



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. NEWSLETTER

Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia

Quarterly Newsletter

January, February & March 2024

GERL & EIP Host Equine Event at Ft. Stewart

By Patty Livingston



Once again, the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) and our New Hampshire partner, Equine Immersion Project (EIP), collaborated to host a four-day equine event for our military at Ft. Stewart on March 6-9. GERL and EIP partnered this past September to host the “proof of concept” four-day event at the Ft. Stewart stables with the purpose of showing the Garri-

son the value of keeping the stables open and viable to the military. Tara Mahoney, CEO and founder of EIP, along with her Blue Star Mother sidekick, Kelly MacCorquadale, reached out to Chaplains of each of the Divisions to obtain the 8 to 10 participants needed each day.

Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

- GERL Hosts Annual Meeting...Page 5**
- GERL Crisis Intervention Program...Page 14**
- An Age OLD Horse Tale...Page 20**
- Difficult situation with a Favorable End...Page 27**
- GERL Attends Sermon on the Mount...Page 28**

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GERL & EIP Host Equine Event at Ft. Stewart

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 1

That event was perfect and portrayed exactly what Tara and Kelly intended and that was to be invited back.

That event also built a dynamic team of like-minded people from both organizations that worked together flawlessly. The events are not open to the general public and the need for volunteers is limited. Tara's team includes several retired Navy Seals. They play an important role of connecting with the individuals who might have been "selected" to participate (in lieu of volunteering). Sometimes they arrive with an attitude, but by lunchtime they are wearing a smile. It is amazing to witness!

The day is not about instruction, it is about spreading love and acceptance. The participants pretty much take over the care of the horse that they select that morning, with the help of our team. We are giving them an opportunity to actually connect with the horse so that they can feel accomplishment at the end of the day. Their big smiles and testimony provide proof that we are over the target, so to speak.

GERL's team is responsible for the horses, food, lodging and facilities. EIP comes with the responsibility of insurance, certifications and a team of experts in hosting these types of events for our military. We reached out to Sticky Limb Stables, located approximately 20 miles away, to provide 10 horses each day. Their facility is where we recommend the participants call to get their future horse connections and we understand that many of them do.

Chris Mosley, and his wife Bobbi came down from Metter and treated everybody to carriage rides. It was a fun day for everyone and especially those who might

have been brave enough to try their skills at driving the team.



Continued on page 3

GERL & EIP Host Equine Event at Ft. Stewart

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Continued from page 2

We planned the March event to include “family day” on the fourth day where the participants from the first three days were invited to come out and bring their family. We hired a petting zoo and a bouncy castle for the kids and offered them an opportunity to paint one of the ponies that Sticky Limb brought with them. Unfortunately, the rain moved in, and we were forced to close it down early, but there were big smiles on everyone’s face when they left. It was another successful event and one we hoped would impress the Garrison.



Our hearts are full after the event is over. It takes at least two weeks for us to come down from that natural high that you get when you help with something great and witness the immediate visual benefits from the recipients to prove it. Spreading the love is contagious and it was interesting to witness change within ourselves and other team members as a result.

It was just a week later that we received a call from the Deputy of the Garrison Commander letting us know that they believed in our mission and wanted to work with us in the future. They promised to get back with us and let us know the future plans for the stables. Sweeter words were never heard!



More Photos of Ft. Stewart Equine Event



Riding bareback was a surprise!



Feet instructions.



The EIP hangout.



The big smile says it all!



GERL Hosts Annual Meeting

By Patty Livingston

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) hosted their annual meeting on Saturday, March 23rd. The meeting was held at our new tack store located in Good Hope, Ga. We had a small crowd of people attend who enjoyed shopping for tack and the delicious potluck lunch that was served.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Lee Myers, President and CEO of Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM), who spoke about the wonderful work that the CVM does across the globe.



Some great friends of GERL.



Dr. Lee Myers, guest speaker.



We had a small crowd for the meeting.



The 2024 GERL Board of Directors.



The Ft. Stewart team with friends from Sticky Limb Stables.

Continued on page 6



GERL Hosts Annual Meeting

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 5



Steven Neal – Winner of the Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award

The winner of the coveted Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award was Steven Neal, who continually volunteers for GERL in various ways. I know that Marty Paulk would be proud of our choice! Congratulations on your award, Steven!



Cynthia Anderson and Sabra Rockwell.



The Sticky Limb Stables folks drove 4 hours to attend the meeting!



Sabra Rockwell & CeCe Calli.

Listening to Your Horse

By Amy Scruggs

About a year and a half ago, I learned to hear my horse whisper.

One day I was asking him to canter from a trot while keeping a round and through body in the transition. He tried to tell me quietly that he had pain while doing the transition that way. And I didn't hear him. He then SCREAMED it so loudly that I ended up in the ER. I video all rides so I reviewed the video over and over - I did not see why he exploded. What was I missing? Then I finally saw a slight hesitation to Orion's transition I did not feel at the time. I sent the video to my vet and she suggested getting his SI injected. Two days later he got the injections, and he was physically 100% but he was still "off" emotionally.

I then had a conversation with a great Message Therapist - Jenna Butler from Jennings, FL - and she taught me something that changed my life and how I approach all aspects of life with my horses:

Orion HAD tried to tell me, but I missed it. That I needed to re-learn how he feels when I ride him - to stop "training" and start "listening". She also told me that I needed to verbally speak to him - both with riding and if anything was changing - anything that would be different for him. And so I did.

