



# Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. NEWSLETTER

*Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia*

Quarterly Newsletter

October, November & December 2023

## From Champions to Rescues

*By Patty Livingston*

If you have ever been involved in the world of rescue you know that occasionally you experience an unusual situation that shakes your inner core. The three stories below did exactly that.

### O.G's Story

O.G (Older Gentleman), a 16.3 hand, 23-year-old Warmblood, was one of three stallions in a herd of 13 horses that were seized from their owner by the Merriwether County Sheriff's office back in September of 2022. He was big, had kind eyes and no topline due to the level of starvation he endured. A vet report noted his body score of 1 and weight at 1,070 pounds with a notation beside it that read "overestimation".

For the next 11 months all three stallions enjoyed regular meals of good quality feed and returned to a normal body weight. They were castrated recently after custody was awarded by the Judge and it was at that time that we started posting photos of O.G. on the GERL Facebook page. Shortly after the first post appeared, we received a message from a previous owner who recognized him. She was horrified to find out that he had landed in (yet another) rescue. She had rescued him from a previous situation and sold him to the lady who starved him. She was very helpful in providing his history.



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# From Champions to Rescues

By Patty Livingston

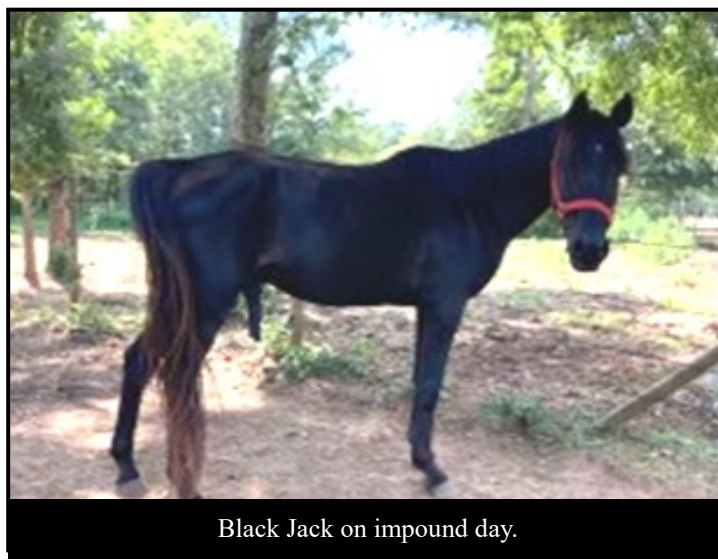
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It turns out that O. G.'s real name is High Five WW. He is a black Hungarian Grand Prix Jumper with winnings over 28,000 and a very impressive show record, showing and winning in many Grand Prix and International Classes. In Europe he was sold as a 4-year-old and shown on the European circuit before being shipped to Florida to the W.E.F. She shared a 2013 video of him in a practice round that was quite impressive with no signs of lameness.



I do not know at what point he suffered the injury that put him out of the competition circuit, but we were told that GERL is his fourth rescue. That realization made me ill. How could such a valuable animal who served his owners well end up like this? As I shared his story with friends and acquaintances, I learned that it is a story more common than one would think.

For O.G., this will be his last rescue. He is now living large with Elaine and Randy, who fell in love with him the moment they saw him. They treat him like royalty, which is what he is through our eyes!



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# From Champions to Rescues

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 2

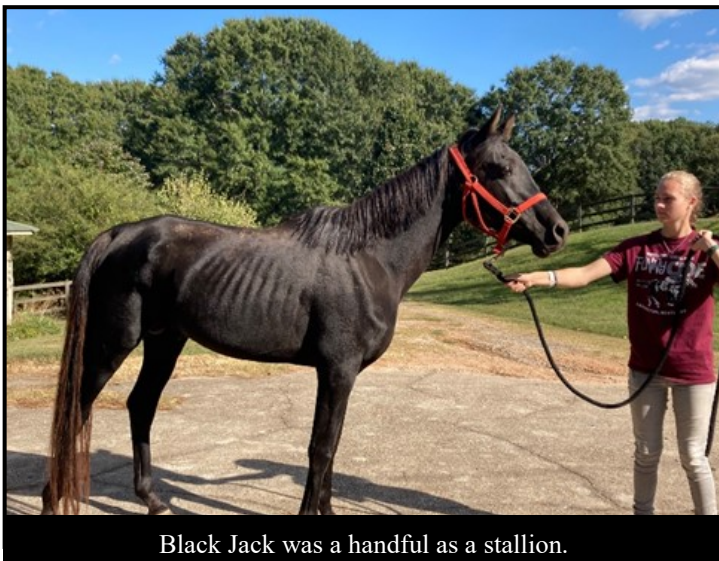
## Black Jack's Story

Black Jack's name on the vet report was Apollo. He was a 12-year-old Arabian stallion, reflected a BCS of 3/9, and had the best body condition of all the horses that were impounded. At 16.2 hands, he weighed only 810 pounds. Like all the Baker's Dozen horses, he had a dull haircoat with plenty of rain rot on his back and rump.

The original vet report assessed his low body condition more likely due to not receiving enough nutrients, despite his reported diet stating that he was receiving a total of 20 pounds of feed per day. This included both feed and hay.

Black Jack was a handful. Much more so than the other two stallions. He ran along the fence line of his paddock continuously until there was a narrow trench that outlined his path. He was the one who would jump over or crash through the fence and get into mischief. Unfortunately, he was surrounded by mares on two sides, which did not help. Running electric wire was the solution, but it was still a huge relief when GERL finally received ownership and I was able to schedule his castration. By that time, I did not care if it was the hottest month of the year (August). I was willing to do whatever it took to ensure that he kept moving and there was no infection.

Never have I experienced the power of castration more



Black Jack was a handful as a stallion.



Black Jack after becoming a gelding!

than I did with Black Jack. 3 days after his surgery I was able to hand graze him and see him drop his head to eat. That was a first and a very encouraging sign. In the days following, I was able to remove his lead rope and let him roam freely in my yard and his only interest was grazing. He graduated to uniting with my gelding and then, my mare. His behavior was so different that I was able to see what a nice horse he was, and he soon became my favorite. I wanted to ride him and that was something that I was not willing to consider before. He took a saddle like a pro and shortly, I was riding him around my round pen. That is when you know. This WAS a nice horse and had been professionally trained at some point.

Realization of this made it easy to find his forever home and almost immediately Margie Beeson entered the picture. Margie is an experienced horsewoman and she fell for Black Jack, immediately. She was also curious about his background and shortly after getting him home, she submitted some of his mane for a DNA test. In the meantime, a copy of his profile papers were located on line through an Arabian horse rescue organization. It turns out that Black Jack's registered name was Prince Apollo Diamond. According to an Arabian expert, his lineage is quite impressive. That made everybody more curious to learn how he ended up in a rescue situation.

