



# Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. NEWSLETTER

*Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia*

Quarterly Newsletter

January, February & March 2023

## The Trouble with Horses on Cumberland Island

*by Mary Landers March 2nd, 2023 Updated March 8th, 2023*

Feral horses — especially the females — live a short, sickly life on Georgia's largest barrier island, advocates say.

At least 150 feral horses roam Cumberland Island National Seashore. Tourist sites highlight them. Visitors seek them out for photos. Artists celebrate them in paintings. The combination of island mystique and equine charisma is hard to resist.

Yet Cumberland's horses are not universally embraced. In fact, Athens-based Attorney Hal Wright has a message many of the island's equine enthusiasts don't want to hear: "Cumberland is bad for horses and horses are bad for Cumberland."

Wright represents the horses on Cumberland, the Georgia Equine Rescue League, the Georgia Horse Council and Cumberland resident Carol Ruckdeschel on whose behalf he sent a demand letter in late August to the National Park Service threatening to sue if the service didn't start managing the herd.

Their argument boils down to this: Failing to care for or remove Cumberland's horses amounts to animal cruelty, which Georgia law forbids. They cite both Georgia's Humane Care for Equines Act



A painfully thin feral horse grazes at Dungeness on Cumberland Island in 2019.

and the Georgia Equine Act.

The National Park Service hasn't responded to the August letter.

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# The Trouble with Horses on Cumberland Island

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## Horse history

Cumberland is the largest and southernmost of Georgia's barrier islands. It's loved for its sandy beaches scattered with driftwood "boneyards," for its maritime forest of twisted oaks, and for crumbling ruins of its gilded age mansion, Dungeness.

Visit Dungeness and you're almost guaranteed to see horses grazing in and around the decaying buildings. The postcard-perfect scene helps promote local tourism.

Humans began living on the island as early as 4,000 years ago. But Europeans and their horses didn't enter the scene until the 1500s when the Spanish built a mission and fort there. More horses came after the arrival of Gen. James E. Oglethorpe, founder of the English colony of Georgia, who claimed the island in 1736 and named it Cumberland. By 1788, "free-roaming horses were reported on Cumberland Island," a letter from the time reported.

A feral herd continued to exist on Cumberland through the plantation era when enslaved people grew sea island cotton there. The horse population declined during the Civil War but increased through the gilded era when Cumberland became first the winter retreat and then main residence for steel magnate Thomas Carnegie, his wife Lucy and their nine children. At one point, over 50 horses were stabled at Dungeness alone, according to the Cumberland Island National Seashore website.

"Throughout the 1900s, new stock was introduced and some horses were taken off the island for sale," the website states. "Property owners on Cumberland managed horses as free ranging livestock from the 1940s until the 1960s. By the time the park was established in 1972, horses had become feral on the island." With the National Seashore designation came research and documentation of the island's non-native species, including the feral horse. First, they were counted. "NPS has monitored the island's horses annually with population census techniques since 1981," Superintendent Gary Ingram and Cumberland staff wrote in an email response to *The Current*. "Based on this, the herd appears to be stable at between 150 and 170 animals."

Genetic testing on Cumberland's horses published in 1991 indicated they are genetically similar to breeds including the Tennessee Walking horse, Quarter Horse, Arabian, and Paso Fino. The researchers noted that "we do not know if the horses present on the island shortly after the Revolutionary War contributed significantly to the current gene pool or if the population is of more recent origin."





# The Trouble with Horses on Cumberland Island

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## The Island Harms the Horses

Regardless of their bloodlines, the horses are a draw for island visitors like Atlanta area resident Keiara Turner. She was curious about them as she boarded the 9 a.m. ferry from St. Marys to Cumberland in mid November. Turner had been on this trip three times before, first as a fifth grader. She was eager to see the horses again.

“Some are brown, some are white with black spots, some are all black — those are pretty,” she said.

But visitors don’t see the whole story, said Carol Ruckdeschel, a biologist and naturalist who resides on the island. Now 81, she’s lived on Cumberland since the 1970s studying its sea turtles and regularly surveying the beaches for dead animals she necropsies, documenting her findings.

“If you just come as a day visitor, and walk around and look at them, and they look fine, and everything’s good, and you leave with a nice, warm, fuzzy feeling,” she said. “But if you live with them, it’s entirely different. And they really have an incredibly difficult life.”

Patty Livingston, president of the Georgia Horse Council and the Georgia Equine Rescue League, makes a similar point. Both women focus their concern on Cumberland’s female horses.

“Not all the horses on the island are skinny. The babies are in pretty good shape. And of course the stallions are (in good shape) and you’re easily able to pick them out,” said Livingston, whose nonprofit Georgia Equine Rescue League cares for horses impounded by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. “But you’re also able to easily pick out the mares because none of them are at an adequate weight. And if that was anywhere else, the Department of Agriculture or law enforcement would be called.”

Mares frequently get pregnant as yearlings before they’re full grown themselves.

“I have seen gruesome pictures of them dying in full birth,” Ruckdeschel said. “I mean, they just can’t pass it.”

Female horses have an especially tough time on Cumberland. They are often pregnant or nursing from a young age and have trouble finding enough to eat.





# The Trouble with Horses on Cumberland Island

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If the young mare lives through the birth, she can get pregnant as quickly as two weeks later. So the females face a cycle of pregnancy, birth and suckling that requires more nourishment than the island provides. As the demand letter states, “Cumberland Island lacks adequate food resources to sustain an equine population of any number. The Cumberland horses consume Spanish moss, smooth cordgrass, sea oats and sedge, all native to the island and of marginal nutritional value.”

