



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. NEWSLETTER

Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia

Quarterly Newsletter

April, May & June 2025

Annual Membership Drive

By Gloria Bell

A GERL Membership creates a sense of belonging and loyalty and gives our members opportunities to engage in equine expertise and shared interests, such as being an Area Coordinator. Area Coordinators are needed in every GA County. Won't you be one?

Your membership truly makes a difference. For just \$25/year (for singles), you become part of this life-saving work – providing feed, medicine, shelter and hope. Visit gerlltd.org and click “Membership Sign-Up,” or mail your membership to Georgia Equine Rescue League, P.O. Box 328, Bethlehem, GA 30620. Join today and be the reason a horse like Classy survives and a veteran finds healing.

Act now to give hope to Georgia's horses and heroes – your support changes lives!

How Your Membership Helps

Nutrition & Feed: Your membership ensures every rescued horse receives high-quality hay, grain and supplements to regain weight and vitality.



Medical & Veterinary Care: Member donations pay for vet exams, medicines, vaccines and farrier visits, helping injured or diseased horses heal.

Safe Shelter & Rehabilitation: GERL funds safe barns and foster-care programs where horses can rest and recover. Each horse is given a warm stall and rehabilitation plan until they're strong.

Foster Homes & Adoption: We also provide foster care and sponsor training/therapy clinics, helping every rehabilitated horse find a loving forever home.

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Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.
P.O. Box 328
Bethlehem, Ga. 30620
770-464-0138
<https://gerlltd.org>
contactus@gerlltd.org

Annual Membership Drive

By Patty Livingston

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OUR NEWEST PROGRAM.....

Healing Horses & Heroes

GERL's impact goes beyond horses – we also honor and heal our heroes. Its “Horses Heal Veterans” program pairs horses with military veterans and active duty soldiers struggling with PTSD. Horses, who often have their own traumatic pasts, provide a remarkable bond and empathy. As GERL explains, these horses “share a keen sense of their surroundings” and can mirror a human's behavior, helping veterans open up and rebuild trust. This unique partnership empowers both horse and hero: each membership donation helps fund equine-assisted therapy sessions that change the lives of wounded veterans and horses at the same time.

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) is excited about this new program that will promote and support therapeutic equine services to our veterans. This program, much like GERL's other programs, is designed to minimize Georgia's unwanted horse problems while helping our HERO'S.

The mission of GERL's “Horses Heal Veterans” program is to support and promote non-profit equine therapeutic organizations that cater to veterans with PTSD.

Without your support, this critical 32-year program wouldn't be able to continue saving the lives of horses and helping veterans.



Without your support, this critical 32-year program wouldn't be able to continue saving the lives of horses and helping veterans.



How many veterans commit suicide?
22 Suicides A Day on Average

Because of your support, there are so many that have been saved, rehabilitated, and re-homed.

Georgia Equine Rescue League

PROGRAMS

HOTLINE

COMMUNITY & LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION

NEWSLETTERS

CRISIS INTERVENTION

STALLION TO GELDING CASTRATION

FEED A HORSE

FOSTER CARE

LIVESTOCK SHELTERS/MATERIALS

AREA COORDINATOR / BY COUNTY

HORSES HEAL VETERANS

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Annual Membership Drive

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 2



Now healthy and strong, Classy is unrecognizable from the mare who first arrived in our care. Her glossy coat and bright eyes remind us how far she's come. Thanks to members' support, Classy now trots happily in a sunny pasture with other equine companions where she will live out her life. Your membership makes stories like Classy's possible, transforming suffering into hope for Georgia's neglected horses.

Because of your support, Classy and so many others have been saved, rehabilitated, and re-homed. Please consider joining us. Your membership fee and any donations go directly to supporting our programs.

Scan to Sign up



Friends of the Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.



Tack Sale

Are you a member? Get an additional 25% off.
Become a member, go to <https://gerlltd.org>

2nd & 4th Saturday of Every Month
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

1460 Jim Edmondson Road, Good Hope, GA

New Items and Gently Used

**Saddles
Pads
Blankets
Halters
Bridles**

**Lead Ropes
Artwork
GERL T-Shirts
and More.....**

INFORMATION CONTACT: Cindy Farris: (508) 769-2065 or
Patty Livingston: gerlpatty@yahoo.com (770) 309-6815

Area Coordinator Spotlight

By Gloria Bell

Meet Linda Kurszka and Mark Balentine, our new Area Coordinators covering Calhoun, Clay, Terrell and Quitman counties.

Mark and Linda live in Coleman, Georgia which is part of Randolph County in SW Georgia. They are the owners of Tagalong Ranch and Kruszka Stables, one of the only equine facilities in the immediate area. Linda Kruszka has trained and competed for most of her life at one point having twenty-two head of her own. She got away from horses for a bit while building an accounting practice in the Florida Keys. They sold their businesses in Florida and now reside full time in Randolph County at their ranch.

They are a FRM feed dealer, always keeping plenty of feed on hand. They also keep 400-500 bales of hay on hand at all times as well as can assist with transport with a 4-horse trailer and multiple trucks available at their ranch.

Mark & Linda are hosting a fund-raising event at their

ranch on November 1st. A flyer for the event is posted in this publication as well as being posted on social media. Check it out and take note of all the things they have planned for this one-day event.

The Georgia Equine Rescue League is thrilled to have them on board.