Since that conversation with Jenna, I have learned that if he is even a second late picking up his canter from a



trot - THAT is his "tell" for pain. If he is iffy at the trot - he needs to canter to loosen up. If he doesn't want to be caught - he wants a day off so we hang out instead. These tiny things that I have learned from him have changed the way I approach his training and how I approach working with trainers for us. Now I can be his advocate. Now I can make SURE his experiences are positive and we have flourished with this new way of life. He is happy again. Sometimes while we THINK

we are hearing our horses, they are already saying it too loudly - and they should be able to whisper all of their needs and it is OUR job to always hear their whisper and act accordingly with kindness.



Calvin Center Horses & Warriors

By Sara Reams

Well, Calvin Center Horses & Warriors has started this year off with a bang! After our holiday break, we're back at the barn with several exciting things happening. Just FYI, during our scheduled breaks (holiday and Summer camp season), we continue to meet for Friday breakfasts in three area restaurants. Socialization is an important part of the work we do, and we've found great value in these breakfasts. It allows time for more in-depth conversations, a chance for some to join us who might not be able to come at the later times, and the opportunity to get the word out about Horses & Warriors. Our red shirts are easily visible, and have opened the door to conversations with other veterans. And – we don't mind being indoors during those colder months!

Then we began our year with our annual startup breakfast. Chick-fil-A donated breakfast sandwiches, and our Chef Kenny made a spectacular breakfast of grits, bacon, eggs, and biscuits and gravy. What a way to get started! Then we ventured over to the barn where we had two new horses to meet. In December, Kate traveled to Florida to get Pongo, a handsome Hanoverian, and Snow, a pony of indeterminate background. Pongo is a 19 yr old 16.2 gelding, with a great flying change and good manners. He has already fit well into our Horses & Warriors work, really enjoying being part of what's going on. Snow has an interesting story. Apparently little Snow was a small white pony in the middle of a delivery of cattle! No one knew how she got there, but she ended up at an equestrian center. Kate brought her to Calvin Center with Pongo. At first she was uncertain about what to expect. No surprise there. You could tell from the look in her eyes that she was cautious. But, with steady love and reassurances, she has blossomed! She participates with the big horses in our groundwork, and responds so well to grooming and being loved on. During this season, the barn is filled with white hair – she sheds a tremendous amount! It is a true joy to watch the way these two fine equines have fit into our programming.

As you may already know, when you work with veterans, rank and office is important. Last Friday we were honored to have a visit from Al Lipphardt, the Senior

Vice Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, National. Al will be installed as the Commander this August. As such, he has a tremendous audience of veterans. His visit with us was to see how a veterans' equine-assisted activities and therapy (EAAT) program worked. In turn, he can talk about programs like Horses & Warriors to veterans' groups all over the U.S. There should be no competition within the veteran community. There is a tremendous need, and we are all in this together.

We recently were pleased to attend a Quilt of Valor presentation for one of our veterans. Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a dream, literally a dream. Founder Catherine Roberts' son Nat was deployed in Iraq.



Quilt of Valor

Continued on page 9

Calvin Center Horses & Warriors

By Sara Reams

Continued from page 8

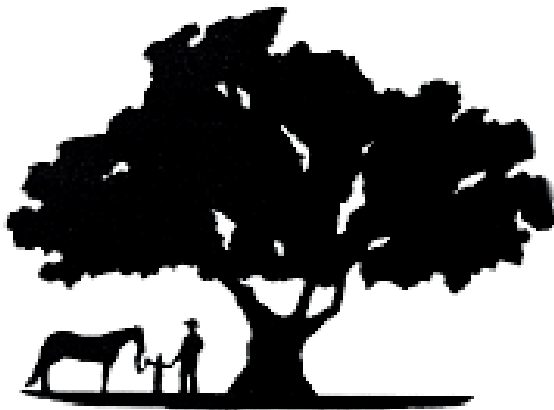
According to Catherine: The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change.

The message of my dream was: **Quilts = Healing.**

As of February 29 of this year, 377,384 quilts have been given to veterans. At Horses & Warriors, we are pleased that many of those quilts have been given to our veterans. One of our veterans is instrumental in placing our veterans in nomination for a quilt, and another veteran is a quilter for the organization. The presentation ceremony is loving and impressive, with family members encouraged to attend. We are thankful to know about this special resource for our veterans.

And last, but not least, Calvin Equestrian Program is getting a real bathroom! After more than 20 years of using our outhouse, we will now have a bathroom with hot water and real plumbing! Come visit us!

So, with programming going strong, new horses, and a bathroom, 2024 is off to a great start for Calvin Center Horses & Warriors! We continue to wish GERL well, as you reshape your work within the veteran community.



Pongo(above) and Snow(below) are the new arrivals at the Horses & Warriors program.



GHC Donates to Local Clubs

By Patty Livingston

The Georgia Horse Council (GHC) Board of Directors recently approved donating some of the monies that have accumulated from memberships over the past few years to a few organizations in Georgia's horse community. Why join? \$1,000,000 EXCESS LIABILITY INSURANCE included with your membership. More members means more monies available to donate.

Georgia Horse Council monies were awarded to the following non-profits:

1. Kel-Mac Saddle Club.
2. Athens Area Horse Community.
3. CTHA for trail maintenance.
4. Back Country Horsemen of N. Georgia
5. Back Country Horsemen of MSGeorgia.



JOIN THE GEORGIA HORSE COUNCIL

ALL BREEDS. ALL DISCIPLINES. ONE VOICE

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\$1,000,000 EXCESS EQUINE LIABILITY INSURANCE

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

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Contact us for more info:
www.georgiahorsecouncil.com
info@georgiahorsecouncil.com

Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipe

Ham, Potato & Broccoli Casserole

Ingredients

- 1 (16 ounce) package frozen French fries
- 1 (16 ounce) package frozen chopped broccoli
- 1 ½ cups cooked, cubed ham
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can milk
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).
2. Spray a 9x13 inch baking dish with cooking spray. Cover bottom of dish with layer of French fries. Add a layer of broccoli, then sprinkle ham evenly over broccoli. In a small bowl mix together soup, milk and mayonnaise. Pour mixture evenly over ingredients in baking dish and sprinkle with cheese.
3. Bake uncovered in preheated oven for 40 minutes.