It’s painful to watch these mares, Ruckdeschel said. “They’re eating for themselves, the one inside of them, and their yearling, which is probably still suckling,” she said. “And so they go down fast. They really have a hard time. Once I watched a mare and a little foal, and it was right where I was always going out to the beach, and I could see it, and she was getting skinnier and skinnier. She was just a walking skeleton.” The next week both mother and baby were dead.

Both this mare and her foal died shortly after the photo was taken. Female horses have an especially tough time on Cumberland. They are often pregnant or nursing from a young age and have trouble finding enough to eat.

And that’s far from the only way horses die on Cumberland, where the life expectancy of a horse is 8 or 9 years. Domestic horses typically live to 25-30 years.

“I’ve seen them bogged down in the marsh and the tide come in and drown them. Alligators get them. They get caught between two trees like this,” Ruckdeschel said, pointing to two close-growing trees near the Dungeness ferry dock, “and die because they can’t get out.”

Their manes and tails are a liability in the thick underbrush of a maritime forest. They sometimes get caught in grapevines or briars and die, Ruckdeschel said. Tourists don’t see it because it occurs off the paths.

She once discovered a filly abandoned by its mother, lying alone in the marsh.

“That’s really unusual for parents to abandon. I mean, they’ve got to be a lost cause,” she said. “And then I realized how the feet were curled up on the ends.”

They looked like elf slippers. It’s a condition called laminitis that can occur when a horse is deprived of hard surfaces on which to walk, she said. Ruckdeschel

eased the filly into makeshift horse carrier fashioned from a boat trailer lined, drove gingerly over the dirt roads home and nursed her back to health, eventually rehoming her on the mainland.

Last fall Ruckdeschel discovered a dead horse with a live oak branch impaling its neck. Its lungs were infected from the injury, she discovered on an internal examination.

The horses are prone to mosquito-borne Eastern equine encephalitis, which can give them “the blind staggers.”

“They drool or hold their head down and they just walk around bumping into things and finally die,” Ruckdeschel said.

Domestic horses are vaccinated against this disease, but the Cumberland horses don’t receive any veterinary care.

When Cumberland visitors have a trained eye, they see the horses more like Ruckdeschel and Livingston do. That was the case with Veterinarian Tom Jones, of Ashburn, Va., who toured the island with friends on a chilly November day. As he waited for the ferry back to St. Marys he offered his assessment.





# The Trouble with Horses on Cumberland Island

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“A couple of them looked OK, but a couple looked dangerously thin,” he said.

Living on a barrier island likely compounds the issues horses typically have with wear and tear on their teeth and with their digestion, he said.

“It’s not much of a life for a horse,” Jones said.

“No significant die off”

Cumberland’s Superintendent Gary Ingram declined The Current’s request for an interview. He and other park staff instead answered questions submitted by email, responding after more than two months.

They argue the herd has adjusted to Cumberland and functions like a wild population.

“Condition ratings for observed animals have always been predominantly in the “good” to “moderate” categories,” they wrote. “At no time during the last 41+ years has there been a significant die-off or anything indicating that the overall health of the herd was in extremely poor condition. The island is 36,000 acres in size with half of the acreage in upland habitat and the other half in fresh and brackish water marsh habitat. The herd appears to have stabilized its numbers relative to the amount of natural food available on the island.”

The horse advocates are pushing the Park Service to act before there’s a disaster.

“NPS seems to take the position that the island is not bad for the horses because the horses are not in ‘extremely poor condition’ and because there has not been a herd die off,” wrote Wright, the attorney. “This is an extremely low bar and one which is challenged by the Georgia Equine Rescue League and the Georgia Horse Council.”

The staff response also states the herd has had minimal to no care from human during most of its time on the island.

“Cumberland’s horses are not domestic animals that have been abandoned, nor are they accustomed to being fed,” the staff wrote. “Instead, they function as a wild population that has adapted to living conditions on a barrier island and are subject to all of the natural forces that affect wildlife.”

*Photos: Credit: Mary Landers/The Current*





# The Trouble with Horses on Cumberland Island

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Wright rejects this response as “incorrect and self-serving.”

“If the Cumberland horses are not domestic horses, what are they?” he wrote. “If they are not domestic horses which have been abandoned by their previous owners (the Carnegies and their extended family) then are they domestic horses that still belong to these fam-



Credit: NPS photo

ilies? Or did these families do something other than abandon these horses? To be clear, there is no debating the Carnegies and the families on the island brought to the island and released hundreds of horses on the island.”

Better known than the effect of the island on horses is the reverse. Researchers have long documented the harm the horses do to the nearly 18-mile-long barrier island.

Studies have found that their grazing significantly reduces plant cover, growth, and reproduction, apparently altering what plants grow in these areas, a 2018 National Park Service report documents.

“The feral horse herd likely consumes between 200 to 400 tons of vegetation each year and removes up to 98% of vegetation in areas they frequent,” states the draft Visitor Use Management Plan for Cumberland, released in October. A dramatic photo from one study makes it even more clear, showing a denuded area where horses grazed adjacent to a lush one where they were kept out.

Through the use of enclosures (fenced areas that prevent horses from grazing there) biologists have been able to document the impact of horses on the island’s

landscape.

Grazing is likely increasing the vulnerability of dunes and salt marshes to erosion and storm damage.

A bipartisan Feb. 8 letter from U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff and U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter, both of Georgia, urges Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland to investigate shoreline erosion on Cumberland. Despite the horses’ connection to dune damage, the letter lists “wild horses” among the island’s assets. Ossoff Spokesman Jake Best told *The Current* the senator’s office has “not studied the issue in depth.”

Horses alter the soil in wetlands, compacting it with their weight. Their waste, evident to any day tripper, adds excess nutrients to wetlands and ponds and can contaminate waters with pathogens, including *E. coli* bacteria. All these impacts spell trouble for the island’s hundreds of native plants and animal species.

