

Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia

Quarterly Newsletter

April, May & June 2023

GERL Goes to Ft. Stewart

I recently received a phone call from Pete Hoffman, the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Coastal Georgia. He was reaching out to potential partners to keep the Ft. Stewart stables in a viable position to re-

main open to our military and their fami-He had done lies. some searching on the internet and the Georgia Equine Rescue League came up. I don't know how people called before us, if any, but he and I were on the same immediately. page, Pete, a self-confessed non-horse person, was the person who saw potential and value in calling attention to the plight of the

historical stable facility that was in jeopardy and I wanted to help.

I told him about the two-day workshop that we had helped with last September at the Ranger Camp in Dahlonega. Of course, I told him about Tara Mahoney and Kelly MacCorquodale of Equine Immersion Project (EIP) and their team out of New Hampshire who spearheaded the entire event. I referred him to the newsletter archives located on our website so that he could read the article "GERL Goes to Ranger Camp"

> that graced the front cover of our July Aug Sept 2022 edition. Those photos said more than I could describe as far as how beneficial a similar event could be at Ft. Stewart stables.

There are over twenty-two thousand active duty and their families at Ft. Stewart, and it is also the Soldier Recovery Unit (SRU) wounded warriors. There are many vet-

erans in the area, as well. In fact, Ft. Stewart is the largest base south of the Mississippi. The stables, located just a short distance outside the gates of the base, have never been utilized for any type of equine assisted program designed for their active duty, veterans, or their families. Continued on page 2

GERL took a road trip to meet the horse owners at the stables.

Inside this issue:

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GERL Goes to Ft. Stewart

By Patty Livingston

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Research supports "healing through the power of the horse" as an alternative and complementary modality. Most people have heard about the impact and outcomes of Equine Assisted Services (EAS). EAS interventions for PTSD, TBI, anxiety, depression, and substance misuse are evidenced based and best-practices lowering cortisol levels, slowing heart rate variability and repairing reward centers of the brain.

As soon as I got off the phone with Pete, I sent a text message to Tara at EIP. We exchanged a couple of messages and I immediately set up our first conference call that would happen within the week and include Pete so that he could explain the situation to everyone, firsthand.

There was a lot of excitement when we all got on the conference call together. I was in the midst of professionals who worked with the military all the time, but I learned last year when I spent two days at the Ranger Camp helping out with a horse and a medic, everybody involved does not have to be a professional or military to bring something to the table. Coincidently, the EIP team is currently working with Ft. Benning on a similar project, and they shared ideas that were all well received by Pete and the team. We ended that call with a lot of action items.

We have been attending weekly conference calls to plan out a four day "Pilot" program that would look very much like the Ranger Camp event, except more days and more participants. It will include up to twelve participants the first day. They will go from ground to saddle in five hours. Their caregivers will repeat this same process on day two. Day three would include participants from a different Division. Wounded Warriors, perhaps. And day four would be their caregivers. There are many needs on a base this size therefore, they will select the participants for this pilot.

After our second meeting, we had the contact information of the folks who were boarding their horses at the stable. We wanted to meet with them to ensure that they were onboard with our help and ideas to make the stables viable again. The following Saturday, Cynthia Anderson, Jacki Moore and I drove down

to the Bits and Bridle Equestrian Club and met with Chris, Leonard, Robert and Kalvin. They welcomed us like old friends and were very much on-board with our pilot event idea and were eager to have us utilize their horses, if needed. We took a tour of the 15-acre stable property, noting how perfect it would be to host such an event.

We will be making a return visit very soon to evaluate the horses that can be utilized from that facility. Twelve horses are needed for all four days of the Pilot. We are looking to identify a total of 15 horses, should we require back-up. Twelve horses will require twelve handlers, times four days. We are also looking at other options requiring some horses to be trailered in for the event.



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GERL Goes to Ft. Stewart

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 2

This train is moving fast! A date of September 7-10 has been selected for the pilot and we are kicking it in gear to make sure everything is covered. We know it is going to be hot and we've discussed options to ensure that everybody, including the horses, do not get over-heated.

There are going to be many opportunities to help, whether it be a sponsorship of the event, furnishing food and drinks, volunteering to be a side-walker or helping to spruce up the stables. Look for future updates on our website about this very exciting project and let's help our military!

www.gerlltd.org







The Horses of Cumberland Island

By Gloria Bell

My heart sank after arriving at Cumberland Island on the Ferry and seeing first-hand the "Horses of Cumberland Island". There are no images on a Google search, in a photo, or in an article that can truly capture the conditions of these non-native horses and their living conditions in a Maritime Forest.

After visiting Cumberland Island, the first weekend in June, we would like to provide you with an update on the Horses of Cumberland Island.

The island is beautiful and with the unseasonable cool weather that took place in early June this year, it was remarkable. It is truly an extremely (thick) tropical forest. One of the few Maritime Forests left. After all that is written and told of Cumberland Island, there is little significance to just how full this island is of dense forest with few areas that are open land for horses to even graze. It is astonishing for anyone to believe a healthy horse population could survive in these conditions.

When you picture wild roaming horses on open grasslands, this is not what you will see on Cumberland Island. The current population of feral horses on Cumberland Island are not the romantic mustangs of the western plains. This population were not left by the Spanish conquistadors. In the 1880's, however, it was the Carnegie's that brought domesticated horses to Cumberland Island and left them behind to live on the land and over time became feral horses. To give an already suffering herd a boost, retired circus horses were bought and released on the island. One study completed by the University of Georgia confirms these horses are a mix of Tennessee Walking Horses, Paso Fino, and Arabian horses.





Continued on page 5

The Horses of Cumberland Island

By Gloria Bell

Continued from page 4

In 1972, Cumberland Island came under the protection of the National Park Service, and the island became a national seashore. One of the mandates of the park service was to remove all feral animals. TODAY, with all the surveys, studies, failed plans, and blocked plans for the feral horses left in the forest infested island, the horses are still in poor condition and starving. Every study has also shown that the horses are not good for the island and the island is not good for the horses.