What Makes GERL Different?

By Patty Livingston

What makes GERL different than other rescues? The programs that have been created with the intent to help fix Georgia's unwanted horse issues is the difference. In case you are not aware below are the programs that GERL offers today:

- **Stallion to Gelding (S2G) program** was designed to help curb the unwanted horse population in Georgia by offering low-cost castration through participating veterinarians.
- **Law Enforcement Equine Training and Support** – GERL developed and delivered training for law enforcement/animal control officers and other impacted entities on equine abuse identification.
 - **Livestock Shelters** - County animal control departments in Georgia own the responsibility of caring for impounded or abandoned horses. GERL provides temporary holding shelters/pens for any Georgia county who requests one.
- **Crisis Intervention Program** – This program is designed to assist Georgia horse owners who are temporarily experiencing a hardship in order to keep their horse out of rescue.
- **Horses for Heroes** - This new program is two-fold.
 - Part 1 focuses on supporting **non-profit organizations** who offer equine therapy sessions for active/retired military personnel, first responders and their family members by offering \$1,000 grants for equine sessions.
 - Part 2 focuses on GERL's work directly with the **Army**. GERL partnering with New Hampshire based non-profit Equine Immersion Project (EIP), utilizing the stables at Ft. Stewart's base in Hinesville, to host 4 day events for our enlisted servicemen and hospital caretakers to demonstrate the healing power of a horse.
- **Cumberland Island Project** is a more recent endeavor whereby GERL has stepped up to advocate for the feral horses of Cumberland Island. In 2023 GERL joined in a lawsuit with the Georgia Horse Council, the horses of Cumberland Island and other concerned parties against the National Park Service and other governmental entities.
- **Area Coordinator Program** is a unique program that GERL has had in place since its inception in 1993. Horse people all over Georgia volunteer to be a focal point for GERL.
- **Foster and Adoption Programs** - GERL does not have a facility, therefore, relies 100% on foster homes for the daily care of equine rescues. GERL receives the majority of rescues through local law enforcement where they are rehabilitated and adopted out to new homes.



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

Who's Who

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Donna Pieper—Secretary
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Flea Market Coordinator - Jacki Moore
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Tack Store Coordinator - Cindy Farris
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Cumberland Island Project Lead - Gloria Bell
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Website, Newsletter & IT Services - Steve DeMoss
 (678) 427-5771 / steve@gerlltd.org

To report a case of equine abuse, call the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Division
 Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 (404) 656-3713 or (800) 282-5852
 If you would like GERL to assist with an Equine Abuse case call (770) 464-0138

Interested in becoming an Area Coordinator?
Contact Our Area Coordinator Director:
Gloria Bell
 (706) 392-7520
 gloria@decorinsights.com



The 2024 GERL Board of Directors:

From left to right...
 Cynthia Anderson, Vice President
 Donna Pieper- Secretary
 CeCe Calli - Treasurer and Foster/
 Adoption Coordinator
 Linda Kundell - Alternate
 Patty Livingston - President



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



I would like to make a donation of:

- \$150.00 per month for 4 months to rehabilitate one horse.
- \$600.00 one time donation to rehabilitate one horse.
- \$ _____ per month to help rehabilitate the horses.
- \$ _____ any donation is gladly accepted!

...or donate on our website @ <https://gerlltd.org>

"Feed a Horse"
Program

<https://gerlltd.org>

Name: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

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

THANK YOU!

Your donation is tax deductible!

GERL Crisis Intervention Program

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) was first introduced to a Crisis Intervention Program that was being piloted by PetSmart back in 2010. They actually reached out to us and asked for our participation for the simple fact that we had an Area Coordinator program that would allow us to perform farm visits to the recipients, which was a requirement. The pilot program ran for one year and we were granted a certain amount of funding to disburse. Of course, there were guidelines that we had to follow with the recipients since the whole point of the program was to extend temporary help to horse owners to enable them to keep their horses. In other words, they needed to have “light at the end of the tunnel”.

As far as I know, PetSmart did not go forward with this program after the Pilot. I guessed it was because of the requirement to perform multiple visits to the recipients’ farms, but it also could have been the realization that most people who reached out for help did not have a light at the end of their tunnel. They really needed to rehome their horses and most seemed inept on how to go about doing that. That is an area where GERL has honed its skills over the years.

We have learned that it is not necessary to pull every horse out of its home because it is receiving sub-standard care. GERL is of the opinion that we provide them with the hay and feed they need while we look for their new home. It is important to remember that these owners asked for help, not criticism.

GERL Area Coordinators assess the condition of the

horses on their initial visit and if the horses are in good condition, photos will be taken and a flyer will be created, directing interested parties to call the owner. GERL representatives are there to educate and advise, while the owner remains responsible for their horses. We post the flyer on the GERL social media outlets to help give it



more exposure and most of the time, someone is interested, and the horses are rehomed, resulting in one move for the horse. If they are not able to transport, GERL can usually help with that. If there are stallions in the mix, GERL can also help with that.

This has been a very satisfying program when you see what a little bit of help can do to change the life of a horse by helping it get rehomed or by helping someone who desperately wants to keep their horses and just need a break.

Thank you to our supporters who enable us to offer these types of programs to Georgia horse owners!

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 \$2,365 for feed, hay, vet care and farrier service for our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$6,493 on the Stallion to Gelding Castration Program.
- GERL spent \$1,284 on feed and hay through our Crisis Intervention Program.
- GERL SPENT A TOTAL OF \$10,132 THIS QUARTER DIRECTLY HELPING HORSES.