Continued on page 4

# From Champions to Rescues

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 3

## Handsome's Story

The name reflected on the veterinarian's report at the time of impound was "West" and he had been rated a body condition score (BCS) of 1 out of 9. It was a very thorough report produced by the owner's vet but ordered by the Dept of Agriculture. The first paragraph stated that he had a history of being thin despite the diet provided. A myriad of dates, veterinarians and procedures were listed, along with their findings to explain his then BCS of 2/9. But none of their test results came back with a diagnosis. They noted that he was mildly anemic and mildly leukopenic, but his chemistry was normal, as was everything else. The vet report recommended possible euthanasia.



Handsome wearing a muzzle despite his body score.

His diet was also listed in detail in the report. When I first read it, I knew it was a lie. The owner claimed to be feeding him an estimated total of 46 pounds of feed per day, including grain, supplements, and hay. The photos taken by the Dept of Agriculture during their initial visit showed West and 5 other horses on the property wearing muzzles even though none of the horses were on pasture. West was confined to a stall and most of the others were on dry lots. Several of the horses were eating from a slow feeder hay bag AND wearing a muzzle.

I have seen a lot of starving horses over the past 15 years and that was exactly what was going on with West, who had now acquired the name "Handsome". And he was definitely that! Once he arrived at my farm and started receiving regular feedings, he had no



Handsome started gaining weight after his rescue.

problem gaining weight and within a few months became the beautiful creature that God created. Handsome was the poster horse for the Baker's Dozen, and his photo was published on GERL's Facebook and website on several occasions.

Once we had success in finding out the background on O.G. and Black Jack, CeCe Calli was able to reach out to some of her Thoroughbred contacts with some very important information about Handsome that made him easily identifiable from other Bay Thoroughbred stallions. He had a unique right rear foot that looked like a little white golf sock on the inside portion of his foot with two black spots in the middle. As soon as that information was known we learned of Handsome's real identity.

### Horse Profile

**Western Conqueror (FL)**  
TB, B, H, FOALD MARCH 25, 2012  
(WEST ACRE - EMPIRE BEAUTY, BY EMPIRE MAKER)

**CONNECTIONS AS OF LAST START:**  
Jockey: [Erick Garcia](#)  
Trainer: [Juan C. Vazquez](#)  
Owner: [King Star](#)  
Breeder: Gilbert G. Campbell

CAREER STATISTICS*	
Starts	20
Firsts	5
Seconds	4
Thirds	0
Earnings	\$107,820

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# From Champions to Rescues

By Patty Livingston

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Handsome has a unique right rear foot.



Gilbert G. Campbell, owner  
Michael E. Gorham, trainer  
6 Furlongs - 1:10.2  
Delaware Park 7/6/15

**Western Conqueror**  
"Maiden"

Victor Carrasco, up  
2nd Revelation  
3rd Rare  
© Hooprints, Inc.

Western Conqueror (West) earned over 100K in winnings.

It turns out that his real name was "Western Conqueror", and he had a racetrack record that reflected 20 runs with 5 of those finishing in first place, four times in second and winnings over \$100,000.

The vet report reflected that he had an old superficial digital flexor tendon bow on the left front, so we are guessing that is what put him out of racing and into the hands of Alyssa Evans, the now convicted former owner from whom they were seized.

When we uncovered Handsome's history, we all felt a real sense of anger that this could happen. So many people (previous owners) were duped by her story of a breeding program that she and her family were running. People who inflict such cruelty to animals deserve the maximum penalty allowed by law, however, the defendant pled guilty, and a plea deal was arranged. Alyssa Evans received 20 years of probation and is not allowed to own equine during that time. She was ordered to pay GERL \$200 per month for their cost of care during the 11 months that she refused to release them. GERL recently received her first payment. It was GERL's second restitution check in 15 years!

The best part of these three stories is all of the horses have gone to wonderful forever homes where they will never end up in a rescue situation again. Thank you to all the kind-hearted folks who helped bring them back to health with your donations. With YOUR help, we MADE a difference!



West has found his forever home with Olivia.

# CROSSROADS – The Story of OG and Me

By Elaine Bishoff

A Crossroads – we’ve all been there. All of a sudden what is familiar has changed and we are left with decisions to make: Left turn, Right turn, Stay the course “damn the torpedoes.”

After 14 years of owning a farm and maintaining a small herd of horses, one of our worst fears was realized. Over the course of a few months, we lost several horses. A series of random occurrences – old age – underlying illness and suddenly my husband, Randy, and I found ourselves with 2 horses and 5 pastures on 20 acres. After the shock of sadness eased, we recognized although 2 horses were less work (we aren’t getting any younger) the farm was crying out for horses.

So, I stood at the crossroads and thought: Do I get another horse? I have a riding horse, as does Randy. Do I give lessons? Although Randy is retired – I work full time and don’t wish to max out my already busy schedule. Do I take in boarders? Could be great – could be tricky. I stood at the crossroads and waited...

Meanwhile, a lovely, retired warmblood was standing at a crossroads of his own. Unlike me, the choices sadly, weren’t his to make. Born in Hungary, he showed on the European circuit before being shipped to the U.S. He was shown by Olympic Grand Prix riders – an imposing and mighty stallion. The best of the best, sought after for competition as well as breeding purposes. At some point his tendons failed and he was retired strictly for breeding. Now he stood in a paddock along with a dozen other horses starving, a shadow of his former self until something finally changed for the better. Patty Livingston, the petite blue-eyed dynamo that is President of the GERL got a hold of him. She put weight on him, had him gelded, knowing the right situation would show itself, and she waited...

I stared at my pastures and watched the grass

grow over the footpaths and waited...

In November a family member who had a horse with a leg injury asked if I would take him to the farm for rehab. I brought him in but couldn’t risk an interaction with my somewhat frisky geldings, so he roamed his small pasture and looked lonely. I thought about rescue. Coincidentally, my friend and former boarder, Lisa, came to visit a couple of weeks later and said, “I have news, I wish to get back into horses but I’m not quite ready to buy one - what if we brought a rescue in, I could help you care for it.” The stars were lining up...



Dr. Don, Equine Chiropractor

I went to the GERL website and saw a couple of horses who could be a good fit and I contacted CeCe. I have had 3 fosters from GERL in the past and they know my set up and where my heart lies. CeCe said call Patty, so I did. Patty proceeded to relay the story of OG (Older Gentleman) and asked if I thought he would be a good fit. His situation is unique, she said. He needs his absolute forever home. That I can provide.

We went to pick up OG and he hesitated at the trailer. Patty gently lifted his left front hoof and placed it in the trailer – on he went. We brought him home and turned him out in the pasture next to RIO, the injured buckskin, and he picked up a little canter. He met RIO over the fence, then he rolled. He rolled in the grass. He rolled in the dust; he rolled some more. Like most horses, especially rescues, he played his cards close to the vest unwilling to show his true self. I mean, he’d been moved before. Who knew if this time would last.