Nearly 20 years ago Lary Dilsaver, now an emeritus professor of geography at the University of Alabama, wrote the definitive history of Cumberland with “Cumberland Island National Seashore: A History of Conservation Conflict.” He detailed the debate over horse management as well as the political wrangling over the island. Park management was moving toward managing the herd in the 1990s but delayed making a decision when there was a public outcry against it.





# The Trouble with Horses on Cumberland Island

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Then-Congressman Jack Kingston stepped in. “He toured the island with one of the residents and suddenly claimed that the horse numbers had decreased and that he could find little evidence of damage caused by them,” Dilsaver wrote. “Without discussing the issue with the Park Service, he added a rider to the fiscal year 1997 budget bill banning all horse management at Cumberland Island National Seashore.”

Dilsaver concludes in his book published in 2004, “At present the Park Service continues to take no action with horses other than the annual census.” The horse advocates’ demand letter picks up the story here: “Representative Kingston’s rider expired in 1997,” the letter states. “Since that time, NPS has taken no further steps to manage, care for, or otherwise control the island’s feral horses.”

“The ‘1996’ plan has expired and cannot be reactivated,” Ingram and park staffers told *The Current* without further explanation.

Despite its own documentation of the harm the horses do, a draft management plan on the books, and a mandate to protect the island’s native species, the draft Visitor Use Management Plan the Park Service released in October offers no vision for the horses going forward. “Feral populations of hogs and horses roam freely on the island, and while Cumberland Island National Seashore has established the objective of eradicating the hog population, feral horses currently are not managed,” it states.

That hog management has a connection to Hal Wright.

“NPS was forced to further control feral hogs through a legal action brought by myself very similar to the one being threatened,” Wright wrote.

The Park Service points to the damage hogs do to sea turtle nests as the reason to manage that feral species. Duly noted, Wright said.

“An additional more detailed notice letter under the Endangered Species Act has been sent to NPS setting forth how NPS’s failures to manage the island horses is threatening the island’s listed species, including their critical habitat,” he

wrote.

Cattle also once roamed the island. After they were removed in the 70s the beach dune system recovered significantly as did the underbrush in the forested areas, Ruckdeschel said.

And Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota has recently proposed eliminating its feral horses and domestic livestock, National Parks Traveler reports.





# The Trouble with Horses on Cumberland Island

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## Solutions proposed

Wright and the other horse advocates propose that the NPS start caring for the horses right away, providing food, water and medical care “to bring the herd to the level of care consistent with Georgia’s Humane Care for Equines Act.”

They then want the entire herd removed over the course of eight years by the use of contraceptive darting of the mares and by a round up and adoption of young horses. The lack of a response so far tells Wright the effort is not being received as a “friendly suit,” that will help them resolve the issue.

Ingram and park staffers said they’re aware of “varied public opinion concerning Cumberland Island’s feral horse population and will seek to incorporate the public’s input on any future plans to address feral horse management.”

To Wright, that response signals the possibility of an analysis that seeks public input before the Park Service takes action. Instead, the demand letter urges an expedited process that doesn’t require public comment because of the threat the feral horses pose to the island’s natural habitat.

The Southern Environmental Law Center also urged a reduction in the herd in its recent comments on the Visitor Use Management Plan, urging a public education campaign to explain the horses’ plight.

“If such a campaign were executed successfully, the Park Service may build public support for taking appropriate action such as gelding the stallions, so the mares are not continually in foal,” SELC writes. “If the herd was reduced in size, the impacts of the horses on the ecological integrity of the island could also be improved, as well as the health of the horses.” Park visitors who celebrate the horses and the commercial tour guides who profit from them are among those who may object. The Park Service web site downplays the horses’ presence, but an authorized contractor, Molly’s Old South Tours, plays them up even in the tour name: “Cumberland Island Walking Tour: Haunting Ruins and Wild Horses.” Some cruises out of Fernandina and Amelia Island also feature the horse in their promotional material.





# The Trouble with Horses on Cumberland Island

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Horses drink from one of the few sources of fresh water on the island.

Representatives of Greyfield Inn, the only commercial establishment on Cumberland Island, declined to comment. The \$400-a-night retreat overseen by members of the Carnegie family doesn't shy away from the horses on its web site, where a photo shows seven horses grazing among palm trees against a backdrop of marsh. "Ride in the back of our custom naturalist's truck on the way to view the secrets of Cumberland: historical ruins, wild horses, and lush maritime forests," the copy reads.

Gogo Ferguson, a Carnegie descendant who creates jewelry inspired by Cumberland and who lives on the island, emphasized the long history of horses on the island and the population's stability.

"I am very cautious of anyone determining who can stay and who has to go as it has been a very symbiotic life for all of us, all inhabitants of Cumberland," she

wrote in an email. "It is when we start tampering with introducing animals, sterilizing horses (an utter disaster and with so many tragic consequences) decisions with no long term studies, that cause problems."

Knowing that the horses evoke emotional and political responses, Ruckdeschel, Livingston and Wright expect a fight.

Livingston sees a path forward with her organization working with the Department of Agriculture to assist Cumberland's horses.

"I'm hoping that's what will happen," she said. "But I'm just fastening my chin strap."



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The program AmazonSmiles, which was designed to help Non-Profit organizations, ended February 20, 2023. The majority of our income is from memberships and direct donations and the AmazonSmiles program was one of many of our income streams. To replace the AmazonSmiles program we have decided to join Amazon Associates program. This program will allow us to make a small commission on sales from items listed on our website. We have listed a few items below that we think you would like and are related to Horse Care. The item(s) purchased must be bought from our links to be eligible for us to make a commission. Your feedback is welcome!

Thank you for supporting the Georgia Equine Rescue League.

