



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. NEWSLETTER

Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia

Quarterly Newsletter

July, August & September 2025

The Power of People

By Mark Ballentine

We spent most of the day on the road, driving to Burke County, Georgia. It's about 250 miles Northeast of us. Our mission, to pick up three horses that needed help.

First let me start by saying that Burke County Animal Control is an amazing organization. Having been organized only three years ago, the work they are doing, how they are doing it and what they are accomplishing should be a model for animal control and rescue organizations nationwide.

They got involved about six weeks ago with three very malnourished horses on a property in their county along with twenty dogs. They investigated, brought charges against the owner and started a lengthy legal process. One of the horses was pregnant. Another was far too gone and needed to be euthanized.

Burke county managed to get the two surviving horses away from the property and to their facility. A ten-

year-old stallion and a seventeen-year-old pregnant mare.

In less than 24 hours after Burke County taking possession of the horses, the very malnourished mare gave



birth. If it were not for the horses being with a skilled animal control team, it is unlikely that either the mare or her baby would have survived.

Burke County notified GERL. I have posted a lot recently about Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) and that started a process in motion with their leadership team and then their area coordina-

tors, which Linda and I are part of that team.

That gave Burke County the assurance that a team was working and ready to take the horses when possible. Most animal control organizations are overwhelmed with dogs and cats and just do not have the facilities or the budget to care for horses.

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The Power of People

By Mark Ballentine

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That started a court process to legally take the horses from the owners. Just because animal control had them, does not mean that it was done. The Burke County team went in front of a judge, presented the facts of the case and the judge ruled that the owners must surrender the animals. A win for animal rights.

Fast forward to last week, we got the green light to pick up the horses. Coggins tests complete, legal battle won, paperwork signed and everything as it needed to be.

One mare, one stallion and their baby.

Horses are rated on a health index, known as a BCS (Body Condition Score). It's a scale of 1 to 10, with 5 being the perfect score. The horse that had to be euthanized had scored a 1 when animal control got involved. Basically, skin and bones, extremely emaciated.



The pregnant mare was very hard to read as they did not know at what stage the pregnancy was at and the horse appeared to have additional weight being pregnant. They did not expect a foal a day after seizing the animal. She is perhaps a 4 currently.

The stallion was in the best condition, about a 6 at this point.

After a long drive and a stop in Hawkinsville, GA for what was rated the "Best Burger In Georgia" (more on that later). We arrived in Burke County and met the team responsible and the horses.

The Stallion, the ten-year-old gray, is a gentleman. Gentle, friendly, and walked right onto the horse trailer



without any hesitation. He knew that he was off to a new start and a better life.

The mare, the seventeen-year-old palomino, is a tall girl. They said that they have put about 150lbs on her in the last three weeks, she needs another few hundred to be back to healthy and fit. She followed the stallion onto the horse trailer without hesitation.

The two of them actually load better than most of our show horses.

The baby, now four weeks old, has never been in a trailer before. She was very hesitant but eventually followed mom.

Thirty minutes after getting there, we were Tagalong Ranch bound with three new additions.

Our mission under GERL's is to get these horses back to health, provide the best care possible and quality of life. Six, eight, twelve months from now they may be able to be adopted and find forever homes, but it all starts with getting them healthy and fit first.

I truly believe that a rescued animal who came from a bad situation knows that their life has changed. All nine of our cats are rescues, some of the goats and two of the dogs. They know. They sense it. They are grateful and blessed. Again, I call everyone I know in my circle of friends to support GERL and join. Your membership goes directly to support the horses that are rescued. Not only the three now in our care, but the hundred others in the GERL network across the state.

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The Power of People

By Mark Ballentine

Continued from page 2

Horses are a significantly different financial model than fostering a dog or cat. You've got hundreds of dollars of feed, hay and supplies per horse, per month. Plus hoof care and then in the case of malnourished horses, vet visits, medications and a very strategic plan to bring them back to where they need to be. A costly plan.



We are fortunate and would not have it any other way. Animals, ours and others come first.