News from The Rescue at Spirit Ridge Farm

By Sabra Rockwell

Where has the first of this year gone? 2023 Was such a growth year for us. Partnering with Medlink Health Care, Athens Recovery Warriors, Athens Veterans Court, Athens Probation, and building our Veterans Support Team.

There wasn't much happening during the long, dark beginning of 2024 but we have truly hit the ground running as we roll into Spring.

March 9 was our Easter Picture event with The Madison Oglethorpe Animal Shelter. Our little mini was the easter pony. She is quite the ham!!!

March 30th was our Obstacle play night here at the farm. The money raised will be put toward a new permanent front road sign.

We recently acquired an owner surrendered older Haflinger mare. So sweet but so shut down. The lovely couple that had her just could no longer physically take care of her as they were both in their late 80's.

She is non-rideable but will make someone a great pasture companion as she doesn't mind being alone if the other horse goes off for a ride. On April 13th we are having a tack Swap at CeCe's place, Chasing Rainbow Ranch to help cover her care expenses.

April 21 is our volunteer and Veterans Support Team training as we kick off the spring with Athens Veterans Court coming for a workshop in early May.

Last but not least we round out Spring with our May 4th Derby Day "Run for the Roses"!!!! This is our annual Collaboration with the VFW Post 5897 Auxiliary. The Run for the Roses Watch Party Fundraiser is such a blast. We have BBQ (by our very own Pit Master), Silent Auction, Raffles, and our famous parade of hats. It will be held at the VFW Post 5897 in Lavonia. Tickets are 30.00 Please call 706-224-9769 for tickets.

The Cumberland Island Feral Horses

By Gloria Bell

After many attempts by the defendants to dismiss the lawsuit to the demise of the Cumberland Island Horses, there was a hearing in December as updated in the prior newsletter. Since then, there have been continued motions to dismiss and response from the Plaintiffs to fight for the horses on Cumberland Island. The Plaintiffs are now providing amendments for continuance. There will be another hearing (date to be announced), where there will be a decision to continue or dismiss.

Hopefully the Court will issue an opinion on the motions by the end of May.

It is our hope that in the next quarterly newsletter, we will be able to provide a more positive update and some relief for these horses before the hot summer months approach.

We thank you and appreciate your continued interest and support.



Thank you for your donations

Cecelia Severens
Peggy Paris
Kathy Adams
Lisa Casey
Anonymous
Sherry Massey
Susan Lang
Angela M. Samuels
Allison Jenkins
Jan Smith
Susan and Christopher Gregory
Gloria Owens
Debbie Whitworth
William S. Cox IV
The Dickens Family Foundation
Herbert and Marian Haley Founda-
tion

Jimmy Melvin
Terry & Tina Turner
Karen Stubbs
Teresa Dobrosky
Cindy and Jim McGarvey
Cheryl Turner
Vicki Ankcorn
Linda Bass
Ken & Susan Archer
Sylvia Underwood
Dr. Tom Wilson – Countryside
Vet/Armuchee
Thomas Threatt
Linda Kundell
Kathy Ward
Pamela Taylor

Welcome New Members

Cheryl Medders
Linda Wallace
Vicki Ankcorn & Family
Darlene McKay
Sylvia Underwood
Cynthia Groom
Angelina Kokkoris & Family
Christine & Tom Fisner – Sticky
Limb Stables

In Memory of

- Osley, a kind and patient teacher, owned by Nancy Cox and loved by many, by Bonnie and Missy
- Mystic, a beautiful spirit, owned by Cassy Hoban and loved by many, by Bonnie and Missy
- Cruz beloved horse of Joanne by Dawn and Greg Cajigas
Joanne - The Braided Mane, 2237 Mt. Olivet Rd, Hartwell, GA 30643
- Mirage, Chase & Handsome, beloved horses of Ken & Susan Archer, by Ronnie Pesserilo
- Chub, Linda Kundell's beloved dog, by Marian Finco

Feed A Horse

Erik Wittenzellner – In memory of Sara
Constance Burchette
Penelope Stiglitz
Carol Royer
Henry “Hank” Bell

Cumberland Island Horses

Bonnie Lavoie
Rosalee Dormio

Stallion to Gelding Program

Susie Cottongim

GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars!*

November 2024

Stallion to Gelding Castration Month

Participating Vets Across Georgia

Check the GERL website mid-October for participating veterinarians.

December 2024

GERL Christmas Party

Good Hope, GA

Check the GERL web+site mid-October for more information.

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>



GERL Area Coordinators

By Gloria Bell

The Georgia Equine Rescue League Area Coordinators had a team meeting via conference call on March 19th to review and discuss protocols as it applies to reports of horse neglect that surfaces either through our hotline or other media sources.

All coordinators support specific counties for reports of equine neglect or other various requests. Area coordinators have the ability to connect with their county communities to assist in equine education, information, work with law enforcement when possible, offering and utilizing the programs that GERL has to offer.

GERL Area Coordinators are a true asset to this organization. Within the counties they support,

they are the eyes and ears in their communities and are there to help on behalf of GERL. Our GERL Coordinator Listing will be updated in the next issue as we have additional members and have adjusted some counties. Our Hotline is the same and available.



GERL ADOPTABLES

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



Sizzalena is 20 years old. She is a super smart mare! She comes from AQHA and Tobiano bloodlines but she was never registered. She was a companion horse with the same owner for 20 years. She is not broke to ride, but learns quickly and is very compliant. She is current on her vaccines and her teeth have been floated.



Sable - 22 Yr. old Warmblood mare. 16.2 hh. Good ground manners, easy to catch and stands for farrier. She is a very sweet mare and usually doesn't rank high in the pecking order. Sable rides, but her true riding skills have yet to be determined. She is a nice horse!