O.G. and Elaine

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# CROSSROADS – The Story of OG and Me

By Elaine Bishoff

*Continued from page 6*

He spent the first day in the sunny pasture and at night had access to a stall full of shavings. The next day he had bedhead from a sound sleep and was covered from head to tail in wood chips. I reported in. “He LOVES shavings!”, responded Patty.



O.G. is now called Apollo and he loves getting attention.

The first few days things stayed pretty much the same – play outside with RIO all day, come up at night, dusted with shavings every morning. Due to his injury, Rio must stay in at night but is visited by the new night nurse “OG”. Rio seems much happier. His family came to visit and made over OG as though he was one of their own. Lisa came and groomed and fussed over him. After about a week we started to see glimpses of his once proud persona. At night, during feeding, he tosses his head and sometimes pins his ears if we are behind schedule. Randy took an immediate liking to him, empathetic about his popping knees, they commiserate.

After a couple of weeks, I told Randy “I think he needs a new name”. Something old, yet powerful, “Apollo”, that’s it. The God of light, Manly beauty – most of all prophecy. Apollo it is! Randy and he have begun a steady regime of bending and flexing for carrots. Apollo gives it all he’s got. Our friend Kathy came over and threw a bareback pad on him and walked and trotted around the arena. We again saw a glimpse of the champion he is. She declared him to be unbelievably smooth and quick to pick up cues.

The equine Chiropractor, Dr. Don and his technician Rachel, came out. They, along with my farrier, are my experts for all things horses. I told them about Apollo’s background. After a brief exam they deemed he was in very good shape considering his age and circumstances. Rachel said the super athletes are holding muscle in the bank. His poll was out, and left hip locked in extension. He enjoyed his adjustment. “What’s the ultimate goal”, Dr. Don asked. Good question. The ultimate goal: to live out his days happy and safe. To have friends both animal and human he can trust. To never fret that dinner isn’t coming. To maybe walk around the farm with a light rider and enjoy being ridden without the pressure of competition.

Apollo and I met at a crossroads in our lives. In a short month he’s become part of the fabric of our little farm. We are ecstatic he is here. I’m certain there will be more crossroads in my life. Apollo will never again come to a crossroads where any of the options lead to cruelty or neglect.

P.S. Rescue requires hard work and dedication. The GERL does this work on a grand scale. Foster and Adoption of rescue horses is vital to their success. If you find yourself in a position to adopt, foster, donate or volunteer, horses like Apollo will have a chance to land in a soft pile of fluffy shavings.



Going out for a short stroll.

# GERL Christmas Party

*By Patty Livingston*

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) held their annual Christmas party on December 16th at their new flea market location in Good Hope. This year's party was very different than the other parties we've held in the past. GERL furnished all the food and marked everything down 50% to entice people to come and shop while they partied. We had a great turn-out and were able to sit down and visit with all the guests. Thanks to everyone who came out to support us!

GERL is considering making this the location of our next annual meeting. Stay tuned for more information on that.





# The Cumberland Island Feral Horse

By Gloria Bell

After many attempts by the defendants to dismiss the lawsuit on behalf of the Cumberland Island Horses, the petition finally gave way to a hearing where Judge Geraghty heard arguments rather than dismissing the suit. On Tuesday, December 19, 2023, a hearing was held for arguments. The judge was willing to engage in the issues with an open mind.

In court Tuesday, attorney Howell Wright reiterated arguments, saying the people charged with caring for the horses and the island's natural resources have failed to do so, resulting in both shorter lifespans for the horses and depleted resources.

Attorney DuBose, who also represents the plaintiff group(s), told U.S. District Judge Geraghty that Georgia's sovereign immunity doesn't require dismissal of the suit against the commissioners because the state constitution doesn't apply sovereign immunity to mandamus actions, or suits that seek to force an agency or official to take action.

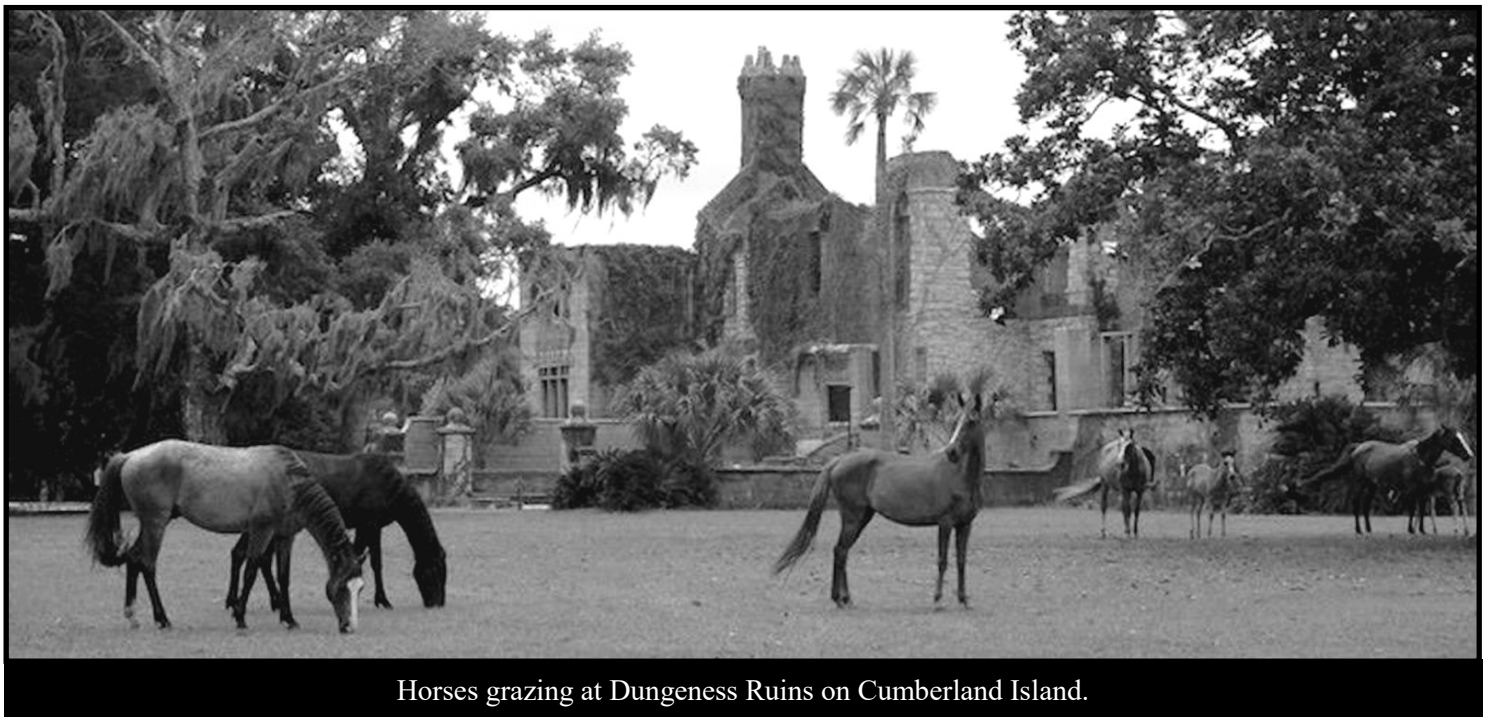
DuBose added that, under Georgia law, owners of livestock can't allow that livestock to "run at large or to stray upon" property that doesn't belong to the owner. And Georgia, DuBose argued, has an ownership interest in the Cumberland Island horses under the Humane Care for Equines Act because the state is in charge of them.