But again, check out GERL and consider joining. Please!!!!

Meet COWBOY, SUKI and their baby SAMANTHA.

Honored Guests at Tagalong Ranch for a while.

You're encouraged to stop by, meet them, bring an apple or two and welcome them to the family. Perhaps stick around, help muck a stall or two or brush them?



I joke at times that our feed bills for the barn are five times our personal grocery bill. In reality, for every dollar we spend on food for ourselves, we easily spend at least ten on animals. Five hundred bucks at Publix is nothing compared to a \$10K hay delivery or \$5K feed delivery. If you are a horse owner, you truly understand.



Old mare, Old woman, Old question

By Gisela Dalton

When the 32-year-old BLM-branded mustang mare I'd accepted custody of died at the end of June, I looked for a G.E.R.L. newsletter for their address, as I wanted to send a donation in her honor. She had brought me much joy and brightened my aging life by simply existing and being herself.

Her previous owner had tried to pass her off as "about 15"-- well, aren't ones "free to good home" ALWAYS "about 15"--which I thought was a bit audacious for a BLM branded one whose true age could be determined easily enough. But I accepted her and told myself well, however long she had left, she would end her days in freedom on a sufficiently generous piece of land offering plenty of pasture, some woods, free access to a *womanmade* shelter, & the company of a small stable herd. I called her Freeborn, and she lived another decade! The meteor that made the fireball that recently blazed across Georgia's sky appeared when she died, so I told myself that was her spirit galloping to the Elysian Fields.

Of course when I found the newsletter I looked at the adoptables, even though having turned 75 this year, I of course couldn't take on another one. It is very daunting and disconcerting to reach an age when the possibility that the nonhumans in one's care could easily outlive you. I sent in my donation and put the newsletter away.

But as days turned into weeks, I found myself rereading the newsletter and thinking about the 24-yr-old BLM mare among the adoptables seeking homes. The rational and emotional parts of my brain argued and debated, while I tried hard to tune them out. Eventually the emotional part deployed her best weapon: guilt. How could I justify having this much pasture and NOT try to give another oldster a forever home?

Several times I started to call G.E.R.L. but then backed out. Finally I made the call to CeCe, who I'd never met. I explained I was not wealthy and didn't have a classy place, but I could offer 36 acres, with natural and free-access artificial shelter, only four pasture mates with whom to share it, and 64 years of continuous horse-keeping experience.

Thus it came to pass that Patty soon came to meet me and see my humble abode, and a few days later "Gypsy" arrived. She had been described as shy and hard to catch, so she was put into the approximately 100 x 100 foot enclosure that adjoins one side of my barn, and where she could meet her new herdmates via fenceline contact, quickly establishing that, being the oldest, a mare, and herself, she would of course be the alpha.

I divided her feedings into 3 a day in order to maximize chances to try to pet her and remove her halter. I held the feed pan at about my hip height with one hand and arm and tried stroking her forehead, neck and withers with the other, then changed hands and sides. Patty had said she was very food oriented, so I brought apple and carrot pieces in between feedings. She gradually accepted my touch soon enough as long as there was a food bribe involved, which I chose to perceive as evidence of how smart she is.



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Old mare, Old woman, Old question

By Gisela Dalton

Continued from page 4

But she did NOT want me touching the halter! The first time I tried, after she'd been here several days, she bolted forward, which I did not expect because she was in a stall and there wasn't really room to bolt, but she did get in a couple of forward steps. Anticipating only that she would sling her head away, I fell down (please never tell my kids!) and prayed she would not trample me on purpose or step on me accidentally. So much for the 61 years of experience, patience supposedly coming with old age, and some academic letters after my name that should have meant I should have known better than to try so soon.

I told her that it hurt my feelings that she allowed the obnoxious puppy dumped here only a few months earlier to jump up behind her and bite at her tail, lick her hind legs and lay underneath her while she ate, but not let me, the food bearer, touch the halter. She replied that being four-footed, the puppy belonged to a trustworthy class of beings from which twofoots like myself were excluded. More evidence of her intelligence.