On April 13, 2023, a petition was filed on behalf of The Horse of Cumberland Island as reported in our prior newsletter. We have had great success in securing experts that will be able to assist in future proceedings as to nutritional requirements of equine and other pertinent details that will be necessary to get these horses the help they need. All the images

provided were captured in early June of 2023. While the images provide a clear understanding of their body conditions, the weather was still cool, not humid, thick with mosquitos and parasites, most of all the humidity and heat. Imagine life as a horse in peak summer when water is scarce, and all the spring grasses have dried up. Competition in water holes are allegators, they just don't stand a chance. If you would like to help with this important endeavor, you can visit our website for details. https://gerlltd.org

Thank you and God Bless,

Gloria Bell, GERL Area Coordinator

Cumberland Island Project Lead





Garth Brooks and Maggie Mae Go to the Calvin Center

By Patty Livingston and Kate Robbins

A couple of months ago, I received a call from Kate Robbins, the Equine Director at the Calvin Center in Hampton, Ga., inquiring about a couple of mini horses for their children's program. I let her know that we didn't have any minis or ponies in our program at that time, but I would keep my eyes and ears open. After I hung up the phone, I started thinking about my two mini horses, Garth Brooks, and Maggie Mae, and how much they love people and especially, kids. I also thought about how little attention they get at my farm, and since the three stallions arrived in October, they had gotten less. I slept on it for a couple of nights, then called Kate back and offered her both for her program.

I was a bit choked up when Kate arrived to pick them up and I will admit that I felt a little sad for the rest of the day. I was feeding eight equines twice a day and after day two, I realized that my life was easier with them gone. Shortly afterwards, I started receiving photos from Kate of Garth and Maggie with lots of kids around them with big smiles on their faces. Of course, that made me smile, too. And, was just what I needed to confirm my decision to let them go.



Update on the Baker's Dozen

By Patty Livingston

It has been over 9 months since the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) assisted Georgia law enforcement in a legal seizure of 13 horses that were being starved by their owner who still refuses to release ownership of them. GERL has spent well over \$30,000 feeding and caring for the Baker's Dozen, as they have become known. The Judge ordered the owner to pay the first monthly payment of \$3,700 on April 1st and she did not. She was also ordered to pay the total amount that GERL had spent as of the first of March, which was approximately \$24,000.00. She failed to pay that amount, as well.

The case has been before the Judge two separate times in May and still no decision has been made and no court date. It is a very frustrating situation we've found ourselves in. This has been particularly rough for me because there are 3 stallions that are a part of this small herd and they are all being fostered at my farm. Other foster homes are getting impatient, as well. We are praying for a decision soon and in the meantime, we just keep doing what we are doing.

I want to give a huge thank you to all the foster homes who have made this possible. We couldn't do this without you!



Update from Warrior's Ranch

By Paula Smith

Three words can describe the Warriors Ranch over the past month: Progress, Involvement, and Positivity. In the beginning of May, the horses were involved with an event at the Veterans Administration in Dublin where many veterans and their family members were able to meet and greet the horses and learn about basic horse safety. The attendees were able to interact on both the ground and on the saddle, which was a huge hit with the children and the veterans. The team shared with attendees the services the Ranch provides and how horses can assist in therapy and help humans heal by partnering with horses.

Veterans have responded to the event positively. We have new veteran volunteers who assist with everything from clean-up to building and construction to working with the horses and grooming.

The building construction is progressing. We have had plumbers and electricians come out and begin working on the next phase. We have had amazing plans de-





signed by one of our veteran volunteer's personal designer teams that are assisting with many aspects of the progress the Ranch is making to move forward.

The families and community at large are receptive to the therapeutic services offered. We have increased the number of children and families served and will be starting a teen depression and anxiety group. We are working hard towards forming more collaborative relationships with other community organizations to provide more services to the community and increase the services we provide to veterans, first responders, their families, and the community at large.

Check out our website for our veterans group session as well.



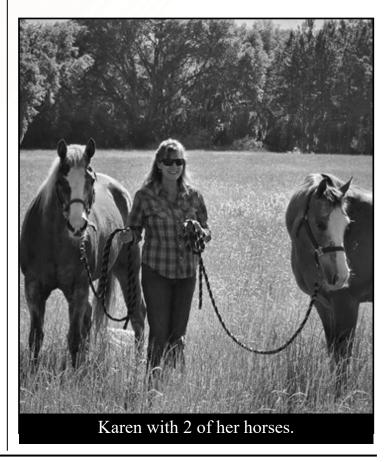
Spotlight on Our Area Coordinators

Karen Henderson

My name is Karen Henderson and I have been a member of GERL for a few years. I am an avid horse lover and owner of three ApHC horses that are 12, 25 & 26 years old. My husband and I retired from row crop farming in 2018 in South Georgia. We enter car/truck shows on occasion for fun. I enjoy spending time on the water so occasionally we will go fishing or spend the day out on the lake.

My love of horses started at an early age with a stick horse. My parents owned a few horses that I would ride as a small child. My most memorable Christmas was in 1972, when I was seven years old. Under the Christmas tree I found a saddle, blanket, and bridle. My thought was, well what am I going to use that on? Outside, tied to the fence, was a Shetland pony! Dolly was stubborn but as I grew older, she cooperated more for me. She lived to be 23. One day my dad bought himself an appaloosa bay with a blanket. That lit the flame, appaloosas! At 12 years old my dad bought me an appaloosa mare. She was that lifetime horse! We barrel raced and ran full speed down the dirt roads. One day I was riding her in a muddy round pen, she slipped and fell over onto my left leg. I was not hurt. After that incident, she never would walk in mud when I was riding her. I always felt she was protecting me, that's the kind of horse she was. She lived to be 23 also. I still miss her dearly. Since then I have owned mostly appaloosas, showing in halter and western pleasure on occasion.

Over the years I have come across neglected horses in my area. After reporting to the Dpt of Ag or local animal control, some of the horses were rehomed or the owners stepped up to improve the situation. I am still in disbelief sometimes as to how any animal can be so neglected. I learn something new almost every day about horses. Either from reading articles or just being around my own. The horse education is endless. I truly believe that God gave me the gift of a love for horses. I looked forward to being an area coordinator with GERL!