The Georgia officials pushed back against the idea that they have any ownership interest in the horses, with their attorneys noting that the horses, while once domesticated, have now reverted to a "wild" state. As such, they have no owner, attorney Christopher R. Held argued.

In their lawsuit, the green groups and horses accused the government of allowing an estimated 140 to 170 horses to roam the island, where they have trampled vegetation and crushed endangered loggerhead sea turtle eggs and shorebird nests.

Since the arguments have taken place, it will be the decision of the Judge on how this suit will proceed and which parties will be involved (from the original defendants). The Complaint has since been amended to address some issues raised by the defendants. The Defendants have until January 16<sup>th</sup> to submit briefs opposing the amendments. Hopefully the Court will issue an opinion on both the motion to amend and the motion to dismiss by the end of Spring.

We appreciate your continued interest and support in this very important plight for these suffering horses on Cumberland Island.



Horses grazing at Dungeness Ruins on Cumberland Island.



## JOIN THE GEORGIA HORSE COUNCIL

*ALL BREEDS. ALL DISCIPLINES. ONE VOICE*

MEMBERSHIPS START AT JUST \$45/YEAR AND INCLUDE:

\$1,000,000 EXCESS EQUINE LIABILITY INSURANCE

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

MEMBERS-ONLY DISCOUNTS



Georgia  
Horse Council

Contact us for more info:  
[www.georgiahorsecouncil.com](http://www.georgiahorsecouncil.com)  
[info@georgiahorsecouncil.com](mailto:info@georgiahorsecouncil.com)

# Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipe

## Baked Potato Soup

### Ingredients

- 12 slices bacon
- 2/3 cup butter
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 7 cups milk
- 4 large baked potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 1 1/4 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper

### Directions

1. Place bacon in a large skillet and cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, about 8 to 10 minutes. Drain bacon slices on paper towels; crumble and set aside.
2. Meanwhile, melt butter in a stockpot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Gradually add flour, whisking until well-combined. Slowly pour in milk, whisking constantly until smooth and thickened.
3. Add potatoes and onions and bring to a boil, stirring frequently. Reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes.
4. Stir in crumbled bacon, Cheddar cheese, sour cream, salt, and pepper. Continue cooking and stirring until cheese is melted.



# 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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**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

## *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 \$7,998 for feed, hay, vet care and farrier service for our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$1,698 on feed for the horses located at Warrior Ranch in Dublin..
- GERL spent \$3,090 on feed for the horses at the Calvin Center Horses & Warriors.
- GERL spent 5,726 on castrations and drugs through our Stallion to Gelding Program.
- GERL SPENT A TOTAL OF \$18,512 THIS QUARTER DIRECTLY HELPING HORSES.



# 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 and EIP Partner to Host Event at Ft. Stewart

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) and Equine Immersion Project (EIP) have partnered to host another four-day event for the military at Ft. Stewart on March 6-9, 2024. This will be our second “equine immersion” at the Ft. Stewart stables where we will arrange to bring in ten to twelve horses that will be matched up to selected enlisted individuals. They will experience five hours of horse from ground to saddle.

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

GERL and EIP held the first such event at Ft. Stewart on September 7-10, 2023. It was a great success, and we were able to demonstrate the proof of concept to

the Army, and the value of the stables, which was in jeopardy of being closed.

We are committed to hosting these types of events for our military and look forward to our upcoming event in March. The impact these excursions have on the individuals who participate is best described in the comment below that was submitted by one of the attendees at the September event.

*“Today was truly something. Bonding with these horses, then getting to ride them made the experience unbelievable. A true sense of peace and relaxation came over me. This event has truly sparked a love for horses and riding. The staff was truly wonderful and incredibly professional. They treated you like family”.*



Group photo of volunteers and participants at our first 4-day excursion at Ft. Stewart.

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# GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING

March 23, 2024



**GERL Flea Market Location**  
1460 Jim Edmundson Rd., Good Hope, GA  
30641



Annual  
Blanket  
Sale!!

You are invited to attend!  
Pot Luck—Please bring your favorite dish to share!

## AGENDA

Please come a few minutes early if you are bringing a dish and plan to join us for lunch.

- 10:00 - Volunteers Arrive and Set up
- 11:00 - Flea Market Opens
- 12:00 - Potluck lunch (Bring a dish to share)
- 12:30 - Introduction by President Patty Livingston
- 12:45 - Guest speaker - TBA
- 1:15 - Award Recognition
- 1:25 - General Meeting—What GERL is doing for horses
- 2:00 - Adjourn

**JOIN US FOR POTLUCK!!**



**GERL MERCHANDISE WILL BE FOR SALE!**

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# Potluck - Flea Market - Awards!

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## 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  
Linda Stringer  
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Michelle LaMarque  
Dr. Gisela Dalton  
Ken & Susan Archer  
Mary-Ellen and Donald Mateyka

George & Denise Mortensen  
Elizabeth & Douglas Foran  
Stephen & Carol Boots  
Karen Henderson  
Laura Whitt @Blacks Mill Tree Farm  
Bonnie Lavoie  
Debbie Ferrell  
Drs. Billy and Lee Myers  
Dixie Cowles  
Emily Millians  
Lisa Troncalli  
Patricia & Richard Mayson  
Moirra McCracken  
Bobbi Bryant  
Joanne Baumach  
Deb Kovac  
Gloria Owens

## Welcome New Members

Michelle LaMarque  
Elaine Bishoff  
Margaret Petree  
Paige Dorsey  
Debbie Smith  
Lisa Harter

## Cumberland Island Horses:

Bonnie Lavoie  
Rosalee Dormio  
Moirra McCracken  
Gerald Gowitt  
Jo West in Memory of Nicholas,  
Frosty and Shiloh

## In Honor of

All my horses by Beverly Villa  
Lisa Sikes by Judy Gore  
Chloe & Addison Heaps by Joanne Baumach  
Tom & Jennifer Hartig by Michael Mielke  
Joan Bell by Max Follettie  
Barbara Williams by Haley, Josh & Meryl Kornfield  
Harlow DiCesare by Brigid McKenna  
Grace Whissell & Bryan McCord by Emily Millians  
John & Shannon Quidley by Jean Downey – Merry Christmas!  
Steven Horn

