. I was so wrong. I had no idea how troubled she was. I did not ride her for the first few months I had her. She needed to be able to carry herself correctly without a rider involved. Now that she is carrying herself correctly, we are able to start working on many different things. I have been taking her out by herself and really moving out. Her walk and trot are so nice and her can-

ter is improving tremendously. I'm excited to see where we end up. I am so thankful to have Lucy as a new partner.

With horses, it takes time and patience to get things working together. I try to stay as consistent as possible and set them up to succeed. Thank you GERL for seeing something in these two horses. Without GERL there to help these unwanted animals have a second chance, I would be without them. Keep up the good work GERL! Thank you!



The Six Amigos—Where Are They Now

by Patty Livingston

It has been 5 months since GERL brought the Six Amigos into their foster program. One was adopted and the others have been placed in foster homes.

Rocky is very frightened of humans. When we went to pick up this small herd, Rocky jumped over the fence rather than run onto the stock trailer. His back feet got caught and he landed upside down, with his head contorted to one side. We all thought that he had broken his neck. He was freed from the fence, jumped up and ran back into the pen with the other horses. He has duplicated that scenario on



3 other occasions. Basically, any time he feels pressure. On a more positive note, Rocky comes running when I whistle. He is very curious and wants so badly to be around a human. He is coming around, ever so slowly, but he is definitely a project.



Braveheart before Rehab

Braveheart went to Tinker Moffitt's to get halter-broken the day of the vet visit. Despite the fact that he was the friendliest of the six horses, he has proven quite a challenge to halter break. That is step one. Step two is castration!



Continued on page 29

Continued from page 28

Sox has calmed down since arriving at CeCe Calli's farm. He willingly goes into his stall for feeding and stands until his grain is in his bucket and his alfalfa is properly placed in the location he prefers. He allows CeCe to go in with him without snorting. He is still untouchable, but follows his people mom around and is very curious.



Forrest and Jenny are being fostered by Angie Hammond and are thriving. They are peas and carrots! They look very similar and are the best of friends. Both are doing great and getting friendlier and friendlier each day. Angie is now able to halter Jenny and brush her almost all over. Forrest is a little shyer but you can tell he wants the attention. He used to flinch every time she would try to pet his face, but now he welcomes it even though he still allows only his face to be petted. They both eagerly come to the gate and wait when they see Angie coming across the yard.



Jenny before Rehab

Forrest after Rehab

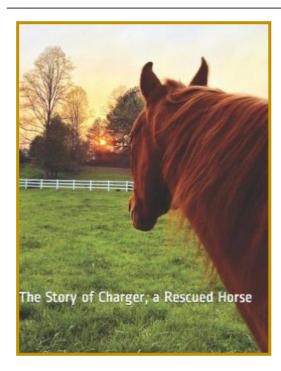
by Patty Livingston

Continued from page 29

Radar, now known as "Frank", the youngest of the herd, is the only one of the 6 that has been adopted. He is keeping company with a miniature donkey named Clint at my neighbor, Angie Woods' farm. Angie is a Parelli enthusiast. I love watching them play and chase each other around the pasture. Radar is still a stallion and is approaching his first birthday in May. His people mom will start working with him soon so that he can be gelded.



Here Comes The Mountain By Patty Livingston



I have written about PL Charger in several of our past newsletters. He is an aged Standardbred gelding that ended up at the Pulaski Women's prison equine program back in 2012. He was sold at one of the GDA auctions and the following years would find him back in a rescue situation that led him to his forever mom, Janis Londraville. Janis has written a book about Charger and it is available in paperback at Amazon for \$20.

I recently bought the book and enjoyed reading about his life after the GDA and his amazing rescue by Janis. He is an amazing horse that now has an amazing story for all to read and enjoy! Big thanks to Janis for giving him another chance at a happy life and telling his story.

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