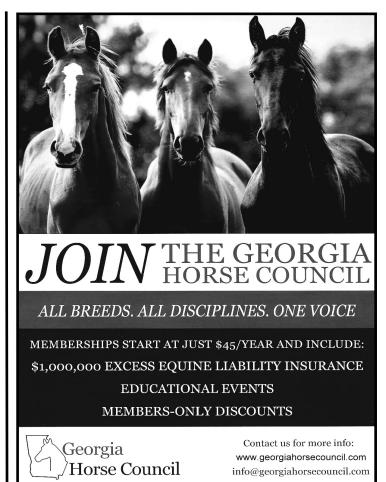




amazon smile Org Central

Dear Charity Administrator,
This email is to notify you that Georgia
Equine Rescue League Ltd has been issued a \$461.06 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation that includes a one-time bonus donation and an extra amount from the reallocation of undisbursed funds. The donation was deposited to your organization's bank account between May 17-20, 2023.

This is the last donation from the AmazonSmile program to your organization. We are proud of the difference that AmazonSmile has made over the past ten years, and we thank you again for your support and partnership.





Saddle up for the ultimate party dip!

Ingredients

- 1 15-oz. can black eyed peas, drained and rinsed
- 1 15-oz. can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 1/2 c. diced roma tomatoes
- 1 jalapeño pepper, chopped
- 1 yellow bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 c. red onion, chopped
- 1/4 c. chopped cilantro
- 3 tbsp. olive oil

- 2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- Tortilla chips, for serving





Directions

Combine the black-eyed peas, black beans, tomato, bell pepper, red onion, jalapeño, cilantro, olive oil, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, seasoned salt, cumin, and black pepper in a large mixing bowl. Mix well to combine. Serve alongside tortilla chips.

View recipe video link:

https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/food-cooking/recipes/a40943378/cowboy-caviar-recipe/

New head of Dep. of Ag law enforcement says officers will be "subject matter experts"

By Abraham Kenmore, Athens Banner-Herald

back its law enforcement arm, and the new head, Harment of Agriculture as we're our support division," he lan Proveaux, wants his officers to be the Peach State's said. "We support every other division in the Departgo-to on all aspects of agricultural crime.

"Animal cruelty cases, drugs and agriculture arena, agro-terrorism, those type things, we want to be the come in and support them with investigation and prosecution of those type cases."

The Department of Agriculture, which oversees Georgia's largest economic sector, last had law enforcement per, who was sworn in this year, has re-instated them, with Proveaux joining the department as the inspector general and director of the Law Enforcement & Emergency Management Division. Proveaux's most recent job was in the Georgia Department of Emergency Management and Homeland security.

"The opportunity here gives me a chance to combine don't want folks that are being trafficked to work ... both my emergency management experience and my happening in our state. So we're going to concentrate law enforcement experience in this role, which was on that to make sure it doesn't." very intriguing to me," he said.

which means Proveaux's officers will not be investigat- Park, which hosts a major farmer's market. ing issues like soil amendments, another recent area of focus of the agency (the general assembly appropriated \$550,000 in the budget this year for two additional soil amendment enforcement inspectors).

More:Georgia farmer laments use of 'free' soil amendment; pays in other ways

Also: Soil amendment bill, adding more local control, must wait another year for House vote

But that does not mean that the officers will not be working with other employees of the agency.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture is bringing "The law enforcement division is unique in the Department of Ag, so that inspectors when when they go out, if they run into something that's unlawful ... then they can turn that over to us."

subject matter experts," Proveaux told the USA Today There will be at least one federally-funded officer fo-Network. "So when all local law enforcement has those cused solely on labor trafficking, an issue that came to type cases, we're a resource that they can call that will the forefront in recent years with the Blooming Onion case brought by federal prosecutors in the Southern District of Georgia in late 2021, one of the largest labor trafficking cases ever prosecuted involving foreign agricultural laborers brought here on seasonal visas.

powers in 2013. Agricultural Commissioner Tyler Har- 'Beyond troubling': Current, former government officials tied to human trafficking probe in Georgia

> "The feds, the state, (Georgia Bureau of Investigation), the Department of Agriculture have partnered together to create a task force, and we're going to support that, the Feds are going support us in putting a person on that task force to pay attention," Proveaux said. "We

Proveaux also thinks the officers can cross train with Proveaux said he hopes to have 10 sworn officers, de- emergency management staff for when natural disasters pending on what the General Assembly tasks his office strike. He said they've already begun having conversawith. These officers will be separate from the depart- tions with outside agencies, including the Department ment's current inspectors who enforce civil violations, of Natural Resources and local government in Forest

> "There's no law enforcement agency, federal, state, (or) local, that we're not talking to and joining forces with," he said.

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Who's Who Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

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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

Interested in becoming an Area Coordinator?

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



Patty,

I read the article in the newsletter on Cumberland Island horses. Very upsetting and so happy that GERL and Georgia Horse Council are requiring park service to step up and do something.

I have not visited the island but intend to do so on my next t rip to the coast.

Wish I could do more. I feel sorry for the horses on the island.

Thank you and GERL for all you do for the horses.

God Bless,

Jim Januzelli



Join our Feed A Horse Program



Donations will be applied directly towards feed and hay for horses located in the Veteran facilities that GERL supports, as well as the horses taken into GERL's foster program. 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

□ \$600.00 one time donation t □ \$ per month t □ \$ any donation	o per month for 4 months to rehabilitate one horse. one time donation to rehabilitate one horse. per month to help rehabilitate the horses. any donation is gladly accepted! the on our website @ https://gerlltd.org		"Feed a Horse" Program https://gerlltd.org
Name:Address:Telephone #:	City: Email:	State:	Zip:
Make check payable to: GERL Mail to: P.O. Box 328 Bethlehem, GA 30620	THANK YOU!		Your donation tax deductibl

Rest in Peace Cooper

By Steven Neal

On July 30th, I went out to bring the boys in for breakfast and found Cooper lying on the ground. At first, he appeared as though he was just resting but then he began to roll. The veterinarian arrived an hour later and as I expected diagnosed colic. As he wasn't showing signs of distress or pain, we treated him with electrolytes and banamine and the veterinarian scheduled to come back in a couple hours.