Mark and Linda—Area Coordinators covering Randolph County

Support GERL at an Upcoming Fundraising Event!

Mark and Linda are hosting a special fundraising event that will benefit several incredible non-profits — and we're thrilled to share that the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) is one of them!

As part of the event, they're organizing a silent auction where 100% of the proceeds will go directly to GERL. This is a fantastic opportunity to support rescued horses and help us continue our mission.

They're currently gathering items for the auction, so if you have something you'd like to donate — big or small — your generosity will make a direct impact.

To donate an item, please contact Patty Livingston at (770) 309-6815 for details.

Thank you for helping us give horses a second chance.

**TAGALONG RANCH
EQUINE SUMMIT
2025**

Horsemanship Clinic
On Site Farrier & Hoof Care Seminar
Emergency Equine Medical Seminar
Discipline Demonstrations
New & Used Tack Vendors
Feed & Supplement Vendors
Cyrotherapy Demo & Seminar
Consignment Horses
BBQ & Silent Auction

TAGALONG RANCH
FRM FEEDS
KRUSZKA STABLES

**NOVEMBER 1ST, 2025
TAGALONG RANCH
COLEMAN, GA**

Life With Blackjack

By Margie Beeson

I sit here writing this story filling the pasture water troughs after a lovely, but hot ride with my Blackjack. I am blessing my life as I look out onto the fields with my 33-year-old retired endurance horse, my husband's horse (also a rescue from the auction houses). Life is pretty dang-gone good.



We are transplants to Georgia from Los Angeles, California. We brought our 3 horses with us to a beautiful 100 acre farm where we could all retire. Problem was my horses had aged to a point where they truly needed to retire, while we still wanted to ride.

Meanwhile, unbeknownst to us Blackjack (aka Prince Apollo Diamond, a registered Arabian stallion) was living with 12 other stable mates and not in a good situation. The Sheriff's office had to intervene and the 13 were confiscated as starvation cases. He was sent to GERL and is a part of the Bakers Dozen story that you may have read about here on a previous GERL magazine issue.

It took a full year for GERL to recover these horses from their starved state. Blackjack was the lucky one, he was in the best shape of the 13. But the other problem was the owner fought the confiscation in court so GERL had the horses longer than expected. Which was a good thing for me. Our house took forever to get in a livable condition, and I was too busy dealing with those issues than looking for a horse.



The year goes by, living in a new place, making new friends and just as I start looking for a horse, up pops an email from GERL that The Bakers Dozen was finally up for adoption. There, on the pages was this absolutely gorgeous black beauty! I immediately texted CeCe, my new friend, and told her that he had to be mine. We met Patty when we went to see him and he was rideable but a very green horse. Having worked with a lot of greenies through the years that wasn't an issue.



Life With Blackjack

By Margie Beeson

This fall he will be here 2 years. Blackjack is now a gelding, and he has been on several Shakerag Hounds hunts here and other locations. It took me awhile for the other locations in that he was not very good at loading into the trailer but we have worked that out.

Blackjack is a funny guy. He sticks his whole mouth into his feed bucket as if he will never see another mouthful. He is very affectionate and plays with his stable mates until its dinner time and then they all must stand back from the gate until he has his halter on. And he is very strict about the distance that is acceptable. He is becoming a competent trail horse, blazing through the thickest areas but when it comes to a trickle of a stream or a muddy patch he doesn't want to deal. He is getting better at crossing water now especially with all the rain we have been having. Good training.

I think God was looking out for both of us. The timing was perfect. He is the perfect boy for me and he takes



my breath away at how absolutely beautiful he is.

Thank you GERL, thank you Patty and thank you CeCe. What you do with this wonderful organization is beyond the beyond. Love you guys and love Blackjack, My Black Beauty!



GERL Mail Bag



Even though we were heartbroken by the news, we are and will continue to be extremely grateful to have a community and companies, such as yours, who supports us. Thank you for your contribution, we will make sure all of it goes to good use in our upcoming events!



Dear GERL,

Thank you all so much for your generous donation and continued support for our drill team, it is always a pleasure to partner with you! we are so grateful and appreciate your organization and all the wonderful things you do!

with love,
Elizabeth Dabney

Let your light shine before men, in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

Saying Good-bye to Sultan

By Steven Neal

It is with much sadness that I had to say goodbye to Sultan on June 21st, 2025. He, unfortunately, coliced with a twisted small intestine, which I know from previous experiences could not be treated.

Sultan, along with Cisco, arrived at my barn on the evening of December 31st, 2022, so I have had the privilege of caring for him for two and a half years. I will miss him very much.



Sultan, January 1st, 2023



Sultan, March 3rd, 2023



Sultan & Titan, July 20, 2024



Sultan, March, 11, 2025

Editor's Note: Some people talk about compassion—Steven Neal lives it. For as long as I can remember, Steven has opened his heart and home to the old souls of the Georgia Equine Rescue League. Not just one horse, but often two or three at a time, each one finding peace, comfort, and dignity in his care.

GERL isn't a sanctuary, but when we support law enforcement, we often end up with horses that simply need a soft place to land. Steven never hesitates. He gives them more than shelter—he gives them love. And when the time comes to say goodbye, Steven does the hardest thing of all: he lets them go, and lays them to rest. It's a burden he never had to take on, but always does—with quiet strength and endless grace.