After a few more days I finally managed to slip the end of the lower halter strap through its buckle before she jerked away, but the halter stayed on and I couldn't make more progress. I feared she could get a leg caught in it while rolling. A couple days later I tried again and got the throatlatch's end slipped out but still couldn't get it unbuckled. Finally on her eighth day here I got it fully unbuckled, she shook it off, and I opened the enclosure's gate and set her free. She galloped toward the others—a mare, a gelding and two jennies—and immediately joined up with no problems, having firmly established herself as the dominant one

during their fenceline greetings, conversations and arguments.

Looking at her face, it dawned on me that I've never had one with a blaze before, and decided her blaze symbolized her life: the part hidden up under her forelock represents when she was born and lived free, before captured by the BLM. The part that meanders down her face, turning to her right and left and right and left again while getting narrower and wider, represents all she experienced before she was rescued by

G.E.R.L., and the bottom, a sort of long narrow triangle shape ending in a point and not unlike an arrow, symbolizes when she came into the stable care of G.E.R.L. And the little snip on her nose denotes when she plopped here.

I don't jog, go to a gym, or do yo-

ga, but i do tote hay bales and feed bags, climb gates and fences, step over pig panels with a feed bag on my back, even when feeling like I'm at death's door with Covid, and can wield a post hole digger against hard Georgia clay with vengeance. Don't need Vitamin D supplements or any other drugs, because as long as I must caretake some critters, I have no choice but to get "VMO": Vertical, Moving, Outside.

It's an age old question: who is the real rescuer?



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

Horses and Warriors

By Christina Fields

As Sara Reams mentioned in her last article to GERL, she & her husband are in the process of moving. The couple started our Horses & Warriors program fifteen years ago. So, we ended our final session before summer break, with a surprise going away party. We had guests show up that haven't been in attendance for many years, mostly due to age & health limitations. They came to express their gratitude to the duo that conceptualized & grew this amazing equestrian program that has benefited countless veterans. It was a wonderful & extremely well-deserved way to thank our founders!

During our summer break we meet for breakfast on Fridays at three different locations, in order to accommodate all of our volunteers, who live all throughout metro Atlanta. It's a great way to kick off the weekend swapping stories, catching up on life, & enjoying good food with friends.

In June we visited The Thrive Ranch located in Brooks. We spent a few hours getting up close & personal with a variety of farm animals, all of which roam freely on the property.

The ranch's owner shared her inspiration for the farm, as well as her mission of encouraging people both young & old to take a leap of faith & pursue their dreams with courage & determination.

Our final field trip of the summer was to The Atlanta Mounted Police Patrol. Unlike our past visits, this time we got to see their brand-new facility. It was clear that everything was thoughtfully designed & built. The stables are state-of-the-art providing comfort & care for the horses. The officers welcomed us warmly & shared fascinating details about the horses & the new property. We left with a deeper appreciation for the important work of the Mounted Patrol & the incredible home they now have.



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Horses and Warriors

By Christina Fields

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Rest In Peace Judy Ricketson

By Betty Evenson

Judy Ricketson passed away peacefully at her home in Cumming, Georgia on August 1, 2025. Judy was one of GERL's "old-timers". She became active with GERL in the mid 90's and remained active for many years. She did so much for GERL throughout the years – fostering, area coordinator, speaker, horse hauler, Olympic volunteer and so much more.

In the late 90's Judy competed in the endurance world but soon found that camping and trail riding with her beautiful Arabian, Amira, was her passion. Amira was born on Judy's farm in Clarksville. Judy and Amira spent many years together riding and camping at various places across the southeast.

Throughout the years Judy remained close to some of the GERL old-timers and continued to do life with them. She loved traveling and had recently made trips to Mexico and Panama.

Judy spent the past ten years living and working on the Carroll farm in Cumming, Georgia where she helped take care of the various animals while training dogs for Alpha & Omega Dog Academy.

Judy is greatly missed by her two and four legged friends and family.