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# Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipe

## Zucchini Lasagna



### Ingredients

- 1 pound lean ground beef (90% lean)
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1 cup 2% cottage cheese
- 4 medium zucchini (about 1-3/4 pounds)
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
- Additional shredded mozzarella cheese, optional



### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°. In large skillet, cook and crumble beef with onion over medium-high heat until meat is no longer pink, 5-7 minutes. Stir in seasonings and tomato sauce. Bring to a boil; simmer, uncovered, 5 minutes. In a bowl, mix egg and cottage cheese.
2. Trim ends of zucchini; cut lengthwise into 1/4-in.-thick slices. Toss zucchini with the flour. Layer half the slices in a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Top with cottage cheese mixture and half the meat sauce. Add remaining zucchini slices; sprinkle with any remaining flour. Spread with remaining meat sauce; sprinkle with 1 cup mozzarella cheese.
3. Bake, uncovered, until heated through, about 40 minutes. If desired, sprinkle with additional cheese. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.



# Its Spring at The Rescue at Spirit Ridge Farm

*By Sabra Rockwell*

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Happy Spring everyone!

Our fencing project is progressing. The new front yard pasture fence is complete, and we have the old fence torn down. The second half of the fence project will include a sitting area and new wood fence to the barn area and a gate. We are so excited to be slowly getting the old fencing torn down and newer fencing put up.

We have several workshops planned for this year,

- Healing through Volunteering
- Veteran Equine Assisted coaching workshop
- Workshop for Addicts in recovery

We currently are planning a Fall Poker Ride, date TBA. Visit our Facebook Page, The Rescue at Spirit Ridge Farm, to learn more about activities coming up.

Mark your calendars for May 6, 2023, 4:30 PM to 7:00 pm, for our Derby Day Run for the Roses Gala Fundraiser. We will be watching races, having dinner, a silent auction, raffle and a Derby Hat Contest for the ladies. Tickets are 25.00 online and 30.00 at the door. We have partnered with the Lavonia VFW Post 5897 Auxiliary for this event and it will be held at the Lavonia VFW Post 5897, 144 E. Main St, Lavonia GA. Monies raised will go to projects to better serve our Veterans for both the farm and the VFW Post.

Tickets are now on sale: <https://derbydayrunfortherosesgal.rsvpify.com>

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## **The Rescue at Spirit Ridge Farm Inc. 501C3 in conjunction with the Lavonia VFW Post 5897 Auxiliary**

**Proudly presents**

**The first annual Derby Day “Run for the Roses” Gala**

**VFW Post 5897, 144 E. Main St, Lavonia Ga.**

**May 6, 2023, 4:30 to 7:00**

This is an event to benefit The Rescue @ Spirit Ridge Farms’ Equine Assisted Veterans Programs and the Veterans programs through the Lavonia VFW Post 5897 Auxiliary. We would like to invite you to be part of this fun and worthwhile event by becoming an event sponsor.





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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?**

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## **GERL Secretary Position Filled**

*By Patty Livingston*

The Secretary position at GERL has been filled by Donna Pieper who has actually held positions on the GERL Board in the past. Donna and I have been able to get together and review our membership database and I am feeling very good (and extremely fortunate) to have Donna fill this important position. She is accustomed to working with applications and has caught on quickly to the gaps where she is most needed. For the first time in a long time, I feel that we might actually get around to the important task of doing a membership drive this year with Donna's help and expertise..

Big thanks to Donna for stepping up to take on this task. I am looking forward to working with her and expanding our horizons a bit with regard to mastering the membership database.







# 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**

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**THANK YOU!**

*Your donation is  
tax deductible!*

## Update on the Baker's Dozen

*By Patty Livingston*

It has been six months since we assisted an anonymous county Sheriff's office in seizing 13 horses from the owner who refused to release ownership. The case goes to court in May and in the meantime, GERL foster homes have been housing and rehabilitating them. Here are some updated photos where you can see where your donated dollars have been going. They are all nice and fat, now. Thank you for making a difference!





# Horses & Warriors March 2023 Update

By Sara Reams

Hi, Everyone! Calvin Center Horses & Warriors is back at work, following our holiday break. We started with a field trip, suggested during our Friday breakfasts. More than 20 veterans met at the Chick-fil-A headquarters in Atlanta, where we were warmly received. The staff asked all the veterans to come to the front of the welcome center, where each individual was asked their branch of service and years served. Then each one was given a “challenge coin” from Chick-fil-A, in thanks for the service of each person. This was much appreciated by our veterans. The tour was great, with a behind-the-scenes view into all that is CFA. The Batmobile was a big hit. We highly recommend this tour to you all!

The following Friday, we began with our yearly brunch, held in the Calvin Center dining hall, featuring delicious breakfast fare from our Chef Kenny, in addition to donated Chick-fil-A breakfast biscuits. CFA is definitely our friend! This time together away from the barn gave us time to talk about our program, and listen to suggestions from everyone as we move into our 13th year. Veteran input is so important as we consider how best to move Horses & Warriors forward.

To that end, we have two new things that we have already put into practice. We formed two teams, with designated veteran volunteers: the Welcome Team and the Training Team. These teams are designed to streamline our work on a Friday. The Welcome Team is responsible for greeting each new veteran, showing them around, and answering questions they have. The Training Team trains all new volunteers in how we

safely work with our horses. Having these experienced veterans take on these responsibilities frees up our instructors, Marywill and Kate, to do the work they do with our riders; and it insures that each new person gets the attention they deserve as they learn about our program.

We are happy to report that two of our veterans are currently in training to be PATH Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructors, CTRI. This is a huge step for them, and we support them whole-heartedly!

With all this going on, we also are reaching out to the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Stockbridge, Covington, Newnan, and Zebulon. In this way, we hope to reach as many veterans as possible who will benefit from



Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies, EAAT.