Sultan was just one of many to feel that love. And for every old-timer Steven has cared for, we are deeply, forever grateful. Thank you, Steven—for everything.

Georgia Department of Agriculture Reinstatement of the Law Enforcement Division

By Gloria Bell

The Georgia Equine Rescue League Board of Directors and Executive Leads recently hosted a conference call with Jessica Rock, the Georgia State-wide Animal Crimes Resource Prosecutor. As Georgia's animal crimes prosecutor, Jessica fights for those unable to speak for themselves. Jessica is a resource within the State of Georgia to provide training and assistance to law enforcement, prosecutors and other people who are involved in the investigation and prosecution of animal crimes. Jessica is also Federally sworn in with the Southern District of Georgia as a Federal Prosecutor and has handled several dog fighting and cock fighting cases, federally.

A list of questions was provided to Jessica ahead of the conference call. She went through each of them, providing updates and other pertinent information. The most important topics surrounded the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the re-establishment of its Law Enforcement Division. The division was disbanded in 2013 and has now been reinstated by Commissioner Tyler Harper. Tyler Harper has been instrumental in appointing Harlan Proveaux as the division's new Inspector General and Director. This division's focus is

on enforcing agricultural laws and regulations. This means addressing animal cruelty, labor violations, drug trafficking, and agro-terrorism. This department has full arrest powers and will collaborate with other law enforcement agencies.

Prior to this new department reinstatement and a new law, Animal Control Officers were not able to enforce state laws. Effective July 1, a law will pass giving this new division concurrent jurisdiction with law enforcement for any animal crime related issues and allow Animal Control Officers the ability to enforce established laws. Harlan will lead a team of P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards and Training) certified officers with full enforcement and arrest powers.

With the reinstatement of the GDA Law Enforcement Division and an extremely strong prosecutor, Jessica Rock, there will be active involvement in addressing animal abuse cases, particularly those involving licensed facilities or the neglect of livestock, poultry, equines, or companion animals.



Area Coordinator Update

By Gloria Bell

On July 2, 2025, the Area Coordinators will be meeting to discuss various topics to include:

- New information we have obtained on new Professionals/Animal Enforcement Officers that are part of the GA Dept of Agriculture to help make a greater impact in Georgia's equine abuse and neglect.
- We also have an ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE that is going to take place in July, August & September (3rd Quarter). We're hoping all Area Coordinators will be involved to help those in their communities see the importance of a GERL Membership. Those that join as a member can also become an Area Coordinator to help support GERL in their county.

- Our new Area Coordinators in SW Georgia, Mark Ballentine and Linda Kruszka, are hosting a fundraising event at their ranch on November 1st that will include among other things, a silent auction where 100% of the proceeds will benefit GERL. A flyer for the event is included in this quarterly newsletter, and it will be posted on social media. We will have a booth set up as well. Hope to see you there.

For more information about membership, becoming an area coordinator, please call Gloria Bell at (706) 392-7520.



GHC Donates to Local Clubs

By Patty Livingston

The Georgia Horse Council (GHC) Board of Directors 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. CTHA for trail maintenance.
3. Back Country Horsemen of N. Georgia
4. Back Country Horsemen of MS Georgia.
5. Georgia 4-H State Horse Show



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



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

Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipe

Yummy Wings

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 large cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 10 chicken drumsticks
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- ½ cup finely chopped onion
- ¾ cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

Directions

Mash brown sugar, garlic, salt, and pepper together in a mortar and pestle to form a paste. Spoon paste into a resealable plastic bag. Add chicken, coat with paste, squeeze out excess air, and seal the bag. For best results, marinate in the refrigerator at least 1 hour to overnight.



When ready to cook, heat oil in a small saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and sauté until softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in ketchup, vinegar, and Worcestershire sauce. Bring to a simmer and cook until flavors blend, about 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, preheat an outdoor grill for medium heat and lightly oil the grate. Remove chicken from the bag.

Cook chicken on the preheated grill until brown, 3 to 5 minutes, turning once halfway through. Turn off one of the burners and move chicken over indirect heat. Maintain the temperature at 300 to 350 degrees F (150 to 175 degrees C).

Cook chicken for 20 minutes, turning halfway through. Baste with sauce, then continue to cook, basting every 10 minutes, until chicken is no longer pink at the bone and the juices run clear, 20 to 25 more minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted near the bone should read at least 165 degrees F (74 degrees C).

GERL Volunteer of the Quarter - Ginny Scarritt

By Patty Livingston

We're proud to once again recognize **Ginny Scarritt** as our **Volunteer of the Quarter**—a title she has certainly earned time and time again. For as long as we can remember, Ginny has faithfully taken on the unique and vital task of **gathering and organizing Proof of Purchase seals** for the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL).

Her dedication has translated into **over \$1,400 in gift cards**, which have gone directly toward **feeding our foster horses**. That's no small feat—and it's had a big impact.

Ginny doesn't just collect the seals; she also makes a point to **highlight and thank the supporters** who contribute to this program, building a sense of community and shared purpose. She works quietly behind the scenes, never seeking praise, but her efforts are deeply appreciated by everyone at GERL.

Ginny, your consistent, heartfelt service has made a lasting difference—and we are truly grateful. Thank you for everything you do!