GERL Has Men's T-shirts



The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) now has men's short sleeve T-shirts in two popular colors, Sage and Gray. Check out our new design. Shirts will be available on our website soon! Questions? Contact Patty Livingston at 770-309-6815 or email at gerlpatty@yahoo.com.



GERL Mail Bag



Dear Ms. Patty and GERL,

Thank you very much for consistently putting out such a great newsletter. It is always a challenge to balance news of bad situations with positive news. It is also nice for old women like myself to have an actual paper and print newsletter that can be carried in car to read at the laundromat, car-fixin' places, etc. Cell phones and internet are just not the same!

When my family first moved to Jackson County, I discovered GERL via newsletters at the local feedstore. I have not seen any newsletters at either of the 2 local feedstores in Jefferson for many years now. Could a member pay for extra newsletters to leave at local feedstores and perhaps at locations in Athens?

With developers buying up rural acreage as if in a frenzy, places suitable for humane equine-keeping are decreasing all the time. Any new member who might become interested via your newsletter would definitely be a plus.

Thank you again for all you do!

Sincerely,

Gisela Dalton

Brave Meadows Receives GERL Grant

By Shannon Patrick

My name is Shannon Patrick, and I am the proud owner of Brave Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center in Gray, Georgia. Alongside being a sixth-grade English teacher, I have spent most of my life around horses, developing a deep passion for these majestic creatures. My love for horses started when I was young, and my grandfather gifted me one in middle school. Since then, I have shown, given riding lessons, trail ridden, and spent most of my free time with horses.

In addition to offering therapeutic riding lessons, we have rescued several horses from slaughter over the years, and many of them are used in our therapy program. Our rescued horses have competed in the Special Olympics and become integral members of our Brave Meadows family. At Brave Meadows, we are dedicated to providing riders with a safe, supportive, and therapeutic environment, where they can develop their physical, emotional, and cognitive abilities. The progress we see in our riders is always humbling and rewarding, and we are proud to make a positive impact on their lives.

At Brave Meadows, we are a community where people and animals come to find comfort, joy, and a sense of belonging. Our volunteers and riders alike have found healing and happiness in the relationships they have built with our animals and through helping others. We believe that everyone deserves to experience the kind of love and support that can be found in the bond between human and animal. That's why we work tirelessly to provide a safe and welcoming environment for anyone who needs it. From our rescued horses to the barn cats who ride them, each animal at Brave Meadows plays a vital role in the healing process. We welcome all who are searching for a means of therapy and a place to enjoy a special friendship with both animals and people, regardless of their ability to pay. We have had riders who have ridden at Brave Meadows for several years and we strive to make everyone feel a part of our family. We are so proud of the work we do and the impact we have on our community.

By supporting animal-based organizations like ours, people are not only helping to provide care and support for the animals, but also for the people who come to our facility seeking healing and connection. Our programs are designed to improve physical, emotional, and social well-being, and we have seen countless examples of individuals who have experienced profound positive changes as a result of their interactions with



Shannon receives grant check from GERL VP Cynthia Anderson, while Sucha observes.

our animals.

Our animals are not just pets; they are our partners and helpers in providing therapy and emotional support. From children with disabilities to veterans with PTSD, animals have a unique ability to connect with people and provide a sense of comfort and understanding that is difficult to find elsewhere. Animals teach us responsibility, help build peoples' self-confidence through handling and riding, offer unconditional love, and are good "listeners" for everyone. Animal care can be expensive, and our organization relies on the generosity of donors and supporters to help cover the costs of food, medical care, and other expenses.

We are extremely thankful for the grant GERL awarded us to help us with our program. The grant has helped us purchase grain, hay, and a few much needed supplies. We are also appreciative for the Appaloosa mare, Sucha, which we adopted from GERL. She has already become a farm favorite with many of our riders. Thank you, CeCe and Cynthia, for trusting us with Sucha and allowing her to be a part of Brave Meadows

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

Grilled Pork Loin Chops

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons honey
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons ketchup
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ⅛ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 (6 ounce) thick-cut boneless pork loin chops

Directions

STEP 1—Whisk honey, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce, brown sugar, garlic, ketchup, ginger, onion powder, cinnamon, and cayenne pepper together in a bowl.