If you are a Facebook person, we hope you'll visit our new FB page, Calvin Center Horses & Warriors. We lost our old page, as a “grey” page that was discontinued by Facebook. So, we're starting from scratch, as 12 years of history and photos were erased. Please have a look, and we'll update our page as time goes on.

Thanks as always to GERL, for their support of not only Calvin Center Horses & Warriors, but also their new focus of serving all veterans. It is an honor to be part of their work.



### Thank you for your donations

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Gloria Owens  
Teresa Dobrosky

Susan Wright  
Tonia Epps & Family  
Tina and Terry Turner  
Karen Stubbs  
George Brantley, Jr.  
Debbie Ferrell  
Susan Bruno  
Lori Roush  
Cindy and Jim McGarvey  
Penny Stiglitz  
Pamela Taylor  
The Haley Family  
Melissa Volk  
Tanya Kingsley  
Beulah Newton  
Linda Kundell  
Countryside Equine Veterinary  
Services/ Dr. Tom Wilson  
Sonya Jahn & Family  
Susanne Lauda  
Sandy Crutchfield

### Welcome New Members

Kathy Worthington  
Tricia Raines  
Cindy and Jim McGarvey  
Melissa Volk & Family  
Diana Hinojosa & Family



### Baker's Dozen Feed & Care:

The Dickens Family Foundation  
Robyn Placek  
Beth Kemp  
Tina and Terry Turner  
Lisa McKinney  
Jo West

### In Memory of

Chelsea *by Jeanne D'Andrea*  
Sprice Drury, a beloved Angel who loved Horses,  
*by Dorinda Daniely*  
Jan Faucett *by Pamela Kennedy*  
My beautiful 32 yr old Arab, Jordan, *by Margaret Wallace*

### In Honor of

Amy Catalano, Happy Birthday, by Jon and Sydney Sattler  
Lisa Sikes by Judy Gore  
Brynn Pennington and Pine Lake Farm by Robyn Smith

### Kroger



Quarterly Check  
\$85.69

### Feed A Horse

Erik Wittenzellner  
Carol Royer  
Constance Burchette  
Alice Johnson  
Bob & Margaret Wallace  
Henry Bell  
Allison Altman  
Bonnie LaVoie  
George Mortensen



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



## Let's Talk About the Money 2022 Financial Highlights

- We received \$9,900 in ADOPTION FEES.
- We received \$7,784 in MEMBERSHIPS.
- We received \$103,573 in DONATIONS & GRANTS.
- We received \$5,775 for Feed-A-Horse Program.
- We received \$2,185 from FUNDRAISING.

**TOTAL INCOME FOR 2022 WAS \$129,306**

### GERL PROGRAM EXPENSES:

- We spent \$41,061 on HORSES HEAL HEREOS.
- We spent \$530 on ANIMAL CONTROL ASSISTANCE.
- We spent \$30,575 on GERL FOSTER HORSES.
- We spent \$300 on CRISIS INTERVENTION program
- We spent \$2,767 on STALLION TO GELDING PROGRAM.
- We spent \$38,357 assisting horses in 2022

**TOTAL EXPENSES FOR 2022 WAS \$106,925 .**



## GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars!*

### Early Summer 2023

GERL Flea Market  
Good Hope, GA



### November 2023

**Stallion to Gelding Castration Month**  
Participating Vets Across Georgia  
Check the GERL website Oct 1st for  
participating veterinarians.



				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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

# Area Coordinators

**Anderson, Cynthia - Baldwin & Putnam**

(770) 713-9887 / gomaifat@yahoo.com

**Aronson, Dr. Amy - Lowndes**

(229) 356-7991 / aaronson@valdosta.edu

**Bell, Gloria - Coweta, Troup and Fayette**

(706) 392-7520 / gloria@decorinsights.com

**Bell, Joan - Effingham, Bryan and Liberty**

(617) 460-0979 / jelisbell@hotmail.com

**Benfield, Rita - Douglas, Haralson, Carroll**

(770) 330-0877 / ritabenfield@gmail.com

**Bond, Susie - Newton, Morgan & Greene**

(770) 464-4353 / bond97@att.net

**Brayton, Cynthia - Rockdale & Henry**

(678) 490-6266 / leaper12@hotmail.com

**Brock, Allen - Franklin, Madison, Hart, Stephens, Elbert,**

**Banks, Jackson, Clarke, Oglethorpe, Habersham, Rabun**

(706) 255-6595 / astunt1@yahoo.com

**Calli, CeCe - Hart, Franklin and Elbert**

(706) 371-5804 / gerlfoster@aol.com

**Cheatham, Sally - Coweta, Heard, Meriwether, Fayette, and South Fulton**

(770) 253-8703

**Dale, Rhonda - Paulding, Polk & Carroll**

(770) 769-0445 / rhondajdale@hotmail.com

**DeVane, Charles & Linda—Brooks, Thomas & Cook**

(229) 263-7714 / (229) 560-0844

**Farrar, Alice—Jones**

(478) 451-7999 / alice.farrar@gmail.com

**Greene, Brian—Walton**

(404) 660-6420 / brian.e.greene7@gmail.com

**Hammond, Angie - Elbert, Madison, Franklin & Hart**

(762) 338-8786 / ahammond1023@gmail.com

**Henderson, Karen - Dougherty, Lee, Terrell & Baker**

(229) 883-2842 / k3apps@yahoo.com

**Jacobi, Lynn - Henry, Butts, Newton & Rockdale**

(954) 857-5217 / Ljacobi1953@gmail.com

**Key, Ashley - Hall, Gwinnett, Forsyth & Jackson**

(404) 424-1495 / ashleykey@gmail.com

**King, Lori - Walton, & Newton**

(609) 517-3335 / ridefree34.5kawa@yahoo.com

**Kingsley, Tanya - Jasper, Butts, Monroe, Jones & Putnam**

(706) 468-0794 / twkings@gmail.com

**Kundell, Linda - Oconee, Morgan, Oglethorpe, Athens & Clark**

(706) 769-6395 / lindakgerl@gmail.com

**Long, Bob - Barrow & Jackson**

(678) 409-8893 / bobron945@gmail.com

**Perlman, Susan - DeKalb**

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

**Pieper, Donna - Gwinnett & Walton**

(404) 797-3333 / horsesdpl@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—Bullock, 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](mailto:gerlpatty@yahoo.com)