Cumberland Island Horses: Where We Go From Here

By Patty Livingston

Earlier this year, our lawsuit on behalf of the wild horses of Cumberland Island was dismissed in federal court. The judge ruled in favor of the defendants, granting their Motion to Dismiss—a disappointing outcome for all of us who have worked so hard to bring attention to the plight of these animals.

As one of the named plaintiffs in the case, the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) took time to consider our next move. After careful discussion, our committee elected not to pursue an appeal. But that doesn't mean we're walking away.

Recently, we held a conference call to discuss our path forward, and we were joined by Dr. Alina Vale, a veterinarian from San Diego, California. Dr. Vale is no stranger to difficult equine cases—a few years ago, she was involved in responding to a tragic situation at a racetrack that resulted in the euthanizing of several horses. She heard about our case through a colleague and reached out, offering her expertise and support.

Her message to us was simple: **don't give up**.

Dr. Vale encouraged patience, persistence, and strategic thinking. She emphasized the importance of reaching out to contacts who may have political influence and suggested harnessing the power of social media to raise awareness and public support.



Continued on page 14

Who's Who

Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

Board Members

Patty Livingston - President
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CeCe Calli - Treasurer
(706) 371-5804 / foster@gerlltd.org
Donna Pieper—Secretary
(404) 797-3333 / secretary@gerlltd.org
Leslie Lambert - Alternate
gerlvolunteers@gerlltd.org



Adoption & Foster Coordinator - CeCe Calli
(706) 371-5804 / foster@gerlltd.org
Volunteer Coordinator - Leslie Lambert
gerlvolunteers@gerlltd.org
Area Coordinator Director - Gloria Bell
(706) 392-7520 / gloria@decorinsights.com
Stallion-Gelding Coordinator - Marian Finco
(706) 340-4368 / mhfinco@aol.com
Public Relations Coordinator - Open
Social Media Coordinator -
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Tack Store Coordinator - Cindy Farris
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Cumberland Island Project Lead - Gloria Bell
(706) 392-7520 / gloria@decorinsights.com

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

GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars!*

2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month
Friends of GERL Tack Shop
1460 Jim Edmondson Rd.
Good Hope, GA

November 1, 2025
Tagalong Ranch Equine Summit
Randolph County
Coleman, GA.

November 2025
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>



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!

Area Coordinators Covering Every County in Georgia

By Gloria Bell

Georgia Equine Rescue League Area Coordinators make an impact in their community (county) and for GERL. It is the hope of GERL to have an Area Coordinator in every county in Georgia. An Area Coordinator is the Eyes and Ears in their community for GERL, and to be a representative of GERL to their community of the many programs GERL provides.

An area coordinator is not just intended to be a contact to assist in a county to check on a situation involving horses, to get images or to verify a reported issue. There are so many other opportunities to make an impact to horse communities.

A GERL Area Coordinator is:

The focal point in their community for GERL. They are instrumental in reacting to a situation in their community that has been reported about a horse(s) in need.

They connect within their community to assist in equine situations.

They assist with even tasks that make a real difference to the lives of people, animals, and this organization.

Area Coordinators are representatives of GERL and lecture all over the state to various 4-H clubs, saddle clubs, Girl and Boy Scout troops, feed stores and any-

one else who is interested.

Area Coordinators help educate horse owners in horse care.

Area Coordinators are members of GERL and volunteers that are critical to all the GERL stands for.

GERL Area Coordinators have an opportunity to educate communities about how rehoming a horse can end well or end very poorly for the horse. There are many bad actors wanting horses for all the wrong reasons and this is an opportunity for GERL to help horse owners understand this and all the variables involved with finding their horse a good, caring home.

If you're a member of GERL and would like to become an area coordinator in your county, we would love to have you. If you are not a member, it's a great time to become one and an area coordinator. If you are interested, please contact or text Gloria Bell at (706) 392-7520. She will help through the extremely easy process.

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) appreciates their Area Coordinator's and are always supportive for any type of assistance they would like to provide.

Cumberland Island Horses: Where We Go From Here

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 11

We left the meeting feeling renewed in our commitment. As a result, we will now be holding monthly meetings to develop a firm, proactive plan of action.

The fight for the Cumberland Island horses is not over. If anything, this is a turning point—a moment to regroup, refocus, and reignite our efforts.

We'll be sharing more updates soon. In the meantime, if you or someone you know has connections in the political or advocacy space—or ideas on how to help—please reach out. Every voice and every action makes a difference.

Together, we will keep pushing forward.



**FAIRBURN COMMUNITY
HEALTH FAIR**



**Eventbrite Registration
Below**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fairburn-community-health-fair-the-veteran-and-civilian-community-tickets-1375121508449>

**SATURDAY
September 20th
12 to 4 PM**

At Duncan Park
6000 Rivertown Road
Fairburn, GA. 30213

OFFERS

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS
HIV TESTING
DEPRESSION SCREENING
RAFFLE PRIZES EVERY 15 MINUTES
FOOD BOXES BY RSVP
FREE SANDWICHES OR SMOOTHIE
RSVP ON EVENTBRITE

PROMOTING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES ONE STEP AT A TIME



The Georgia
Equine Rescue League

(GERL) has been invited to attend the Fairburn Community Health Fair at Duncan Park in Fairburn on September 20th..

Mark your calendars and come out and join us for a great and informative event.

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 \$5,808 for feed, hay and farrier service for our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$989 for veterinary services for our foster horses..
- GERL spent \$387 on the castration of one equine.
- GERL SPENT A TOTAL OF \$7,184 THIS QUARTER DIRECTLY HELPING HORSES.