## In Memory of

My mom, Sara E. Piver, by Sandra Piver  
Terry Byer by Sandra & Michael Latimer  
Terry Byer by Debbie & Lamar Mullinax  
Terry Byer by Daniel Rather  
Amanda Collins by Ruthie & Joe Hollander  
Baby, Marian Finco's beloved & cherished horse by Jane Estes  
Baby, Marian Finco's beloved horse by Jeanne Barsanti  
Bess & Butch by Verleen Flaig  
Mary Ellen Carson by Sara Ohmer  
Mary Ellen Carson, In memory of God's own cowgirl. With love, Eileen & Struan Campbell  
Mary Ellen Carson by Patti Gilmer  
Mary Ellen Carson by John Wooten  
Mary Ellen Carson by Deborah Gallop - In Memory of the Amazing Granny Oakley  
Mary Ellen Carson by Virginia Robertson  
Toothless Joe and the Gleim Family who never in his life let him down by Janice Knight  
Thomas Erle Brady by Karen Righeimer-Schock and David Schock  
Thomas Brady by Kristina Smucker - In memory of a loving father, veteran, and horse lover.  
My sister, Chris Altizer by Carole Evans

## Stallion to Gelding Program:

Susie Cottongim – in Memory of Baby, Marian Finco's beloved horse  
Kel-Mac Saddle Club

## Feed A Horse

Erik Wittenzellner – In memory of Sara  
Constance Burchette  
Penelope Stiglitz  
Tony Conway  
James Januzelli  
Paula Umsted and Leslie Bladen



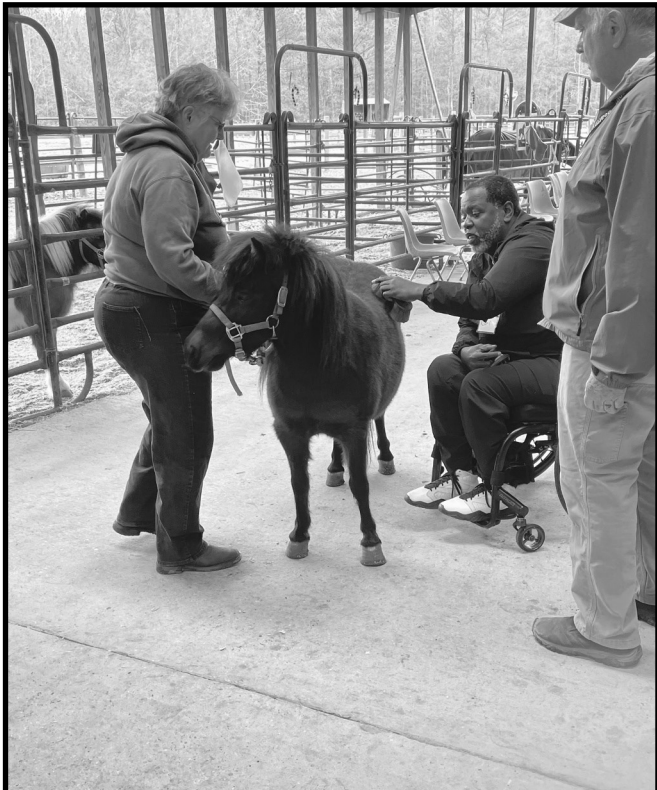
<https://www.facebook.com/georgiaequine.rescueleague>



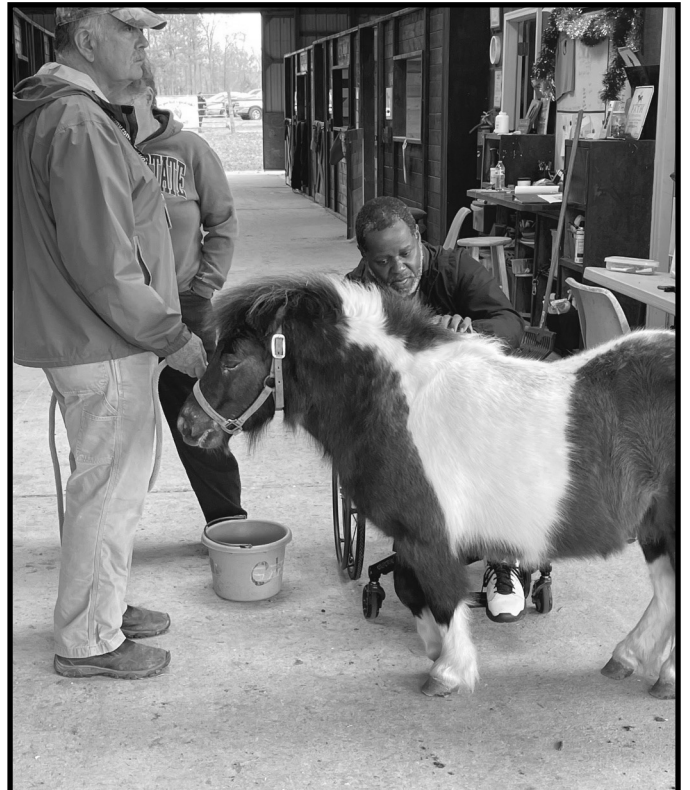
## Update from Calvin Center

By Patty Livingston

I always enjoy receiving texts from Sara and Kate at the Calvin Center. They keep me smiling with photos of Garth Brooks and Maggie Mae, two mini horses that I rescued several years ago. Both went to the Calvin Center in June of this year to compliment their children's program. The Veteran's program started back up on September 1st and both minis made themselves useful. It does my heart good to see them being used for something so special!



A veteran brushes Maggie Mae.



Don't forget to brush Garth Brooks, too.

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

**March 6-9, 2024**

**Horses Heal Heroes -Ft. Stewart  
Hinesville, GA**



**March 23, 2024**

**GERL Annual Meeting  
Good Hope, GA**

**November 2024**

**Stallion to Gelding Castration Month**  
Participating Vets Across Georgia  
Check the GERL website mid-October for  
participating veterinarians.

Mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these wonderful events that will benefit GERL. It's a guaranteed great time, a benefit for a wonderful cause and a way to see old friends and meet new friends!

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



# Area Coordinators

**Anderson, Cynthia - Baldwin & Putnam**  
(770) 713-9887 / gormaisfat@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 / horseplay484@gmail.com

**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—Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham**  
(912) 667-5151 / ritarae819@gmail.com

**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](mailto:gerlpatty@yahoo.com)



# LET ME SAY THIS...ABOUT THAT

*By Patty Livingston, President*

Another year has flown by and there are a lot of things to reflect on for me, personally. What a year it has been! Unless you're new to GERL, you already know that the last year has been all about the three stallions that I fostered. Black Jack was castrated in August and the other two were done in November. They taught me a lot of good lessons on safety and cemented the old adage that a good stallion will make a great gelding. By Christmas, each had gone to their forever home, and I am receiving reports and videos that prove that they have all transitioned nicely into the world where they get to graze in a large pasture with other horses; they get to hang out as long as they want with their new best friend, they get to experience just being a horse, and as their foster mom, I could not have wished for more.