# LET ME SAY THIS...ABOUT THAT

*By Patty Livingston, President*

You may remember back in Q2 of 2022, the story of the horses of Cumberland Island graced the cover of our newsletter. It was an informative accounting of my trip to the island with concern for the horses there. What I didn't mention in that article was that the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) and the Georgia Horse Council (GHC) had agreed to be Plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the National Park Service (NPS) and others to enforce the current laws surrounding feral animals on the island, as well as equine protection laws.

This is not the first time that GERL has been involved with the management of barrier island equine. Back in the ninety's they were involved with the Ossabaw donkey roundup on Ossabaw Island which was sold to the State of Georgia in 1978 by the State of South Carolina. GERL's involvement included helping with the round-up and adoption. Donkeys remain on the island today.

When I was first approached about GERL's and GHC's involvement as Plaintiff's in a lawsuit, I took a few days to digest what that could mean before calling a Board meeting for discussion. The GERL Board of Directors agreed to join the horses of Cumberland Island and Carol Ruckdeschel, local resident, biologist, and famous turtle lady, in the lawsuit. Since the Board is the same for both organizations, I was able to move forward with our answer to the attorney, Hal Wright.

I gathered a committee of 7 interested volunteers, and we met via conference call every Tuesday night for several months, doing research and providing information to Mr. Wright who was drawing up the demand letter which was served back in August. We drafted a management plan that would span a number of years into the future that included removing weanlings and yearlings and offering them for adoption, as well as birth control for the mares. Several of us took a trip to Cumberland Island so that we could see firsthand what it was we were objecting to. There has been no formal

response from any of the Defendants. It is our hope that our management plan might be considered, but of course, we have no idea how the NPS will respond.

The Current, a news source that covers news for coastal Georgia, ran the first story about the situation I'm speaking of a few weeks ago. It was written by Mary Lawson who interviewed me and others. I think that she did a great job of covering everything from soup to nuts in her article. We obtained permission from The Current to republish Mary's story in our newsletter this quarter. I hope you find it informative.

Immediately after Mary's story came out in The Current, the National Parks Traveler ran a story which referenced Mary's story and the situation on Cumberland Island with feral horses. It is a great article, as well, and they sum it up perfectly by asking the question: "Why doesn't the National Park Service have a system-wide policy for dealing with feral horses? If they view feral horses as non-natives that compete with native wildlife, shouldn't it have a system-wide policy of removing them, rather than allowing a contradictory approach depending on the local sentiments to dealing with them? After all, a non-native species is a non-native species."

There are a lot of people involved and it is a very political situation that has been festering for years, but let me say this about that...getting involved and giving the horses a voice is the right thing to do.



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



# Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award

By Cynthia Anderson

With the introduction of the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown in 2020 everything for the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) changed. Fundraising events were cancelled, and volunteer opportunities dwindled, but despite everything, GERL has been active in other ways, and members have been working hard to make a difference.

So, it is with the greatest of pleasure that I announce Cindy Farris as the 2022 recipient of the Marty Paulk Cheerleader award. GERL is very fortunate to have many dedicated members that always saddle up when they need to. Cindy is one of those members. She works tirelessly to make a difference and the past year is no exception.

Cindy always helps. She helps with the flea market items, she cleans tack, she helps with set up and take down. She helped with the yard sale. She is always in attendance at the GERL annual meetings. Her help with the care of the “Baker’s Dozen” has been invaluable to GERL. While many people were involved with this rescue, Cindy went above and beyond the call of duty by fostering two of the horses. However, one of her biggest contributions is taking over the tack from Pickers Paradise, which recently closed. Cindy is going to be running the donated tack items for sale from her basement. What a blessing for GERL to have a volunteer like Cindy Farris! I’m sure Marty Paulk is smiling down from Heaven!



## *Where Does the Money Go?*

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

- GERL spent \$6,021.00 for feed, hay, vet care and farrier service on our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$592.42 on castrations for the Stallion to Gelding Castration Days.
- GERL paid \$2,718.49 to pay for feed for the horses at Warriors Ranch in Dublin.
- GERL spent \$2,628.00 on feed for the horses at Calvin Center Horses & Warriors.



# 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

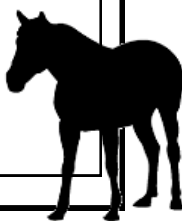
Colors: Mint/Blossom/Melon

Available to purchase on our website [www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org)

## GERL Stallion to Gelding Program.

**Stallions Gelded  
To Date By GERL:**

# 1316



## Horses in our Foster Care Program

**CeCe Calli**—Foster Care Coordinator  
(706) 376-2410 \* [foster@gerlltd.org](mailto:foster@gerlltd.org)

Horse	Age	Color	Ridable	Foster Farm
<b>CoCo</b>	33	Sorrel	No	Petree Farm
<b>Cooper</b>	26	Sorrel	No	Steven Neal
<b>Luna</b>	3	Gray	Yes	CeCe Calli
<b>Cisco</b>	25	Gold	No	Liberty Stables
<b>Sultan</b>	22	Bay	Yes	Liberty Stables



## REACH THOUSANDS OF POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS! ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

Coverage in our Newsletter and website!