Cooper was far worse when the veterinarian returned, and an examination indicated that his small intestines were blocked and distended with gas. As this is my third experience with this situation, I knew my only option was to have him put down.

I'm really going to miss this old boy. Anne Ensminger and I brought Cooper to my place in December 2015. Because he was a cribber no one was interested in adopting him, so he's been in my care for the last 8 years. In all other ways he was such a strong sturdy horse I always thought that he would live here for many years. I'm really going to miss him.



Cumberland Island Horses Need Our Help

By Patty Livingston

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL), is passionate and committed about helping horses in need, to include starved, abused and neglected equine in the state of Georgia. GERL is currently working on a project that aims to improve the quality of life for the horses of Cumberland Island. The island is not good for the horses and the horses are not good for the island.

The Georgia Equine Rescue League and Georgia Horse Counsel are dedicated to assuring that the health and conditions of the feral horses on Cumberland are brought to legal standards. We are currently in litigation seeking

to require the National Park Service to put a Management Plan in place that will provide adequate water and food, and to slowly transition the horses off the island to habitates more suited for equine (short-term and long-term).

In order to make a difference, we rely on the support of generous individuals and businesses in our communities. We would be most grateful if you would consider providing a donation that will ensure that this worthwhile project has a successful ending. Your support is critical to the completion of our latest project and we will gladly keep you updated regarding our progress.

We have recently updated our website to include more information on the Cumberland Island Horse Project. Please visit our website if you can support our efforts



to make a difference for the horses on Cumberland Island. (www.gerlltd.org)

You may also contribute by mailing a check to: GERL, P. O. Box 328, Bethlehem, GA 30620. Don't forget to add a memo that your donation is intended for the CUIS Horse Project.

These horses need our help. They are living creatures that require food, water and have rights. They're not just a backdrop for human viewing pleasure.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Patty Livingston President



Thank you for your donations

Welcome New Members

Lauren Norwood

Cecelia Severens

Peggy Paris

Kathy Adams

Lisa Casey

Anonymous

Kim Hampton

Sherry Massey

Susan Lang

Angela M. Samuels

Allison Jenkins

Jan Smith

Susan and Christopher Gregory

Allison Herdic

Rita Benfield

Sandy Crutchfield

Dr. Lewis Petree, DDS

Gloria Bell

Betty Anne Foran

George Mortensen

Art and Elizabeth Bartlett

Claire Barth

Tanya Cochran

Nancy Scott

Lee & Jill Webb

Jeff Light

Tony Conway

Penny Stiglitz



Betty Ann Foran Daniel Gissendaner Dorinda Hennings Tyler Lambert

Cumberland Island Horses:

Jane Buckler Ronald Allen Francine Weaver Shirley Teague Rosalee Dormio Jean Roten Glendie Miller John Lynn Verleen Flaig

In Honor of

Alex by Darrell Shepherd
Jacki Moore's retirement by Esther Taylor, Connie, Hellen, Jennifer Buttons,
Suzie Butcher, Janice, Lori Landes,
Michelle Heller, Paige, Auawi, Mindy,
Sarah, Phylliscia, Danielle, Shelby, Lindsay, Izella, Emily, Omega, Kenton, Allison, Jessica, Jennifer D., Shawn H., and
Michelle Maria Pena.

Wendy Soloman, *Happy Birthday by Ronald Slosberg*

Susan Bozeman by Rebecca Thomas

In Memory of

Gunner, beloved horse of Lisa Eisele by Joe and Christy Regan

Karen Casassa Futch by Renee Sullivan

Karen Futch by Farm Bureau of Macon

Dorothy Benson by Linda Stallings

Farley, sweetest horse ever by Carleen Mauk

Khemirra, much loved horse of Susie, Jim and Sara Faulkner by

George & Charlotte Zubowicz

T.C., Cayenne and Honeymoon by Dawn Cajigas-George

Alan Spear by Darcie Gibbons

Alan Spear by Heather Samuelson

Alan Spear by Jeanne Bonnell

Kroger



Quarterly Check \$84.20 120 Households



https://www.facebook.com/georgiaequine.rescueleague

Feed A Horse

Erik Wittenzellner

Constance Burchette

Jim Januzelli

Jane Estes

Victoria Daniels

Margaret and Bob Wallace

Peggy Stiglitz

Bonnie Lavoie

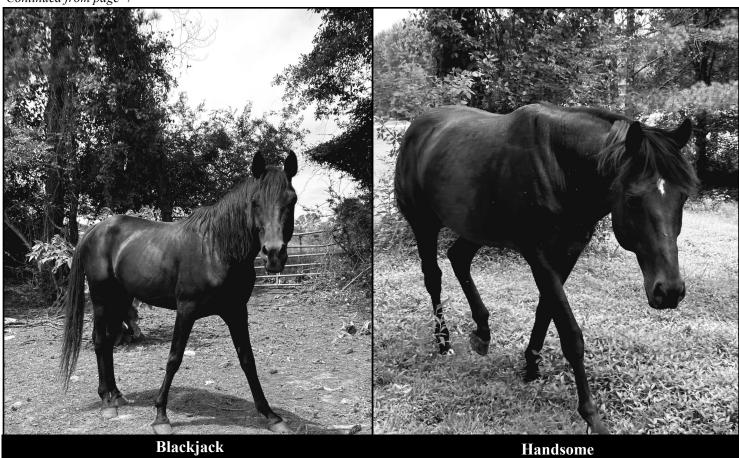
Susan Bozeman

Bonnie LaVoie

Update on the Baker's Dozen

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 7



GERL Calendar of Events - Mark Your Calendars!

Sept 7-10 2023

4-days @ Ft. Stewart Hinesville, GA



November 2023

Stallion to Gelding Castration Month

Participating Vets Across Georgia Check the GERL website Oct 1st for participating veterinarians.