Thank you for your donations

Cecelia Severens	Ann Dering
Peggy Paris	Suzanne Hanks & Family
Kathy Adams	Cavender's South
Lisa Casey	Art and Elizabeth Bartlett
Anonymous	Tanya Kingsley
Sherry Massey	Tony Conway
Angela M. Samuels	Tanya & Anthony
Allison Jenkins	Cochran
Jan Smith	Kelley Mundrick
Susan & Chris Gregory	Nancy Scott
Scott Lawler	Jane Buckler
Frances Kemp	Lee & Jill Webb
Valerie Morvan	Carla Tribble
Danny & Donna Rawls	PayPal Giving Fund
Kim Hampton	

Welcome New Members

Kathryn Dotson	Tina Cleghorne
Crystal Williams	Ondrea Culp in Memory
Maryellen Penland & Family	of Charlotte
Patricia Mote	Annie Mitchell

Feed A Horse

Constance Burchette	Margaret Miller
Susan Heuke	John Lynn
Janice Knight	Catharine Brown
Erik <u>Wittenzellner</u> – In memory of Sara	Clarissa Winslow
Jim Januzelli	Judy Ricketson
Dr Pamela Erdman	

In Memory of

David Gassett by Victoria Joyce
 Terry Byer by Maryellen Penland & Family
 Champ (aka Jesse James adopted from GERL in 2015) by George & Charlotte Zubowicz
 Melanie Wilhoite by Diane McGuire – Rest in Peace
 Melanie Studdard Wilhoite by Asankha Perera
 Melanie Wilhoite by Circle of Friends Animal Society, LLC
 Melanie Wilhoite by Dave Nieb
 Melanie Wilhoite by Lew Newlin
 Melanie Wilhoite by the Class of 1973
 Melanie Wilhoite by Harper Family and Whiplash

Cumberland Island Horses

Patricia Lusted	Ann Dering
Nancy Pahl	
Rose Smith	

In Honor of

Rebecca Thomas by Veronica Stern

Stallion to Gelding Program

Patricia Lusted

Your Donations Make a Difference!

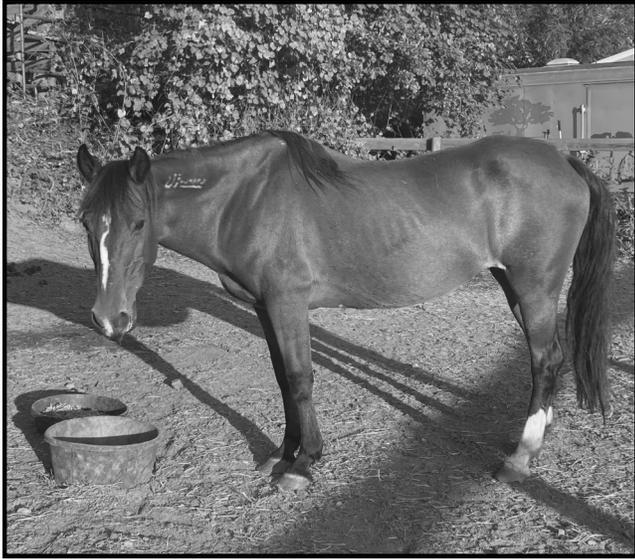
Huge thanks to everyone who donates to GERL. our donations help support our many programs designed to help alleviate Georgia's unwanted horse problems. Whether it is our foster/adoption, Feed a Horse, Stallion to Gelding, Crisis Intervention or Horses Heal Heroes program, we offer a variety of helpful, common-sense solutions for Georgia's equine communities.

Follow us on social media and sign up to become a member of GERL to receive a 32-page quarterly news- letter. www.gerlltd.org. Thank you!



GERL ADOPTABLES

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



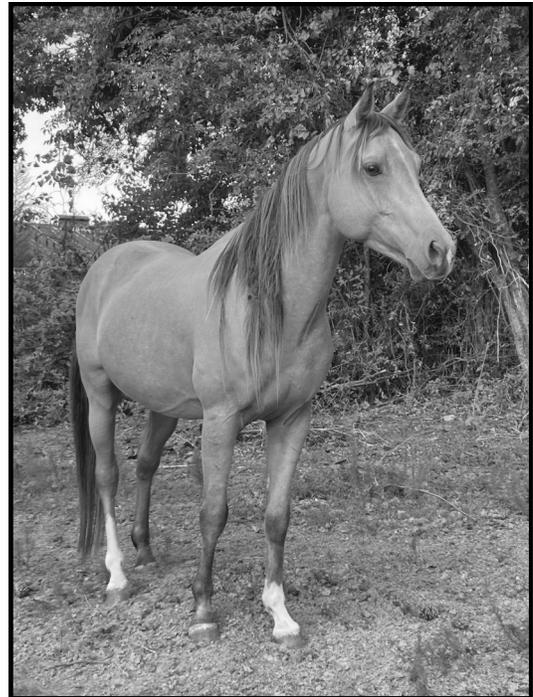
Gypsy is a 24 year-old Mustang mare that first came into the GERL foster program in 2022 and was adopted that same year. Due to recent changes she has returned to our program. She is very shy and hard to catch, but once caught, she leads and loads. Gypsy has spent most of her life as a companion horse. She is healthy and requires no meds.