Speaking of castrations, GERL just wrapped up our Stallion to Gelding Castration program at the end of November and there are now 61 new geldings as a result. This is one of the most important programs that GERL sponsors and we've been offering this low-cost castration through participating veterinarians since 2010. And let me say this, about that...GERL gets nothing back by offering this program to Georgia stallion owners. We rarely, if ever, have received a thank you, nor have we ever acquired a new member as a result. We've had several individuals get as many as a dozen of their stallions gelded through this program at one time and never hear from them. It is ok. We are not offering it because we expect anything in return. We offer it because it is the obvious fix to a serious problem. In one incident, we helped keep a dozen stallions from reproducing and that is the carrot in this program.

Think about this...how many horses on average do you think are rescued by one local rescue organization

each year? More importantly, what is the average length of stay? I decided to do some research on this topic and stumbled across a link to an organization called Equine Welfare Data Collective (EWDC) that collects data about rescue horses. I included something very key from their article that people need to know.

“Capacity to help horses in need is the top number everyone wants to know, says Stearns. Length of stay is also identified in the EWDC Fourth Report as a critical data point to understanding the current annual national capacity for assisting at-risk equines and those in transition in the custody of equine welfare organizations. A preliminary number estimates around 200 to 300 days as the average length of stay for horses at a rescue or adoption facility.

“What we were able to come up with was a daily capacity: how many stalls exist, on a given day, for horses in rescue,” says Stearns. “And that number hovers around 47,000. People get worried that capacity is limited, but what we can do with this knowledge now is direct programming in ways to increase capacity through decreasing length of stay.”

Using the number 25 as a conservative guess, it will take a large number of rescue organizations in each state to be able to handle their unwanted horse problems if the horses do not find adoptive homes within a few months. Now, if all those same rescue organizations also offered a low-cost castration program in addition to rescue, they could see more bang for their buck, so to speak. You see where I'm going with this?

Thanks for your support in 2023!

Happy New Year!

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



# 13TH Annual Stallion to Gelding Castration Days

November 1<sup>st</sup> kicked off the Georgia Equine Rescue League's 13<sup>th</sup> annual Stallion to Gelding Castration Days. We had 7 Georgia large animal veterinarians participate this year. All of them are vets who participate every year, and we very much appreciate their willingness to offer low-cost castration to Georgia equine owners.

The Stallion to Gelding program is one of 8 programs that GERL has put in place since 2010, in an effort to help reduce the problem of the unwanted horse. Since that time, GERL has helped pay for the castration of 1,383 equine. All of this year's participants have not reported in with their totals yet, but we are currently reflecting 61 new geldings in 2023.

Below is the list of veterinarians who participated this year. Please let them know how much their participation is appreciated!

**Royston Animal Hospital - Wanda Thompson, DVM**

**Barrow Veterinary Service - Robin Barrow, DVM**

**King Equine Vet Service - Logan King, DVM**

**Fulton Equine Clinic - Melissa J. Fulton, DVM**

**Piedmont Equine Associates -**

**Daniel Pike, DVM, John Elliott, DVM, Lianna Osborne, DVM, and Shannon Jones, DVM**

**Philema Animal Clinic - Wyatt Ford, DVM**

**Southern Crescent Equine Services – Jason McClendon**

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## Spotlight on Our Area Coordinators Gloria Bell

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Big thanks to Gloria Bell for volunteering to fill the role as GERL Area Coordinator Director. This is an important position within the Area Coordinator structure which covers the entire State of Georgia.

Gloria has great energy and passion for GERL and besides filling a role as an AC for Coweta, Troup and Fayette counties, she is also the Lead for our Cumberland Island Project.

Congratulations and Thank You, Gloria!



# Support GERL by purchasing our merchandise!

## Adult Short Sleeve T-Shirt \$20.00



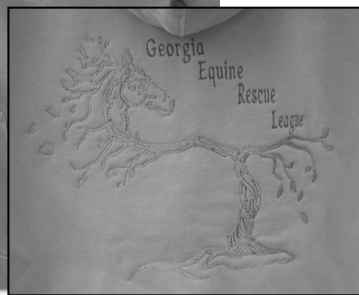
T-Shirt with printed logo on front/back  
 Sizes available: M, L, XL & 2X

## 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:

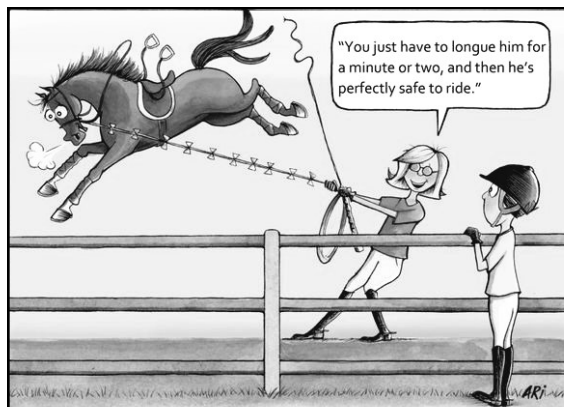
**1383**



## 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



### 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

## 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

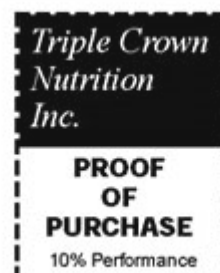
### Please Help! GERL receives money for the following...

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



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## Mary Carson Obituary

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Mary Ellen Carson, of Dahlonega, passed away early in the morning, November 14, 2023.

An accomplished equestrian, Mary Ellen travelled the Southeast showing Tennessee Walkers. She won countless ribbons and trophies, her proudest achievement being a win in the Show Pleasure Class at the world-recognized Celebration in Shelbyville, TN. After a brief respite from horses, Mary Ellen embraced her cowgirl spirit and took up Cowboy Mounted Shooting at the age of 71. As a member of CMSA, Mary Ellen moved up to a Senior Level 3 shooter on her trusted steed, Danny Boy, and earned the affectionate nickname "Granny Oakley" or simply, "Granny". An inspiration to many, Granny participated in her last CMSA match shortly after her 90th birthday.

Happy Trails, Cowgirl until we meet again.



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## At Georgia Equine Rescue League your Donations Save Lives

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Our mission is straight forward, to reduce the number of unwanted horses in the State of Georgia. With unwanted horses stressing over-burdened rescue organizations, the Georgia Equine Rescue League plays a critical role in the equine welfare system. In addition to rescue, programs are available that help fix the problems of the unwanted horse. Programs such as our Stallion to Gelding Castration, Feed-A-Horse, and Crisis Intervention, just to name a few.