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





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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		

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Perlman, Susan - DeKalb

(404) 824-5522 / seperlman@bellsouth.net

Pieper, Donna - Gwinnett & Walton

(404) 797-3333 / horsesdlp@gmail.com

Pippen, Tasha - Banks, Barrow, Hall, Gwinnett

(404) 713-8598 / trinitystables1736@gmail.com

Raybon, Annette - Paulding, Cobb, Bartow

(770) 713-2244 / raybonta@bellsouth.net

Roush, Lori—Warren, Hancock, Wilkes, McDuffe, Glascock and Washington

(706) 699-0230 / cfdancingstar@aol.com

Santoriello, Charles - Fayette, Cowetta & Spalding

(404) 626-6294 / csanty541@yahoo.com

Scruggs, Amy-Cook, Lowndes, Colquitt, Thomas, Berrien and Lanier

(520) 403-8949 / amy.scruggs1981@gmail.com

Uhlenbrock, Rita—Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham

(912) 667-5151 / ritarae819@gmail.com

Whitworth, Debbie - Elbert & Hart

(404) 805-4409 / rlw73dpw@gmail.com

Williams, Michelle - Spalding

(404) 290-8115 / shelly19629@gmail.com

Wrensen, Sue - Cherokee

(770) 331-6947 / swrensen@comcast.net

Ziebell, Ray - Dawson & Pickens

(770) 354-0293 / razfences@msn.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 (770) 867-0760 if you can spare a little of you time.



For updated Area Coordinators: https://gerlltd.org/area-coordinators/

We'd Like To Hear From You!

Do you know any special kids who deserve a shout out for their good works? Contact us.

We would like to feature them in an upcoming newsletter! gerlpatty@yahoo.com



LET ME SAY THIS...ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

I am very excited about our newest project to help save the Ft. Stewart stables and it has helped me, and some other GERL Board members figure out where we would like to fit in the world of equine assisted therapy. The purpose of the 4-day Pilot that we are planning, along with Equine Immersion Project (EIP), is to show the value of equine assisted therapy to The Garrison of Ft. Stewart to secure support (and possible funding) to keep the stables usable for our military and their families.

I previously mentioned that EIP was already engaged in like discussions with the commanding officers at Ft. Benning. Tara Mahoney and her team at EIP were planning a 4 day "Pilot" when she received my text about Ft. Stewart. They were immediately on board and shifted much of their focus to help save the Ft. Stewart stables. We agreed that after we complete the pilot at Ft. Stewart, we shift our focus to Ft. Benning and repeat the performance. I am elated about the prospect of where this could go!

Everyone at Ft. Stewart that we've reached out to, whether it be horse owners at the stables or the Chaplin's for the hospital and Division, is EXCITED about the idea and are one hundred percent on board! That fact keeps our small team energized!

Of course, the portion of the plan that we are currently working and planning for is the 4-day pilot event where we will take 12 participants from ground to saddle in 5 hours. Repeating with different participants each day. There are a lot of tasks associated with this part of the plan, which we continue to divide and conquer during our weekly conference calls. The date has been set for September 7-10th so we have very little wiggle room. The reason for the push to do this in September is because that is when the enlisted will deploy, in a staggered fashion, throughout the month.

We will be making several trips to Ft. Stewart over the next two and a half months to solidify all of the loose

ends. The EIP team will be flying in prior to the event where we will have a meet and greet of sponsors, supporters and commanders. I was able to experience this when I helped out at the Dahlonega Ranger Camp last year. Words cannot express how emotional it is to sit in a room full of military, whether they be a veteran, active duty or commanding officers, and hear a little bit about them and their story. It is very humbling to be in their presence, let alone, sharing a very cool experience with them!

We have talked about what happens after the pilot event and that is what is called "Continuity of Care". Tara has spoken about this many times and it is finally beginning to resonate with me, and others involved in this project. After the event is over EIP will fly back to New Hampshire and it will be up to us to orchestrate future events at the stable. And, let me say this about that...we have so many capable people already involved who live right here in Georgia.

Speaking of which, I do want to thank the great team that has stepped up to help make this happen. This is a very "adventuresome" project for all of us and we all look forward to seeing it come to fruition.



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

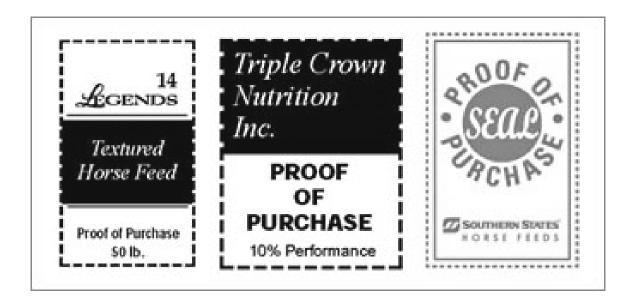


GERL Volunteer of the Quarter

By Patty Livingston

The Volunteer of the Quarter is someone who has been involved with GERL for many years and has performed an important service behind the scenes. She has been bestowed this recognition in the past, but it has been a very long time. I'm talking about Ginny Scarritt, also known as the GERL POPs lady. Ginny, who very kindly has gathered the Proof of Purchase seals for GERL from horse feed sacks of Triple Crown and Pro-Elite for many years. GERL receives twenty-five cents from each of the POPs and she receives them from many faithful GERL members and supporters throughout the year. She tirelessly counts and sorts them all and then mails them to the appropriate company to be turned into gift cards and coupons. The gift cards came in very handy, feeding several of the horses in GERL's foster program.

BIG THANKS to Ginny Scarritt for your faithful support with this important program!



Where Does the Money Go?

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

- GERL spent \$4,715.00 for feed, hay, vet care and farrier service for our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$1,247 on feed and \$1,494 for pasture spraying for Warrior Ranch in Dublin..
- GERL spent \$3,281 on feed and \$1,702 on tractor repair for Calvin Center Horses & Warriors.
- GERL SPENT A TOTAL OF \$10,717 THIS QUARTER DIRECTLY HELPING HORSES.

Support GERL by purchasing our merchandise!