Breezy is a 4 year old approx. 14.3 hands, Palomino QH mare. She is not broke to halter at this time, but is currently being worked to halter and ground work. She is a beautiful mover and will make a nice partner for someone looking for a horse they can finish.



Airey is a 4 year old 14.3 hand Palomino Saddlebred gelding. He is not a rideable horse due to a bowed rear hind leg. It doesn't stop him from running & doing what horses do. He is a beautiful boy with lots of personality!



Tucker is a 5 year old, 13.3 hands, Buckskin Arabian stallion. He is not broke to halter at this time. Plans to castrate are in the works. Tucker will go to a trainer afterwards for a minimum of thirty days. He is a beautiful horse and will most likely require an experienced rider when he comes out of training.

Area Coordinators

-Anderson, Cynthia - Baldwin & Putnam

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

-Aronson, Dr. Amy - Lowndes

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

Ballentine, Mark and Linda Kruszka - Randolph, Clay, Calhoun & Terrell

(229) 638-1000 / owners@tagalongranch.com

-Bell, Gloria – Coweta, Troup and Fayette

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

-Bell, Joan – Effingham, Bryan and Liberty

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-King, Lori - Walton, & Newton

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

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-Mitchell, Melissa - Troup & Harris

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-Niven Valentina (Tina) - Burke

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-Pieper, Donna - Gwinnett & Walton

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

-Pippen, Tasha - Banks, Barrow, Hall, Gwinnett

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

-Raybon, Annette - Paulding, Cobb, Bartow

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

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

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

-Santoriello, Charles - Fayette, Cowetta & Spalding

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

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

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

-Uhlenbrock, Rita—Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham

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-Whitworth, Debbie - Elbert & Hart

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-Wrensen, Sue - Cherokee

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

-Ziebell, Ray - Dawson & Pickens

(770) 354-0293 / razfences@msn.com



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

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 you time.



LET ME SAY THIS...ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

At our recent Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) Board meeting, we had the privilege of hearing from Jessica Rock, Georgia's Statewide Animal Crimes Resource Prosecutor. If her name sounds familiar, it's because she played a lead role in the legal seizure of The Baker's Dozen—13 starved horses found in Meriwether County back in September 2022. That case was a landmark for GERL, one of the few where we actually received restitution.

But Jessica's impact stretches far beyond a single case.

Before that, she partnered with GERL as an instructor, lending her expertise in how to prepare an animal cruelty case for prosecution. She's made it her mission to bring education and accountability to the way Georgia handles animal abuse—and thanks to her continued efforts, big changes are underway.

During the most recent legislative session, a new law—written by Jessica—was passed to expand Title 16. This legislation grants a newly formed division within the Department of Agriculture concurrent jurisdiction with law enforcement to investigate and prosecute animal crimes.

When Commissioner Tyler Harper took over the Department, he didn't waste time making improvements. He brought in law enforcement veteran Harlan Proveaux to lead this new unit, which now includes approximately six P.O.S.T.-certified officers dedicated to animal cruelty investigations. These officers cover the entire state, taking over the cruelty cases that used to fall on the shoulders of agricultural inspectors (who now focus strictly on licensing and regulations).

Jessica's work doesn't stop at legislation. She continues to train rural animal control officers, encouraging them to pursue charges when warranted and showing them how to handle difficult cases. Her approach balances enforcement with empathy—recognizing that

sometimes the right outcome involves seizing animals, and sometimes it means working with people to do better.

She also shared exciting news: she and her team are in the process of forming a statewide task force to help manage large-scale cruelty cases—whether it involves horses or dogs. The goal? To reduce the burden on small rescues like GERL and ensure that counties and cities actually follow through with filing the paperwork needed to seek reimbursement for the cost of care.

Because here's the issue: under Georgia law, when animals are seized, owners must either surrender them (allowing for adoption) or begin paying for their care. But if the county or city attorney doesn't file the proper motions—or doesn't do it in time—the rescue organizations are left holding the bill. The new task force aims to close that gap and make the system work as it was intended.

Jessica is one of only a handful of prosecutors in the country who works exclusively on animal crimes statewide. And while there's still a long road ahead, she's already seeing a shift in attitudes.

More and more, prosecutors and law enforcement agencies are beginning to understand that animals are not just property—they're lives that deserve protection. As Jessica puts it, "A lot of times, the right thing wasn't done because of a lack of knowledge, not a lack of caring." Her job is to make sure they understand how to do the right thing.

Everyone on our conference call left encouraged, enlightened, and hopeful. With the legislative progress, a newly empowered enforcement team, and the upcoming task force—one thing is clear: Georgia's horses will be the winners.

And let me say this about that... we couldn't be more proud to have Jessica Rock in our corner.



Thanks for Sending GERL Your POPs

By Ginny Scarritt



Thanks to our donors throughout 2024 and early 2025, I was again able to take advantage of Triple Crown's gift card program (1 \$30 GC for every 15 POPs). This year GERL received \$1,440 in GCs! I also was able to get coupons for 11/12 free bags of feed thanks to Cargill's Buy 12 get 1 Free program (ProElite POPs). As always, I send a HUGE thank you to my consistent, long-time donors. I want to thank our newest donors since my last post: the Placek's in Oakwood, the Stevens family in Cumming, Ashley Briley, Cheryl Turner, the Kundells in Watkinsville, the Kunkel family in Newberry, SC, yes South Carolina! I also want to thank Tractor Supply in Albany for collecting POPs and Area Coordinator, Karen Henderson for mailing them. My gratitude can never be expressed enough!! Please continue to support this simple way to raise money to help care for Georgia horses.