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Key, Ashley - Hall, Gwinnett, Forsyth & Jackson
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**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
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Pieper, Donna - Gwinnett & Walton
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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**

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Uhlenbrock, Rita—Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham
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Whitworth, Debbie - Elbert & Hart
(404) 805-4409 / rlw73dpw@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 Gloria Bell at (706) 392-7520 if you can spare a little of your 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

While preparing the presentation for the GERL annual meeting I became aware of how blessed we are to have great supporters who believe in our cause. GERL offers a variety of programs created to fix our unwanted horse problems and being able to fund them, despite the downturn in our economy, is truly a blessing. We like transparency and I typically post financial information to keep everyone informed. My article will highlight what you missed at the annual meeting.

What did We Accomplish in 2023?

- We helped pay for the castration of 77 stallions.
- Maintained 19 horses in our foster program.
- Placed 13 horses in forever homes.
- Supported NPOs providing equine therapy to our veterans/1st Responders.
- Sponsored a 4-day equine immersion at Ft. Stewart for our military.
- Spent over \$46,618 directly helping horses in Georgia.

Let's Talk About the Money.

- We received \$9,900 in ADOPTION FEES.
- We received \$7,784 in MEMBERSHIPS.
- We received \$73,273 in DONATIONS & GRANTS.
- We received \$ 6,375 for Feed-A-Horse Program.

TOTAL INCOME FOR 2023 WAS \$107,306

Let's Talk About the Money - (CONT).

- We spent \$7,261 on FT. STEWART PROJECT.
- We spent 10,177 on feed for the CALVIN CENTER.
- We spent \$7,371 on feed for WARRIOR RANCH.
- We spent \$27,640 on GERL FOSTER HORSES.
- We spent \$1,378 on CRISIS INTERVENTION.
- We spent \$2,767 on STALLION 2 GELDING.

We spent \$46,618 assisting horses in 2023,

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR 2023 WAS \$110,944.

Goals for 2024.

- Partner with the Army at Ft. Stewart and EIP to sponsor more 4-day equine events for our military.
- Act as the conduit between equine facilities serving veterans in Georgia to encourage collaboration.
- Continue to offer assistance to County Animal Control agencies, while encouraging prosecution of offenders.
- Continue to offer assistance to the public for equine castration.
- Continue to help families with lost jobs and health issues feed, vet and keep their horses via our Crisis Intervention program.

It was a successful year for GERL, thanks to YOU!
Our motto says it best.



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



An Age OLD Horse Tale

By Gloria Bell

The truth is, *“Neglected” old horses are skinny.*

Well cared for, *healthy horses are not “skinny”, they require different care.*

As a rescue organization, we hear a lot of “He’s thin, because he’s old”, “She is 25, she is always in this condition”. Once they are rescued in a state of poor body score and condition, a transition in six month demonstrates they usually can look and become healthy again. Age and weight are not completely connected; however, health and weight can reason for an especially thin horse.

WHY SENIOR HORSES ARE OFTEN SKINNY

What is true, a horses’ body is less efficient as they age. Advanced age can present health problems for the horse’s digestive health. Weight loss or difficulty in maintaining adequate body condition is not uncommon in aged horses but should not be taken as being ‘normal’.

Four factors negatively affect the ability of senior horses to stay healthy and maintain proper body condition:

1. Poor Teeth
2. Decreased Nutrient Absorption
3. Environmental
4. Herd Stress and Disease

Dental Problems

Having teeth checked and floated yearly is critical to senior horses for various dental causes, and care should be taken not to float teeth too aggressively in an older horse. The root of the tooth of an older horse can get short enough that the tooth can become easily dislodged from its place. Dental problems cause many health issues in senior horses if not examined and treated accordingly. It is the teeth of the horse that allows the horse to obtain nutrition.

Decreased Nutrient Absorption

When horses are not on a deworming program, intestinal worms can scar and cause chronic mucosal damage of the intestines, which affects nutrient absorption. The presence of worms also causes a decrease in nutrient absorption because the parasites compete for nutrients.

Environmental and Herd Stress

Horses, especially older horses do not handle changes in environment well. Relocating an older horse from one farm to another or even from one pasture to the next can

be very stressful. Older horses tend to fall to the bottom of the pecking order and may fight for food when an aggressive horse pushes them away. If hay or grain is group fed, careful observation of how well an older horse is getting to the feed may prevent a problem of detrimental weight loss before it happens.

Temperature changes get harder to tolerate as a horse ages, particularly cold weather. Some of the sensitivity to cold may be from the reduction of fat cover on the body which normally acts as insulation. Another factor may be changes in hormone production, which regulates the body’s ability to adjust to external heat and cold.

Fiber digestion in the hindgut produces heat which will help horses stay warm in the winter. If there is a reduction in the intake of fiber, there will also be a reduction of internal heat produced.

Adequate shelter from the elements is advisable. Use of blankets in cold windy weather is humane care for older horses.

Water intake is critical (all seasons). During cold weather however, a horse will often limit the amount of water it drinks since intake of cold water lowers internal temperature. It is not uncommon for these horses to colic due to self-induced dehydration and subsequent impaction. **Keep fresh water and unfrozen. Make is warm whenever possible.**

Disease in the Older Horse

Chronic weight loss can be the result of medical conditions like chronic infections, liver failure or kidney dysfunction. Other problems commonly experienced by seniors are anemia, lowered disease resistance, melanomas on the skin, and Cushing’s syndrome to name a few. A blood count and chemistry can determine if a horse requires treatment, possible medications, or diets (types of feed or hay) that should be avoided.