Adult Short Sleeve T-Shirt \$20.00



T-Shirt with printed logo on front/back Sizes available: M, L, XL & 2X

Gildan Soft style Ladies V-Neck Tee \$16.00



V-Neck T-Shirt with printed logo on front Sizes available: M (6-8), L (8-10), XL(10-12) & 2X(12-14)

Sweat Shirt \$55.00



Sweat Shirt with printed logo Sizes available: M, L, XL & 2X

Colors: Violet/Crunch and Berry/Lagoon Blue

T-Shirt \$16.00



T-Shirt with printed logo on front/back Sizes available: M, L, XL & 2X

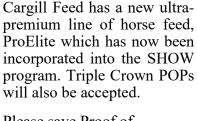
Colors: Mint/Blossom/Melon

Available to purchase on our website www.gerlltd.org

GERL Stallion to Gelding Program.

Stallions Gelded To Date By GERL:

1316



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



Ginny Scarritt, 4835 Kendall Court, Atlanta, GA 30342

Horses in our Foster Care Program

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

Horse	Age	Color	Ridable	Foster Farm
CoCo	34	Sorrel	No	Petree Farm
Cooper	26	Sorrel	No	Steven Neal
Luna	4	Gray	Yes	CeCe Calli
Cisco	25	Gold	No	Steven Neal
Sultan	23	Bay	No	Steven Neal



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(Above 3 ads include a 2" X 3.5" color on the front page of our website) (Customer supplies business card/photos/graphics)

____Contact: ads@gerlltd.org

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

Cargill Announces new Ultra

Premium Line of Horse Feeds

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

Southern States and Triple Crown Proof of Purchases (POPs) continue to trickle in. We were able to take advantage of the TC offer again this year, which is 1 \$25 VISA gift card for every 12 POPs. Thanks to our TC donors, we had enough for all 12 gift cards! Thank you, again, to our consistent donors and thank you to our newest POP donors: Rebecca Testerman, Suzanne Cottingim, A. Wester, Grace Kanavage and the Roberts on Commercial Rd. in Athens.

Please clip your Legends, Southern States, Triple Crown and ProElite POPs and send 'em my way! Let's do our part to end the suffering of many Georgia horses and put them on the path to their forever homes. Thank you for your support!

Ginny Scarritt

and send them to:
4835 Kendall Court * Atlanta, GA 30342



Calvin Center Horses & Warriors

By Sara Reams

Recently a friend called our work with Calvin Center Horses & Warriors a ministry. Usually when I talk to groups it is to tell them about the benefits of equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) in healing wounded warriors. I talk about the different ways that EAAT heals a variety of wounds, both visible and invisible. And I talk a bit about the injuries we see, such as PTSD, TBI, MST. I talk about the work.

But, while I think of Horses & Warriors as a blessing to myself, I've never spoken to a group about this. I love this opportunity to tell you the many ways that we've seen God in our midst at the barn each Friday, and beyond.

First of all, we are a family. We just began our 13th year of programming this past February. Many of our volunteers have been with us since the very first day. I am blessed to have the instructor, Marywill, working with me from that time. Marywill is a member of St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, she is a worker in their St. Vincent de Paul program, and her faith is the guiding principle in everything she does. She is an inspiration in her ability to find the silver lining in any cloud – or to create that silver lining when it is difficult to find. When my faith is flagging, I try to remember Marywill's approach to life.

As a family, we have faced the many life events that have come our way in this time. We have attended the funerals of a veteran son who committed suicide, a rider who we walked with as he declined and died from a deadly disease, several volunteers who have died (Ron built a cremation urn for one dear friend), and a therapy horse whose funeral, complete with flag ceremony, was held at the barn. We pray for medical test results and treatment, for travel mercies, for pets who are sick, for veteran children who are lost to addiction, and all the other ways that families support each other in times of trial. After the Pledge of Allegiance each Friday, we have our prayer time. This is when prayer concerns are lifted and prayed for. At first it was overwhelming to me to hear the "Uncover", and to see everyone stand and remove their hats before the prayer. It soon became obvious to me that prayer is a significant part of their lives. Despite the fact that we have two

chaplains among our volunteers, I am the person who most often prays. Even though I am a Christian, and we meet in a Christian facility, there are several among us who are either Jewish or Muslim. This caused me to think carefully about how I pray. So I begin the prayer with a "Dear God", and end with "In Jesus' name I pray". This feels right to me. And it is always a good thing for me to see Marywill make the sign of the cross at the end of each prayer. We feel that this gives us a solid foundation for the work of the day.

Just as we are together in times of trial, we also joyfully celebrate all the good things that happen within our family. Our Korean War volunteer chose Horses & Warriors as the recipient of his 90th birthday gifts. And of course we pass around pictures of new grandbabies and weddings. A very special celebration for us has been including a special WWll veteran in our family. When we met James, we invited him to come be part of Horses & Warriors. Thankfully, he accepted! On a beautiful, warm Friday in December of 2021, he came to the barn to celebrate his 102th birthday! We had a special cake for him, and gave him one of our tshirts. He has joined us for our breakfasts a couple of other times. Just this past year we were able to award him a Quilt of Valor, honoring his service to our country.

Each week I am reminded of the part that faith plays in the lives of our veterans. These men and women talk openly about what they're doing in their church communities and their community ministries. Some seek spiritual direction on an ongoing basis. It is not uncommon to find the women in our group joining together in prayer for a family member. Others are leaders in their churches. When Ron and I were seeking a new church home, we were invited to join several in their churches. Just as Fayetteville FFUMC has been generous to our program, several veterans have included us in their church's outreach ministries.

Continued on page 24



Calvin Center Horses & Warriors (cont'd from page 23)

By Sara Reams

Just as the Bible tells us to help others, our veterans show their love for others by their actions. We have one rider who suffers from dementia. Volunteers provide transportation for him each Friday, so he can be with us, riding his favorite horse. This transportation has been the case with other veterans, willingly offered. Meals are provided after surgery, and in times of need. Household items and gift cards were donated to a veteran whose family lost their home to a fire. A group of men within our program has been the lifeline to a young Marine with a 100% disability. They have surrounded him with love and encouragement, and lifted him from a very bad place to a place of personal acceptance and strength.