**Business Card Page (Color) Annual: \$100.00**

**1/4 Page: \$150.00 per year (Newsletter/Website/Color)**

**1/2 Page: \$200.00 per year (Newsletter/Website/Color)**

**Full Page \$300.00 per year (Newsletter/Website/Color)**

(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](mailto:ads@gerlltd.org)**

## 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*



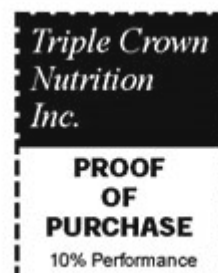
## Please Help! GERL receives money for the following...

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

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*





## Update on POP PROGRAM

*By Ginny Scarritt*

It's been a hot minute since I've updated the status of the Proof of Purchase (POP) program. Starting January 1st, we were again able to take advantage of the more lucrative Triple Crown gift card program (\$1,440 so far this year) & the Cargill free bags of feed program (24 bags so far in 2023). Thank you to the following new donors: Carla & Patrick Joyce, Jan Wilson, Erma McClain, Sandy Stephenson, Debbie Whitworth, Jan Collins, Pierrette Ziebell and Karen Stubbs. I continue to be grateful to my long-time donors who consistently send POPs without fail. God bless you all and the horses you keep and the horses you are helping!!



### Nutrena Feed it Forward Grant Update



Thank you for your recent grant application submission to the Feed It Forward program. It was a true pleasure to learn about your organization, and the extraordinary efforts you are making.

Although your organization was not chosen for a grant during this selection period, we do encourage you to apply again. Stay tuned for news on when applications for our next grant cycle will open up on [www.feeditforward.org](http://www.feeditforward.org).

While we are unable to provide specific feedback on your original application, if you choose to apply again, we encourage you to be creative, showcase what unique aspects your organization has, and highlight what you would do with grant funds, should you be chosen in the next round.

Thank you for your time and effort in applying. Make sure to stay connected with the Feed It Forward movement on [www.facebook.com/nutrena](https://www.facebook.com/nutrena) and our [www.feeditforward.org](http://www.feeditforward.org).



## GERL Offers Grants to Non-Profits

By Cynthia Anderson

In 2021 Georgia Equine Rescue League Ltd. (GERL) introduced the Horses Heal Veterans Grant. This grant consisted of five grants of \$1000.00 each. The monies were intended to cover the cost of the veterans sessions at a facility that provides equine therapy for veterans suffering from PTSD. Well, the past year has been an eye opening experience for GERL.

For some reason, no one was applying for the grants. We were dumbfounded. Who would not want free money, especially when it is earmarked to help veterans? Eventually, we did have two facilities apply for and receive the grants. At the end of the year we had \$3000.00 in unapplied grant funds.

During a recent conference call, Patty asked the six facilities GERL supports why they did not apply for

the grants. No one really had an answer. So, we thought that maybe it was time to rethink our guidelines which specify the recipient be a veteran. Through the conference calls that we have hosted with the six non-profits and Equine Immersion Project out of New Hampshire, we've learned that expanding recipients to include enlisted, first responders AND their families is part of the healing. A veteran may not feel comfortable seeking help, but it is often the family that will come and especially the children. Often, the families of a veteran or enlisted military suffer just as their loved one with PTSD.

We believe that expanding our guidelines for the Horses Heal Veterans Grant is key in its success and we have already started the wheels in motion.

## More Photos of the Baker's Dozen



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



# GERL Holds it's Annual Meeting

By Patty Livingston

I always start out the story about the GERL annual meeting by discussing the weather because for the past many years there has been a significant weather system on the day of our meeting, no matter if we move the date. This year started out that way with a hard rain and thunder storm the morning before the meeting. By 10:00 it had moved out of the Winder area and we had great weather while we got everything unloaded and throughout the remainder of the day.

It was a smaller crowd than usual, with 25 or 30 people in attendance, but it was a great meeting and full of informative updates about all of the good work that GERL does. After the GERL presentation was award time and Cindy Farris was the recipient of the coveted Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award. Cindy is well-deserving of the award as she has worn many hats for GERL over the years, including foster mom to GERL horses and most recently she has taken on the task of running the GERL tack store from her basement. Congratulations to Cindy. I think Marty Paulk would be pleased!



Cindy Farris - Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award Recipient

Our guest speaker this year was Paula Smith, Operations Manager at Warriors Wellness & Recovery Ranch located in Dublin. Paula shared the story of Warriors Wellness & Recovery Ranch and the veterans and first responders that they serve. She also talked about future plans to expand and build. Everyone in the audience enjoyed hearing what she had to say and had questions afterwards.

I'm challenging everyone to make a commitment to come to the annual meeting next year and bring someone new with you. We need your help!



Paula Smith, Operations Mgr. at Warriors Ranch



Everybody wants to know who made the blueberry jello dish?

Continued on page 26



## GERL Holds it's Annual Meeting (Continued)

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 25





## Volunteer of the Quarter

By Patty Livingston

This quarter's Volunteer of the Quarter is someone who has been involved in GERL for many years and has served in many capacities. He has served on the GERL Board of Directors, has been fostering horses for GERL for more years than I can remember, and he is currently fostering three of our old guys. His name is Steven Neal if you haven't already guessed. Steven came over to my farm last year and he and I built a new run-in shed for the fosters in my care. He also came over and hung a gate and got my electric fence hooked up to keep the horses off my fence. It really doesn't matter the task; Steven is always happy to volunteer and that makes him a hero in my eyes.

It is only through the generosity of people like Steven who give their time and talents to help in our mission that we are able to do all of the good work that we do. HUGE thanks to Steven Neal!