Pain can make a horse miserable so may lose the desire to eat. The primary cause of pain in the older horse is arthritis. Allow the horse to exercise at will. Blanket in cold temperatures. Joints become stiff when a horse is kept in a stall for any length of time, however, It is advisable to provide adequate shelter such as a run-in shed. Joint supplements and/or some mild painkillers can be obtained through your veterinarian. Farrier visits for proper trimming or shoeing will help avoid hoof issues and unnecessary stresses on joints.

Continued on page 21

An Age OLD Horse Tale

By Gloria Bell

Continued from page 20

If a senior horse can't ingest enough on a daily basis, it's up to the owner to help them compensate.

IF A HORSE HAS LIMITED MOBILITY:

- Put him in a pasture with plenty of high-quality forage.
- To help him get plenty of roughage supplement with hay.
- Feed senior feed to ensure there is an easily digested balance of nutrients. Look for one with a base made of dehydrated beet pulp or other fibrous materials.
- Limit starch, sugar and sweet feed.

FOR DENTAL ISSUES:

- Start by having your equine dentist check your horse's mouth 1 -2 times each year to inspect and float your horse's teeth.
- Feed chaff, which is easier for an older horse to eat and also produces additional saliva.

PRACTICE GOOD MANAGEMENT:

- They need access to a shelter and ***fresh, clean water ALL SEASON.***
- Even if a horse is effectively "retired" and turned out to pasture, check on him daily.
- **REMEMBER THE PECKING ORDER.** Feed separates away from shared feed by others in the herd so it won't be consumed by other herd.
- **Keep parasites under control** by regularly monitoring and treating.
- Maintain a clean environment to avoid putting undo stress on his system via a parasite infection.

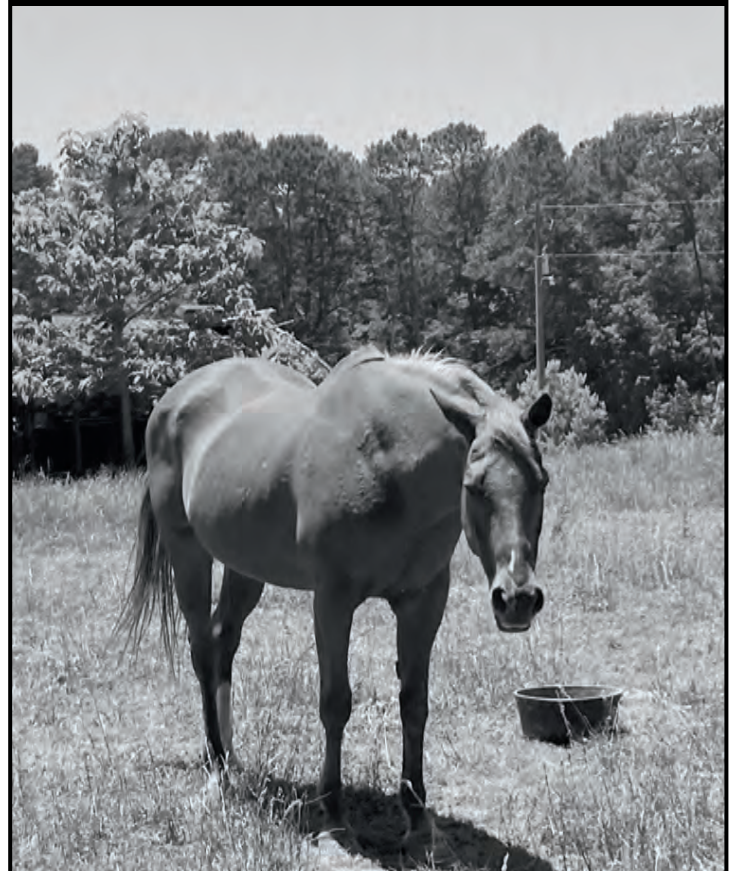
MAKE IT EASIER FOR HORSES TO ABSORB NUTRIENTS:

- While it's difficult to rehabilitate the villi that line the digestive tract and absorb nutrients, feed your horse an appropriately balanced diet can help ensure he has access to the nutrients he needs. Feeding a senior pellet feed (soaked) once a day can also help.
- The ingredients in most senior feeds support nutrient absorption by helping your horse digest processed feeds in the small intestine.
- Administer and scheduled de-worming protocol.

FULL ACCESS TO CLEAN, FRESH WATER AT ALL TIMES.



28 year old mare BEFORE rehab.



28 year old mare AFTER rehab.

GERL Stallion to Gelding Program.

**Stallions Gelded
To Date By GERL:**

1387



Horses in our Foster Care Program

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

Horse	Age	Color	Ridable	Foster Farm
<i>Sizzlena</i>	22		No	Karen Henderson
<i>Cisco</i>	25	Gold	No	Steven Neal
<i>Sultan</i>	23	Bay	No	Steven Neal
<i>Sable</i>	23	Bay	Yes	CeCe Calli



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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

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!

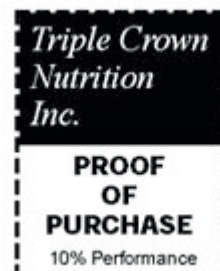
GERL receives money for the following...

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



Got a question about my horse...

By Lisa Clark

When I got my first horse in 1965 resources to get your horse care questions answered were limited. You could, 1) ask someone at the barn, 2) check every horse book you owned, 3) ask your trainer/vet/farrier/feed store guy, 4) go to the library or 5) hope the situation wasn't a problem and it would go away. Today, that's not the case with access to online resources, downloadable mobile applications, podcasts, etc. The problem now is deciding where to look. This article is focused on a place to start when your question is along the lines of general horse care and nutrition.

The University of Georgia's Extension Service provides a wealth of online information valuable to horse owners when you know where to look. One of the easiest places to start is their "*Elevated Equine*" website, <https://elevatedequine.uga.edu>. The site contains equine related articles, access to their quarterly newsletter and upcoming UGA Extension equine related events. These events include industry updates, in-person clinics and educational seminars.