It's not just the young veterans who continue to struggle. Our Viet Nam veterans have wounds that are deep, but very real. The 50th anniversary of the end of the Viet Nam war brought these wounds to the surface for many veterans. Coming to the barn on a Friday, surrounded by other veterans, provided a place of respite that gave them peace. They have told us that they have a good purpose in their lives now, helping the younger warriors to readjust to a new life. This seems to have relieved some of the burden they have carried from their unwelcome return home after Viet Nam. They are doing unto others what they wish had been done to them.

Meeting at the Calvin Center, we are aware of the beauty of God's creation. We are surrounded by fields, woods, Springtime birds, Sand Hill Cranes in the Winter, deer, and quiet. And of course the horses. Everyone tells us of the peace that they feel when they are with us. It is impossible not to feel grateful to God for that place.

In closing, I'd like to tell you the story of one of our veterans, and how we all saw God working in him one special day. This gentleman suffered from Lewy Body Syndrome, a terrible disease that none of us had even heard of when his wife first contacted us. She hoped that being a volunteer would help him. It very quickly became apparent that he wouldn't be able to do the work of a volunteer, but that he would benefit from

being a rider. So, with veteran-provided transportation, he became a weekly rider. As time progressed, so did his disease, very quickly. We watched him as he began to hallucinate and make no sense. A conversation that began in reality would quickly become nonsensical. He was always a happy man - until the day that he was not. He became agitated one day, and stalked off down the driveway away from the barn, onto the highway. We called his wife who told us to let him walk, while she called family to come. We surrounded him, with a truck behind offering protection, and walked with him down the road for a mile or so. The sheriff and the family arrived at the same time. By now, the man had calmed down enough that he was concerned that we would all have a ride back to the barn. He directed us all into cars for the ride back. Shortly after that, he was moved into a memory care facility. But he was still able to come out to ride each Friday. One day we will never forget. Ron had picked him up at his new home, and remembered the conversation on the way as being completely out of touch with reality. He saw hallucinations and was telling Ron fanciful things. This continued once he arrived at As we gathered, we said the Pledge, and the barn. then asked for prayer concerns. All of a sudden, from the back of the group, this gentleman began to talk. He had a happy look in his eyes, and spoke clearly and strongly as he looked at us all. This is what he told us, "Thank you all for your prayers for me and for my family. We all appreciate it." These were the first lucid words we had heard from him in months. There was not a single doubt that this was God giving him the grace to reach through his illness to say what he felt in his heart. We felt God's presence with us that day.

Our veterans continue honor their pledge to not leave a fallen comrade behind. But I also see God working through them, as more than a pledge given, but also a desire to do what God has commanded us — to do unto others what we would have them do unto us.



Two defendants named in Cumberland Island lawsuit leave their positions

The lawsuit claims the island's feral horses are malnourished.

CAMDEN COUNTY, Ga. — Months after a lawsuit was filed over the iconic Cumberland Island horses, two people in the case are no longer in their positions.

First Coast News reported in May that animal rights advocates sued the National Park Service and state and federal government agencies saying the horses aren't well cared for and are malnourished.

First Coast News has confirmed that two of the named defendants in the lawsuit have announced their resignations.

Cumberland Island National Seashore Superintendent Gary Ingram and Georgia Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Mark Williams are both taking jobs elsewhere.

Hal Wright, the attorney who filed the lawsuit, told First Coast News he could not know if there is a connection between the lawsuit and these men leaving their positions.

However, he said it was "awfully coincidental."

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Author: Jessica Clark Published: June 30, 2023



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

Update on Gypsy

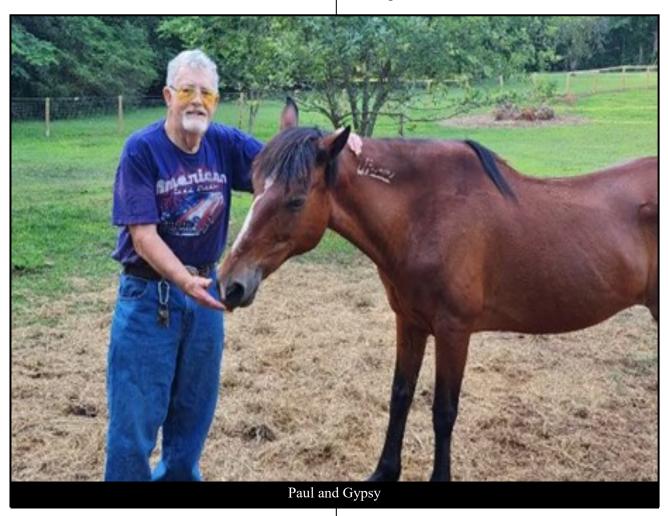
By Patty Livingston and Paul Frevele

We wrote a story about Gypsy that appeared in our newsletter last year when she was moved to Paul Frevele's farm in Winder. Paul was looking for a companion horse for his beloved horse, Derby, whom he had just moved to his home from a boarding situation.

Gypsy is a branded mustang mare that was pretty much "untouchable" to most people. After moving to Paul's farm, she started to settle in and build a relationship with him. He has already made great progress with her trust issues.

York Army National Guard/AGR 42d Avn Bn 1980-1985 and Georgia Army National Guard/AGR 1985-1996.

I have been interested and started riding horses when I was eleven years old. When I entered the Marine Corp in 1962, I found a riding stable in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and rode whenever I could. The best thing was when I had my first tour out of the states. I was in the 8th Engr Bn. and we were building a staging/training base on a little island near Puerto Rico called



Paul is a very interesting character with a very quiet demeanor that horses like. I asked him to share some of his memories with our readers and below are a few chapters from his story:

I served in the USMC from 1962 - 1968, the New

Vieques Island. The island had horses running wild and we were able to catch them and care for them while we were stationed there. I rounded up four horses at one time, but my favorite one was a brown.