GERL Helps Rehome Baby Rex

By Patty Livingston

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) does not take "owner release" horses, but we do get involved to help owners find good, safe forever homes for them. You might remember seeing a flyer for "Baby Rex" recently that was posted on our social media page. He lost his entire family in a plane crash several months ago and found himself in desperate need of a new home. There were several interested parties that reached out, but Tracie Jones was out-shining the others in the eyes Mylane, Baby Rex's caretaker for the past 4 months. On June 5th I hooked up the trailer and traveled to Rydel, Georgia to pick Baby Rex up and take him to his new home in Winder. Baby Rex has gathered quite a fan-club along the way.



Baby Rex and his new friend, Snuggles, getting acquainted



GERL ADOPTABLES

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



Forrest is an Arab X 14 hand Bay Gelding. He is one of the original 6 Amigo's. Forrest was in our program and adopted, however he's back due to no fault of his own. He is now in training and doing super well. Forrest is sweet and gets along with mares and geldings. He can be a knucklehead sometime to catch and would rather just play, once haltered, he is a gentleman.



Kat is a 7 year old 16.2 Chestnut Thoroughbred Mare. Kat had 9 starts at various racetracks and retired clean and healthy. She has had 60 days of re-training. She is a sweetheart. She is low girl in the paddock and gets along with other mares and geldings. Kat would do well with a confident rider looking for that perfect hunter, jumper, fox hunt or dressage arena.

Obituary of Melanie Studdard Wilhoite

Melanie Studdard Wilhoite

Melanie Studdard Wilhoite, age 70, of Eatonton passed away on June 6, 2025. She was born on January 1, 1955 in Athens, Georgia to the late Grady Hoyt Studdard and the late Joyce Ann Ward Studdard. She was a long-time member of the Georgia Equine Rescue League. Melanie was known by her many friends as a caring person of animals and people and will be greatly missed!



GERL Stallion to Gelding Program.

**Stallions Gelded
To Date By GERL:**

1455



Horses in our Foster Care Program

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

Horse	Age	Sex	Ridable	Foster Farm
Forrest	7	Gelding	Yes	Angie Hammond
Gypsy	24	Mare	No	Patty Livingston
Kat	7	Mare	Yes	CeCe Calli
Breezy	4	Mare	No	Patty Livingston
Tucker	5	Stud	No	Patty Livingston
Airey	4	Gelding	No	Patty Livingston

Volunteers Wanted

GERL is looking for volunteers to help cover the Friends of GERL tack store/flea market that is located in Good Hope. The store is only open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month and hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Volunteers will receive a 35% discount! It's not hard and it's not really much of a sacrifice. If you've been thinking about getting involved and giving back, please consider volunteering to help. Contact Patty Livingston @ (770) 867-0760.



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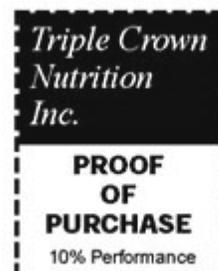
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Sweat Shirt with printed logo
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T-Shirt \$16.00



Back of shirt

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What Is The S.A.F.E. Act?

Save America's Forgotten Equines Act (SAFE Act)

Legislation to prohibit horse slaughter has been introduced. H. R. 3475, a measure to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to prohibit the slaughter of equines for human consumption, was introduced by Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL-16) and Co-sponsored by Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-9). H.R. 3475 has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture. The bill has bi-partisan support with 221 co-sponsors. American Horse Council (AHC) has no formal position on this legislation as its members both support and oppose the bill.

AHC, through its affiliate the United Horse Coalition, provides resources for individuals and groups involved in horse welfare programs. The United Horse Coalition promotes humane care and responsible ownership. It also provides resources for re-homing horses through adoption programs, rescue organizations, and sanctuaries.

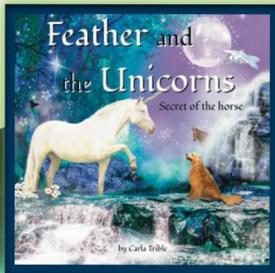


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Feather and the Unicorns

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The author of this new book, Carla Tribble has partnered with GERL to support our mission in saving horses. A portion of each book sale will be donated to GERL.



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Hello members of GERL!

I am a veteran science teacher, now in my 26th year of teaching teenagers. I love animals, especially Golden Retrievers and horses. I am blessed to share my life with both. Last year I began writing children's books, in the hopes of encouraging young ones to love and respect animals. Feather, my beloved late Golden Retriever, is the main character in my first books. She was my best friend for 13 years, and grew up in my classroom. She touched many lives at school as well as in the community, where she proudly served as a therapy dog. She was everyone's favorite in the Paws to Read program at the local library. My publishing company is lovingly and rightfully named "Feather's Gift."



GERL receives \$1 for every book sold. This is residual income that GERL can benefit from with your help and the power of the internet. Carla's books are available on Amazon.