The reality, animal welfare organizations often get overlooked. Horses are too often viewed as nothing more than livestock. They become forgotten backyard pets, and the last to receive feed and water when times get tough. Thus begins the downward spiral in the quality of life for yet another noble creature.

The Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd., (GERL) is a 501c(3) non-profit organization, founded in 1993. GERL depends on 100% of donations and foster homes as we function at capacity with full care of 10 - 15 starved or abused equines at any given time.

Your support can make a significant impact in the lives of these majestic animals. We can continue bringing them back to health after unfortunate situations, and delivering them on to a better life, with your support.

Any donation you make, no matter how small, can help us provide for these noble animals.

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

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# A “Where Are They Now” Update

*By Patty Livingston*

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Remember Leila?

Leila was a 13-year-old Draft cross mare who came into our program from Walton County Animal Control along with 2 other horses back in June of 2022. She was the boss of the little herd which consisted of a Paint Walking Horse, gelding named Boone and an untouchable Mustang mare named Gypsy. Both were scared to death of her which explained why she came in with a body condition score (BCS) of 5 out of 9, with 5 being considered perfect. Gypsy’s BCS was 2.5 and Boone was a 2.

You may not remember Leila because she didn’t hang around very long before being adopted by Deb Kovac, an avid horsewoman who has done it all. Leila is now known as Arwin and Deb is absolutely crazy about her. They trail ride, do obstacles, jump, and Deb is getting back into the fox hunt scene with Arwin as her partner.

I love to hear people talk about the horses they adopted from GERL and it is especially rewarding to receive their photos. That is what this business is all about...taking someone’s throw-away and rehoming it with someone who is crazy about them!





# A Flag-Retirement Ceremony

By Sara Reams

Since GERL has now added responsibilities for recognition of Veterans to the outstanding work they do with horses, I'd like to tell you about a Veterans' sponsored activity in which I recently participated. I don't know if many of you know about this; but I found it to be most impressive.

We all know that our national flag, the Stars and Stripes, is to be respected and well cared for. But we have all seen flags that don't meet those standards; whether they hang tattered and dirty, displayed in the dark, or in other disrespectful manners. We might wonder whose responsibility it is to do something about these poor flags.

In Fayette County, Georgia, local American Legion Post 50 collects flags that need to be retired. These Veterans have set up collection boxes in the community where people can leave their old flags. They acquire old postal boxes, clean and paint them, and then put them in public places (such as the City Hall in Peachtree City). If a Veteran member sees a tattered flag being publicly displayed, they might offer to take it down and replace it with a new flag. Once a number of flags have been collected, these Veterans will hold a flag-retirement ceremony.

I recently attended one such ceremony on a lovely Fall evening. When we arrived at the site, we saw a huge pile of brush and limbs sitting in a clearing. Seeing several large boxes nearby gave me a clue as to the number of flags involved. We all gathered together near the brush pile, where the Commander of the Legion Post 50 called us to attention. In typical military fashion, the ceremony followed a set protocol. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag hanging nearby, and sang The Star Spangled Banner. Then, with these words, the ceremony began, "Please remember, this is a very solemn ceremony and should be done

with the utmost respect and reverence for the flag to be retired." A detail of Veterans then carried three flags to present to Post Officers. These flags had been folded in the proper manner and were presented as representatives of the many flags to be retired. Once they had been inspected, it was declared that "since these flags have become faded and worn in a tribute of service and

love, I recommend that they be fittingly destroyed." The following prayer was then said, "Almighty God, Captain of all hosts and Commander over all, bless and consecrate this present hour. We thank you for our country and its flag,

and for the liberty for which it stands. To a clean and purging flame we commit these flags, worn out in worthy service. As they yield their substance to the fire, may your Holy Light spread over us and bring our hearts renewed devotion to God and Country. Amen"



Flag at the Horses & Warriors barn.

These boxes were filled with flags.

The first of the three presented flags was then dipped in kerosene and thrown onto the brush pile, where it was touched with a flaming torch. The other two flags followed. Then, as the flames grew, the boxes of flags were opened. We were all encouraged to throw flags on the fire, with a dedication to someone we chose. There must have been at least a thousand flags retired that evening! As the fire grew larger and more and more flags were added, the heat became very intense. Several people braved it, as more boxes were opened and more flags added. Once all the flags were retired, I noticed that folks were standing there with a quiet reverence for what had just happened.

It was an honor to be in attendance at this ceremony. Thanks to our Veterans for the many ways in which they continue to serve our country.

## The Miracle of Castor Oil

During the time that I was fostering the 3 stallions, Black Jack, greeted me at the gate one morning with a horrible shoulder wound. Of course, it was a Sunday and would require emergency services from my vet. Dr. Tomlinson sewed up the shoulder and inserted a drain tube. It looked great for the first part of the week. But, by day 5 it had crusted up and the flap that he sewed together was pulling apart, leaving a big hole. It was a mess to doctor every day and discouraging to see it appear to worsen instead of healing.

I was whining a bit to CeCe Calli about my new daily chore, and she suggested that I get some Castor Oil and smear it over the wound. She promised that I would see great results. As soon as I hung up the phone, I went on a hunt to find some Castor Oil and I started using it on Black Jack that evening. The next morning, I was totally amazed at how clean and smooth the wound was. Wow! I have never seen anything like it! It was a breeze to doctor him and something I no longer dreaded. Every day I was amazed at the visible healing that was taking place.

I was so impressed by the power of this little bottle of oil that I decided to do some research and learned that there is an abundance of great information about the healing powers of Castor Oil available. Use it on proud flesh type injuries or puncture wounds. I think you'll be impressed, too!



His wound was crusty prior to the oil.



Black Jack's wound was ugly.



Black Jack's wound a few days after Castor Oil.

# My Year with Stallions

By Patty Livingston

I have fostered a plethora of stallions over the past 15 years and for the most part, their stay has been just long enough to gain weight, get castrated and move on. I had never fostered more than one at a time. Last year was different. I fostered 3 stallions from a herd of 13 horses (The Baker's Dozen) in September of 2022. These weren't your typical stallions since they were used specifically for breeding, requiring separate living quarters. That was a trick in itself. Where to stash them. One went to the dry lot where my mini horses used to live. Another one occupied my front pasture and the third one was confined to another dry lot on the side of my house which shared a fence between the two.

It seemed like every other morning I would go out to feed and find broken boards or other damage. In the beginning, I chronicled the damage in photos. After a few months, I didn't bother. One morning I woke up to a ringing phone. It was my neighbor, letting me know that one of the stallions



A stallion fight resulted in a dent.

was over in his pasture, causing havoc. In our attempt to capture him he ran through an open gate (oops!) and got into my backyard. From there he decided to visit the other two stallions and show them who was boss. More broken boards and a nice new dent in the back door of my horse trailer was the result of that.