Continued on page 27

Update on Gypsy

By Patty Livingston and Paul Frevele

Continued from page 26

mare who ended up being pregnant. I rode her bareback and I just had a rope halter for her, no bit. I developed a relationship with her to where she responded to voice commands. My time in the USMC with my horses was fantastic.

I always dreamed of owning my own horse and when I was transferred into the Army in 1985 my dream started to come true. In 1996 I retired from the military, and I met Robert Long who had two horses, Mis Ty and Casper, who were both sweethearts. Robert from time to time feeding and brushing them. One morning while getting the feed, I heard a horse moving around in a stall. He had his head reached out over the stall door saying "hello", so I went over to say hello back to him and when I did, he had no water or

hay. So, I filled his water and hay and that's how I met Derby.

I found out that Derby was "unmanageable". kicked, bit and charged and ran over people. I asked if I could work with him and see what I could do with him. I worked with Derby for a little over a year and Derby was great with me, but his attitude with his owners did not change. One day the owner asked me if I would like to have Derby and if I said No, he was going to become chopped meat. Well, it did not take me a minute to say yes. So, I bought Derby for ten dollars!

That was my start with the love of my life, Derby.





Gypsy (background) and Derby – Best friends now

Rest in Peace Sweet Bruno

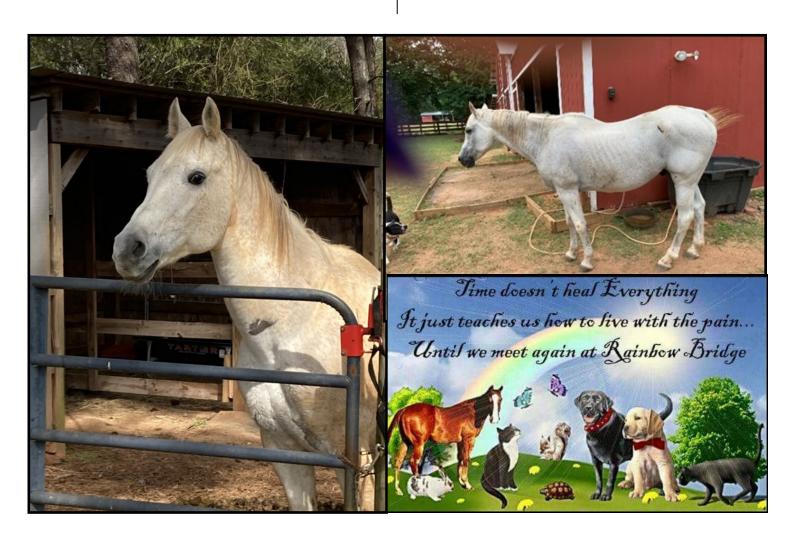
By Patty Livingston

Linda Kundell reached out to me asking if we had a gelding in our program that would make a good companion for her mare, Jazz. Jazz was dominant and not very nice to her previous companion. At the time, I had a horse named Bruno at my farm. He was rescued from a kill pen by someone who thought they were buying a 15-year-old gelding and he turned out to be at least 25 years old and a stallion, at that! He was gelded immediately and settled down and was a very nice gentleman within thirty days.

Linda decided to give Bruno a try and off he went to live with Jazz. He was pushed around a little bit by her in the beginning, but they became buddies. Bruno loved to stand inside his stall with his fan and Jazz would stand guard just outside.

It wasn't long before Bruno started dropping weight and really showing his age, which Linda was guessing to be closer to 30. A visit from the dentist uncovered the fact that he had very few of his teeth left. Sadly, Bruno declined rapidly and several months later had to be put down. He is buried at Linda's farm, where he found kindness and a second chance at life.

HUGE thanks to Linda for opening her barn and heart to an old horse that needed love!





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

Update from Waypoint Ranch

By Stephanie Cirasa

Interacting with horses helps people experience how Stellate Ganglion Block changes them.

At our ranch we provide military families' multifaceted support. Things that work, horses, Accelerated Resolution Therapy, and Stellate Ganglion Block. Waypoint Ranch is a place to connect with horses in several ways:

- As a volunteer.
- In therapy
- In horsemanship study.

Through this process we learn about our participant, what makes them come alive, what barriers they may face, what therapies or treatments they've tried.

The horses tell the participant a lot about what kind of "horse" they are.

- Can they be trusted?
- Do they communicate clearly and fairly?
- Are they being honest?
- What do they "feel" like to the horse?

They very clearly respond differently before and after a Stellate Ganglion Block.

Note: We currently have a grant that serves veterans in Carrollton, Haralson and Heard counties with equine therapy and Stellate Ganglion Block. This opportunity is funded by the Community Foundation of West Georgia & The Trinka Davis Grant.



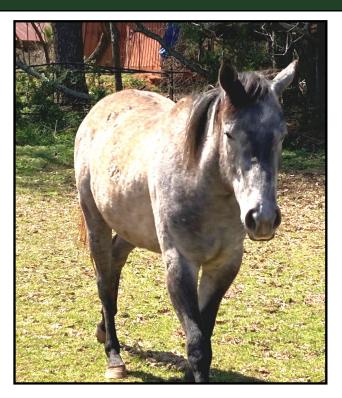
GERL ADOPTABLES

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

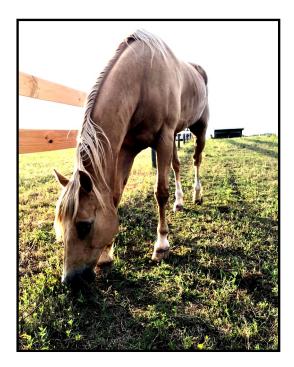


Sultan is a 25 year old Bay Arabian gelding. He is a former show horse that has done his time. Sultan is being offered as a pasture pal. He is a beautiful boy and would look good in any pasture! He has great ground manners is loves attention.





Luna is a 4 year old Quarter Horse filly. She spent two months with a trainer last year. Luna needs someone who is experienced and willing to go slowly with her training from here.



Cisco is a 25 year old Palomino QH gelding. He was one of Mickey Farmer's horses. Cisco is retired and being offered as a pasture pal. He is very sweet, not aggressive to other horses and very pretty to look at! Cisco has a lot of personality, too!.

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