## Former Mansfield Volunteers Meet

By Patty Livingston



Since the Georgia Department of Agriculture closed their impound barns in 2020, Bob Cooper, one of the Mansfield long-time volunteers, has been orchestrating the occasional get-togethers of all of the friends and volunteers who worked at the Decatur and/or Mansfield impound barns. Several folks met recently at Hot-Rod's Restaurant in Social Circle and enjoyed a nice lunch and fellowship together. Big thanks to "Coop" for taking the time to organize these gatherings. It is always good to see old friends that share the love of horses.

Back Row: Patty Livingston, John Marasco, Bob Cooper, Jacki Cooper, Susie Bond, Margie Shepard, Dave Kingsley and Tanya Kingsley.



## Wonderful Start to the New Year

*By Steven Neal*

On December 21<sup>st</sup> last year I received a text from CeCe about possibly boarding a 25 year old horse named Cisco. I called her back and said that I would be more than happy to take care of this old boy. Several days later CeCe called me and upped up the ante by asking if I was willing to take another horse as well named Sultan. She said both were older horses, lame, and on medications. I said that they should fit right in as my current horses pretty much match that description. On the evening of December 31<sup>st</sup> Patty Livingston pulled into my barn, truck and trailer, with Cisco and Sultan on board. We unloaded the two boys into their stalls for the night and they quickly settled into their new home.



---

Thus we started the first day of 2023 with two new residents here at Shiloh Farms. Here the boys have been turned out in my front yard. Later on in the afternoon they decided to lie down and rest a bit.

---





## Wonderful Start to the New Year (cont'd)

By Steven Neal

Since both were prescribed Equioxx® and Prascend® I made arrangements with my veterinarian to examine them so I could keep up their prescriptions. I also needed negative coggins certificates for my stable license. The veterinarian confirmed that they were both lame mainly in their fore hooves and they both showed signs of PPID. However, with proper therapeutic farrier care, proper feeding and careful use of analgesic medications we should be able to maintain their comfort and quality of life.

After two weeks I felt it was time to turn them out with the rest of the boys since they have already made introductions over the fence. Cisco and Sultan decided to tour the back pasture areas and graze there first before joining the gang in my front winter pasture. As expected they all settled in as if it were just another day. I do get the impression though that Sultan would like to take on the role of alpha in this little herd. Titan is such a layback alpha I don't think it's going to change anything in the long run.



We rounded out the month of January with a visit by my farrier and the return of the veterinarian for their winter dental checkup. As we approach the first day of spring the warmer weather, rain and sunshine have really greened up the pastures. This has resulted in my having to fetch them in for dinner. This isn't a big deal as long as it isn't raining at that time. Of course they don't mind getting wet but I do.

In summation my new additions have clearly made a place here in their new home. I am pleased as they fill the hole left by the passing of Ladybug and Ransom over the last couple years. I guess I didn't realize before how much I felt the emptiness of having two empty stalls.

I don't know why but I've started this year somehow feeling like I hit the lottery.



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



# GERL ADOPTABLES

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



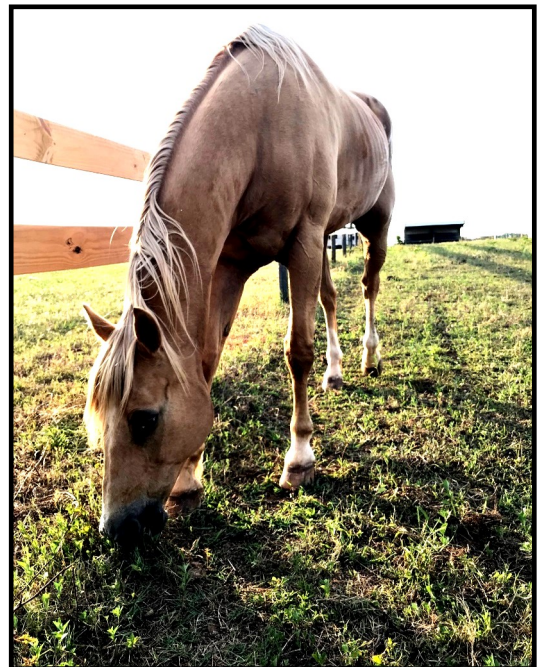
**Sultan** is a 25 year old Bay Arabian gelding. He is a former show horse that has done his time. Sultan is being offered as a pasture pal. He is a beautiful boy and would look good in any pasture! He has great ground manners is loves attention.



**Luna** is a 3 year old Quarter Horse filly. She has just spent 2 months with a trainer. Luna needs someone who is willing to go slowly with her training from here. We suspect that she was abused at some point in her life.



**Gypsy** is a 22 year old Mustang mare. She is 13.1 hh and is very shy. She is slow to trust humans, and it is obvious that she has not been handled a lot. We are offering Gypsy as a pasture pal. She is very sweet.



**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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Owners

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## Helios Equine Rehabilitation Center

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(281) 635-7823



www.calvincenter.org

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# Donation/Membership Application

*"As a convenience you can donate or signup/renew your membership on our website <https://gerlltd.org>"*

Sign Up Today to help starved, abused and neglected horses in Georgia!

New Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a horse owner

\_\_\_\_\_ Although I do not own a horse, I would like to support the GERL

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in becoming a GERL Foster Home

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in becoming a GERL fundraising event volunteer

Annual membership dues are:

\$35.00 Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Single \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Junior (12 & under) \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

\$50.00 Club, Organization or Business \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000.00 Lifetime \_\_\_\_\_

Misc. Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: GERL  
Mail to: GERL - P.O. Box 328 - Bethlehem, GA 30620



**With Your Help ... We Will Make A Difference!**



Certified 501(c)3 with the State of Georgia

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

Sign Up Today to help starved, abused and neglected horses in Georgia!