Under the RESOURCES tab are links to prerecorded webinars from the "Equine Exchange Lunch and Learn Series" and the "UGA Horse Owners Webinar Series". Sessions in the Lunch and Learn series tend to be 45 minutes or less. These are presented by UGA Extension agents from Newton, Lincoln, Pike and Murray counties – all who are experienced horse owners. The sessions cover areas related to equine management, equine nutrition, and even the difficult topic of recognizing when it might be "THAT" time for your equine partner.

The "Horse Owners Webinar series" focuses on a particular area for the four to six weeks of the series.

Each week's webinar then delves into a topic within that area. The speakers have included veterinarians, equine nutritionists, researchers, etc. in addition to Extension agents from UGA and other university systems.

I found the Equine Dentistry session in 2020 fascinating. The speaker's knowledge and presentation photos showed firsthand why it is so important to have your horses teeth checked annually. . More recently, the 2023 series focused on "Basics of Equine Nutrition", which was designed to educate owners on the building blocks of a healthy equine diet. The series is chock full of information and includes the "Basics of Equine Nutrition Workbook" which can be downloaded. It's evident a significant amount of work went into creating the workbook which includes clickable links to the webinars, session documentation and other links relevant to the topic. It's DEFINITELY worth the time to download and keep for future reference!

Also under the RESOURCES tab is a link to "Equine Publications from UGA Extension". Here you will find a list of over 100 downloadable publications focused on equine care and management. Pasture/forage management publications also show up here. You can page through those OR refine your search to a specific topic such as equine parasites, or a pasture management topic like, fire ant control.

Hopefully you will take time to check out the site and find it as helpful as I do. If so, I'm sure the county agents responsible for this site and much of the content would welcome your feedback. You can find their contact info under the Meet the Team section.

Proof of Purchase Update

By Ginny Scarritt

It's the beginning of a new year, well 3 months in, but it's time for me to send in the POPs for gift cards and free bags of feed. The deadline is usually May 31st, so if you're collecting them, it's time to mail them to me. This program earns us the most money per POP, so please send them in and ask your horsey friends to do the same. As always, I send a huge thank you to my consistent, long-time donors. I also want to thank our 3 new donors: the Placek family in Oakwood, the Stevens family in Cumming, and the Kunkel family in Newberry, SC, yes South Carolina! My gratitude can never be expressed enough!!

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



From: Nagy, Kevin E MAJ USARMY MEDCOM WINN (USA) <kevin.e.nagy.mil@health.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 9:59 AM
To: Patty Livingston <gerlpatty@yahoo.com>
Subject: Thank you

Hello GERL and EIP,

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible opportunity you provide to Soldiers like myself, and Department of Defense civilians, through the Equine Therapy events you have patroned. As you know, it is an experience that deeply touches everyone and leaves a lasting impact on all lives participating.

Observing the participants enjoying the Equine Therapy is truly a joy. Their opportunity to connect with these magnificent horses in the serene environment is invaluable. Those Soldiers and civilians have been offered a sense of peace and healing that words don't seem to adequately describe.

Your generosity and compassion in organizing this event for Soldiers is truly commendable. Not only does it provide everyone with a much-needed break from the everyday challenges but also offers a unique form of therapy that has the power to uplift spirits and heal wounds, both physical and emotional.

Beyond the therapeutic benefits, the Equine Therapy event serves as a reminder of the incredible support and appreciation that exists within our community. Knowing that there are individuals like yourself who are dedicated to supporting Soldiers and their well-being is incredibly reassuring and uplifting.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have participated in this event and for the positive impact it has had on so many lives. Your kindness and generosity will not be forgotten.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your selfless dedication to supporting Soldiers, and Department of Defense Civilians, and for providing us with such a meaningful and unforgettable experience.

With gratitude,

Chaplain Kevin E. Nagy

Update on West & Olivia

Dear GERL,

I am extremely thankful for all the opportunities I've been given by GERL. I have loved working with the horses and Ms. Patty. I'm especially grateful for being able to adopt my heart horse, West, who I love so much. I can't wait to see what else I can achieve while working with GERL.

Thanks,
Olivia Sapp



More Photos of Ft. Stewart Equine Event



The Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award

by Patty Livingston

I don't believe that anyone was more surprised than Steven Neal when his name was announced as the winner of this year's Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award, GERL's most coveted award of recognition. Steven could have been selected on any given year since he has volunteered for GERL in many ways over the years. In the past he has filled the position of our Alternate Board Member, showing up at our fundraising events to help do whatever was needed. Over the past several years, Steven has been best known for his willingness to foster the older "sanctuary" horses that are in GERL's program. These horses receive the best of care at Steven's beautiful farm, enjoying the nice grassy pastures and a warm stall at night. The horses live out the rest of their lives with Steven and his two personal horses, Aladdin and Titan. Steven is also my "go to" person when I need help hanging a gate or building a run-in shed at my foster facility. He knows how to do just about anything and I am very grateful that he is part of the GERL team.



Volunteers of the Quarter

by Patty Livingston



It seems that these two ladies are everywhere these days. They volunteer for just about anything that GERL needs but are especially appreciated during our four-day events that we host at Ft. Stewart for our military. They are also invaluable member of our EIP South team and there's no way that we could pull off what we do without them. I am talking about Cynthia Anderson and Jacki Moore, if you couldn't guess. They each have their own specialty, while at the same time, they both have a connection with our military. Jacki is an Army Veteran and Cynthia is a former Professor of Biology at Georgia Military College. The recent Ft. Stewart 4-day equine excursion was a huge success and they played a huge role as members of the "dream team". Huge thanks and a BIG hug to Jacki and Cynthia for all they do for GERL!