I'm embarrassed to admit that the stallions had been there 4 months before I strung electric braid and wire. That fixed the problems with broken fence boards, but it seemed like they still found ways to break something. Two of the stallions were over-sized and had the strength to prove it! Hercules managed to push the entire wall of his run-in loose one day. It was barely attached with a few nails when I discovered it. And



Broken fence boards were a regular occurrence.

what would top all the broken boards? A nasty shoulder wound that required daily cleaning and dressing!

It has been an interesting year and a half living with the stallions. They were gelded and each went to their forever homes. I am happy that I got to be involved in their lives and help ensure that they went to wonderful loving homes. If ever the memory of their stay wanes, I need only to look at all of the replaced boards in my fence that now brings a smile.



O.G. pushed out the wall of his shed.

# Hello from The Rescue at Spirit Ridge Farm

By Sabra Rockwell

Boy, October, November, and December have been a whirlwind of activity for The Rescue.

I want to thank the Georgia Equine Rescue League for their generous contribution to our program. We completely rely on donations, contributions, and fundraisers as we do not charge our Veterans, First Responders, or their families for services. With our recent vet bills for a couple of our seniors it was right on time.



The Rescue hosted an evening workshop for 18 Athens – Clarke County Veterans Treatment Court members; it was so fun and enlightening, especially to those who had never worked with horses before. The participants got an insight into why we use Equine-Assisted techniques and had lots of hands-on interaction with our equine teachers. We worked on de-stressing grooming and breathing techniques to better connect with the horse and themselves. But I think putting the horse in the box was their favorite. It is an activity done in teams of two or three and requires them to move their horse from one end of the arena to a box at the other end without touching the horse. They had so much fun cheering each other along but what was rewarding was the lesson they learned about moving obstacles and themselves out of the way to achieve success. Thanks to our partner, Medlink of Georgia, for supplying our veterans with dinner after the workshop

Our At-Risk Childrens program is thriving! This program was started to help at-risk children of veterans, first responders, and persons in addiction recovery, but recently connected with a foster care parents' group to offer services to them as well. We are currently planning an end-of-the-school-year Family Fun Day for these wonderful children.

Recently we partnered with Athens Recovery Warriors to offer additional services to our clients. The director

of ARC is a Veteran and a Person in Addiction Recovery. We were honored to be invited to set up a booth at their Community Field Day for Veterans and Persons in Addiction Recovery. We met so many wonderful people that are getting their lives back on track and several have become part of our family as well.

No Christmas holiday would be complete without a Volunteer Christmas Party. Without our volunteers, we could not exist. Congratulations to our Volunteer of the Year – Brian Huth. He wears many hats in our organization. Treasurer, Salsa Maker, BBQ pit master, and is at every event we do.

2023 has been wonderful year of growth for us and we look forward to 2024 being even better.

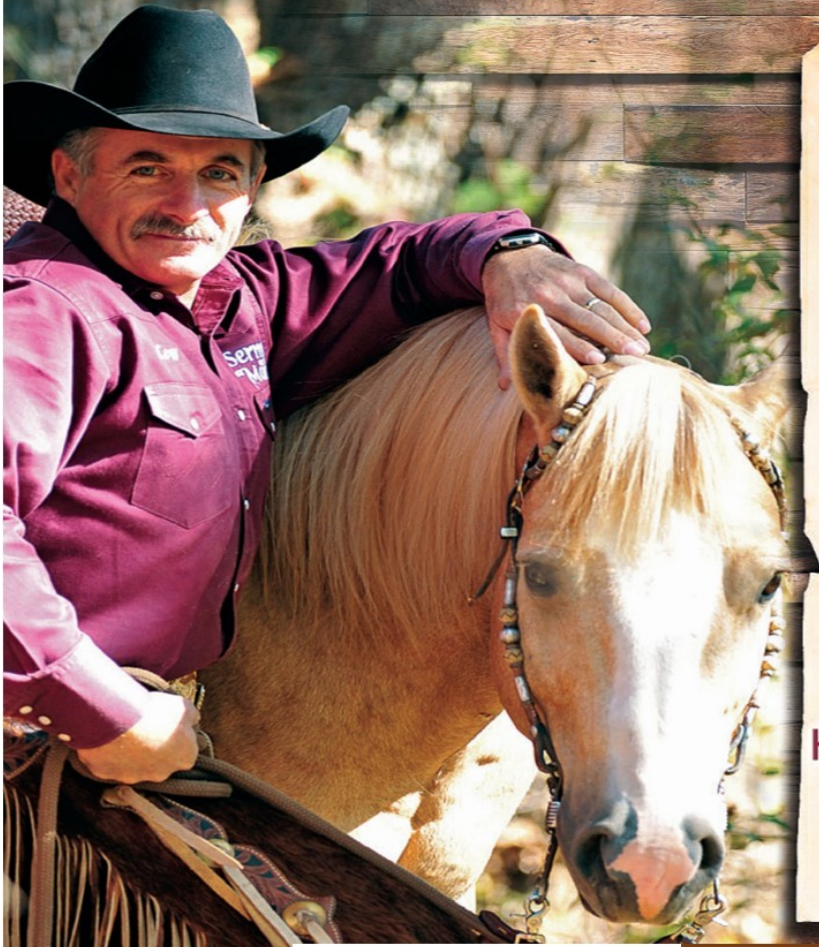




# Sermon on the "Mount"®

with Dr. Lew Sterrett  
SermonOnTheMount.org

## Lessons for Life & Leadership



### Watch

Dr. Lew Sterrett as he works with horses of various stages from untrained to seasoned winners.

### Listen

As Dr. Lew explains how the horse understands what the trainer is communicating.

### Connect

Sermon on the Mount is a bridge builder between church and community, creating opportunities for communication between them.

**Have fun and be personally encouraged as you watch horses make changes in their own thinking that parallel your life!**



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Christian  
Veterinary Mission

UGA Christian Veterinary Fellowship  
Fundraiser

When: Sunday Feb 25, 2024, 2:00 - 4:30 pm EST

Where: UGA Livestock Instructional Arena, 2600 S Milledge Ave, Athens

Suggested donation: \$25/person. Children under 13 free.

Contact: Dr. Billy Myers

770-363-7634

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# 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!

## Kel-Mac Saddle Club Donates to GERL

*By Patty Livingston*

The Kel-Mac Saddle Club held their annual Christmas and Awards Banquet on December 3, 2023, at the Madison Presbyterian Church in Madison, Georgia. I was invited to attend as their guest because GERL was named as one of the recipients to receive funds from monies raised at their horse shows.

We are so thankful for clubs like Kel-Mac who appreciate the work that we do. Without people like them we would not be able to offer the programs that we have to help our communities with equine issues.

Huge thanks to Kel-Mac Saddle club and all its members who made their donation possible!



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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!

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

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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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>