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Sucha Goes to Her Forever Home

By Paty Livingston

Sucha was not a rescue horse. She was never neglected or abused, however, her previous owner found himself in a situation where he needed to reduce his herd and rehome Sucha. She was not broke to ride, despite the fact that she was 8 years old. She is a registered horse, which is not a common thing in the business of equine rescue. Sucha had been used as a broodmare and had already foaled several times. After entering the GERL program, she was sent to a trainer where we received raving reports on how laid back she was. The term used to describe her was “more go than whoa”.

After completing her training she was fostered by CeCe for several months before being moved to Lauren Norman’s farm to see how she would do in the world of therapeutic riding. Lauren has been instrumental in fostering horses for GERL over the years and helping to find them the perfect forever home. She is excellent at showing a horse’s potential to pos-

sible adopters. As predicted, Sucha was a natural. She enjoyed being with the children and proved that she could fit very well in this new world of equine therapy. Lauren’s friend, Shannon, is a school teacher with a passion for offering equine therapy, herself. She was looking for a new horse for her program when Lauren told her about Sucha. The rest is history. Sucha will be taking care of the riders at Brave Meadow Therapeutic Riding Center in Gray, Georgia and we could not be more thrilled. Big thanks to Lauren for helping Sucha find her perfect forever home with Shannon!



Lauren and Shannon with Sucha.



Sucha on the job at her new home.



A Promising New Chapter for Our Ft. Stewart Equine Immersion Events

By *Patty Livingston*

If you've been following our journey with the Ft. Stewart project, you know that earlier this year, the stables we had been using were destroyed — leaving us with the challenge of finding a new home for our Equine Immersion Project (EIP) activities.

Thankfully, our amazing EIP partners, Tara Mahoney and Kelly MacCorquodale, shared a few private-sector leads that looked promising. So on June 5th, Cynthia Anderson, Jacki Moore, and I hit the road to Hinesville to check out two potential venues, both within five miles of each other and conveniently located near Ft. Stewart.

Our first stop was Trotter's Walk, where we were warmly welcomed by owners Sabrina and Joe, along with their neighbor Debbie — who, as we quickly learned, is all things equine. After introductions, they

treated us to a full tour of their 90-acre property, which includes a beautiful new barn, a dressage arena, multiple paddocks, and more than 50 acres of picturesque trails. It was truly a dream come true. We unanimously agreed: this is the perfect place to host a future event for our military community.

We later visited the second venue on our list, but unfortunately, the owner wasn't available when we arrived, so we couldn't explore the property in full. While it showed potential for future events, our minds and hearts were still with Trotter's Walk. We're excited about the possibilities ahead and grateful for the warm hospitality and incredible support we've received. Stay tuned for updates — we'll be announcing a new date soon for our next equine excursion with active-duty service members at Ft. Stewart!



Cynthia Anderson, Jacki Moore, Joe & Sabrina & Debbie



Update on the Feral Threesome

By Patty Livingston

A lot has happened since my last update on the “Feral Threesome”, the name dubbed for the three feral horses that the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) brought into their foster program last Summer. Tucker, a 5-6-year-old Arabian stallion, Airey, a 4-year-old Saddlebred gelding and Breezy a 4-year-old QH mare. You might remember that their photos and story graced the cover of our third quarter newsletter which can be viewed in its entirety from our website Newsletter Archives. <https://gerlltd.org>

The biggest and most exciting news is that Airey was gelded back in May and made a remarkable recovery with very little swelling or discomfort. Unfortunately, the Vet was of the opinion that Airey will not be a rideable horse due to a bow in his left hind leg which makes him wobble and a bit unsteady. He guessed that this was a birth defect or the result of an injury shortly

after birth. We think Airey has enough personality and good looks to overcome the leg issue and will be adopted by someone who doesn't require a rideable horse. In the meantime, he is learning to lead, stand tied and pick up his feet.

Breezy has not been an easy horse to gain trust of humans. She was in a large stall for several months, never progressing to the point of wearing a halter. She is not motivated by treats, but her trust level has come far enough along to let me touch and brush her all over. She still freaks out if I attempt to spray her legs or body with fly spray or come near her with a rope or halter. The door to her stall now stands open and she is free to come and go, hopefully, helping to relax her reluctance.



Dr. Eddie Tomlinson performed the surgery.



Airey has made a wonderful gelding!

Continued on page 29

Update on the Feral Threesome

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 28

Tucker is the only stallion left here to castrate, and I am hesitant to schedule surgery during the hot summer months. Since I don't have a halter on him yet, a Fall castration sounds perfect. I have been able to make a little progress with Tucker, but only by using treats. He gladly comes when he sees me and has even allowed me to touch him on his body. I make him eat the first couple of bites of his food from my hand while the other hand is rubbing his neck or cheeks. This has become a routine twice a day for him and I am seeing progress with this beautiful boy.



Breezy is slow to trust humans, but no longer feral.



Breezy will go to a trainer soon.



Tucker has not been gelded yet.



What a beautiful boy!

Continued on page 30

Update on the Feral Threesome

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 29

In the world of horse training, there's an old adage: "The slower you go, the faster you get there". According to horse trainer and clinician, Julie Goodnight, "this isn't just about patience; it's about the strategic importance of building a solid foundation. Rushing through the early stages of training or attempting advanced maneuvers before a horse is truly prepared can lead to resistance, nervousness, and agitation. Conversely, taking the time to establish these foundational layers ensures much smoother and quicker progression to higher-level skills.

GERL knows that the future owners of the "Feral Threesome" will appreciate the fact that we took it slow.



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