Difficult situation with a Favorable End

by Gloria Bell

GERL received a call on the hotline from a citizen wanting to re-home his 5 horses, including 3 stallions, as he couldn't care for them any longer due to health and financial reasons. As an Area Coordinator for GERL, I reached out to the owner and explained that GERL was not able to take his horses into our program but I offered to take images of the horses and put a flyer together to help him rehome them.

A few days later, we met where the horses were being kept and that revealed their low body condition. All 5 were extremely thin. It was at that time that she also learned that only 1 of the 5 had never been handled or haltered. I offered the GERL *Crisis Intervention Program* to the owner to start helping with feed and hay right away. This program helped sustain these horses while we worked diligently to find new homes and we were able to do that for all 5 within a week. Everybody met at the location with trailers and three hours later all were loaded and headed to their new homes.

It is important to remember that this situation started with a phone call from the owner asking for help. He was doing the best he could do with what was going on in his life at that time and he didn't need judgement. He needed help which is exactly what the *Crisis Intervention Program* was designed to do.

They are gaining weight, being handled and receiving lots of love. GERL paid for the cost of castrations for the 3 stallions, and they are now 3 nice geldings! All these caring folks that took part in this rescue and changed the lives of these horses are HERO's to GERL.



GERL Attends Sermon on the Mount

by Margaret Clower

On February 25th Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM) and UGA Christian Veterinary Fellowship (CVF) held a fundraiser for The Dorminy House at UGA Livestock Arena in Athens. The “Sermon On The Mount” event by Dr. Lew Sterrett, was so fascinating, entertaining, and insightful.

Dr. Sterrett enlightened us with parallels between the needs of the mind and heart of the horse and the needs of the mind and heart of ourselves. He took an un-broke horse and illustrated the steps to meet those needs. The result was the horse was able to overcome resistance to change and found success and fulfillment within the relationship.

What made it even more fascinating was Dr. Sterrett

did all the work from the back of his Palomino Quarter Horse, who was highly trained to the point that he did most of the presentation without a bridle.

The event was successful and well attended. Sponsor, Cosequin Supplements presented GERL with 3 gift buckets filled with Cosequin dog and horse products for securing the three horses requested by Dr. Sterrett for his presentation.

Huge thanks to both Christine Appling and Christina Warren for the use of your horses!

Such a worthwhile event and cause. Thank you CVM for your partnership with GERL.



Dr. Sterrett and the Cosequin Team.



Dr. Lee Myers, Patty Livingston and Cosequin Owner,



Update on Luna a/k/a Duchess

by Lauren Norman

I remember when Cece first posted her - I thought she was adorable but realized that our farm was not exactly the perfect place for a filly no matter how cute she was. Due to the fact that a large portion of the kids we serve have mobility impairments, the sometimes unexpected antics of a youngster could pose a risk. (Retired Oldie-Goldies are our speed) So I shelved my heart for her and continued to follow her journey - wishing the best for this dappley cutie.

Fast forward a couple years, I continued to see Luna's updates and how she was progressing so I contacted Cece to inquire on her status and playfully mentioned if she ever needed a change in scenery, she could come hang out at Norman Farms. I could tell that she and Cece had a special bond and I didn't want to detract from that but also knew our busy farm could offer Luna, now known as Duchess, ample opportunities to grow and develop. Initially, I anticipated her stay to be a short-term foster - to learn about being in a mixed herd, to be around children of all abilities, and to continue her groundwork with a slow transition to under saddle. She has certainly done all of these things surprisingly well, however, along the way, she has stolen



our hearts. She immediately endeared herself to my non-horsey husband (who is responsible for the name Duchess), my kids, and all our farm friends that love giving her attention, which she readily accepts.

Our plan is to love this girl well, give her an ongoing good foundation, and provide her with the best home here at Norman Farms. She has a natural knack for caring, being a calming presence, and "up for anything" mentality. She is sure to win the hearts of many, many more of our farm friends - all while helping them to heal physically, emotionally, and mentally.



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

A Report from Road to the Horse

By Gloria Bell

Chet (my husband) and I had the opportunity to attend the 2024 Road to the Horse in Lexington, Kentucky on March 21st – 24th. It was truly an experience like no other.

Road to the Horse 2024 was a battle to the end as four superior colt starters demonstrated their horsemanship talent. Fans witnessed an educational journey. The purpose of Road to the Horse is to identify the superior colt starter who accumulates the highest score throughout the competition. Judging focuses on the competitor and the effectiveness of their horsemanship methodology to communicate, educate, and build a partnership with their colt based on trust.

The event schedule for Four days was packed with competition, from the trainers selecting their horse, handling, building trust and demonstrating their unique style. The competitors were from Canada, Australia, and the US. There were clinics, demonstrations, and shows that were beyond inspiring. Sunday was the final day with a Cowboy Church and each competitor/ trainer's final competition. The most interesting thing about this event, there were cowboy hats, cowboys, and cowgirls everywhere. There was one competitor from Canada that was an English trainer, rider, and jumper. He was very talented, and he wore a helmet, not a cowboy hat. So you really had to wonder how he would do, he wondered as well, this was a first for him outside of the practice training he was doing back in Canada. He won the event. He was amazing and at the end for his competition, he had the entire area on their feet cheering and yelling for him. The other competitors were all the same, amazing. Their talent and skill with these colts was unimaginable.

What stood out the most; this event was about nourishing the horse and the human connection. Building trust and an everlasting relationship with a horse, that is what these trainers cared about most, it truly showed.

Here is a link to the website that will provide images, videos and give you a feel for the excitement we are able to see in person. What a blessing.

<https://roadtothehorse.com>



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

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County: _____

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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: _____

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