STEP 2—Pour 1/2 of the marinade into a large resealable plastic bag; add chops, coat with the marinade, squeeze out excess air, and seal the bag. Marinate in the refrigerator, turning occasionally, for 4 to 8 hours. Refrigerate remaining marinade in the bowl.

STEP 3—Preheat an outdoor grill for medium heat, and lightly oil the grate.

STEP 4—Remove pork chops from marinade and shake off excess. Discard the marinade from the plastic bag. Grill chops on the preheated grill, basting with some of the reserved marinade until meat is browned, no longer pink inside, and shows good grill marks, 8 to 10 minutes per side. A meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of a chop should read at least 145 degrees F (63 degrees C).

STEP 5—Pour remaining reserved marinade into a saucepan over medium heat, bring to a boil, and reduce heat to a simmer. Cook marinade until slightly thickened, about 5 minutes, stirring constantly; serve sauce with chops.



Need a Barn Kitty?

By Patty Livingston

According to the Atlanta Humane Society only 25% of kittens born outside live to be 6 months old.

No kidding, one female cat and her offspring can be responsible for HUNDREDS or THOUSANDS of cats in their lifetime.

Please help in any way you can and if you are looking for a fully vetted barn cat, please contact Pat Lusted at patsymoonpie@gmail.com and she can get you fixed up.



An unneutered female cat can produce 2-3 LITTERS A YEAR
Pregnancy can occur as young as 4 MONTHS OLD
Each litter can be 4+ KITTENS

IN ONE YEAR!!

Each of those kittens If not neutered can go on to become pregnant, or impregnate other cats.

One female cat and her offspring can be responsible for HUNDREDS or THOUSANDS of cats in their lifetime

Unneutered male cats can become fertile as young as 4 MONTHS OLD and will attempt to impregnate multiple cats

Neutering calms behaviour and can reduce health risks from fighting and roaming. It is a fast, safe and inexpensive procedure.

A nursing cat can get pregnant again! Nursing does not prevent a cat from going into heat or from getting pregnant

DON'T ADD TO THE PROBLEM - NEUTER YOUR CAT



Dear GERL,

The Hunter Family Charitable Trust began in 1964 with an initial deposit of \$1,000 from my grandfather, Louis J. Hunter. Since that time trust investments have grown considerably over the years. Originally the trust was managed by my grandparents followed by my parents. After the death of my father in 1983 I became a trustee and have been responsible for the trust investments and the annual distribution of contributions. Soon I will be 79 years old, and as no one in our family is interested in managing the trust going forward, I have decided to close the trust by the end of this year.

I have asked family members if there were any special organizations that they would like to receive a donation as this is our final year of operation. I am aware of the wonderful work that you do to rescue horses in Georgia, and based on my recommendation, enclosed is a donation to the Georgia Equine Rescue League in the amount of \$5,000.

All the best in the years ahead,

William R. Hunter
Trustee

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

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.

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>

November 2025
Stallion to Gelding Castration Month
Participating Vets Across Georgia
Check the GERL website mid-October for participating veterinarians.



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!

Georgia Equine Rescue League Foster Horse Program

A Lifeline for Horses in Need

By CeCe Calli

The Georgia Equine Rescue League Foster Horse Program stands as a beacon of hope for horses facing abuse, neglect, or abandonment throughout the state of Georgia. Rooted in compassion and driven by a dedicated network of volunteers, this initiative plays a pivotal role in the rehabilitation, care, and rehoming of equines in crisis. Through fostering, education, and community involvement, the program not only gives horses a second chance at life but also fosters a culture of responsible equine stewardship among Georgians.

Origins and Mission of the Georgia Equine Rescue League

The Georgia Equine Rescue League, Inc. (GERL) was founded in 1993 as a response to the growing crisis of equine neglect and abuse. Recognizing the absence of state funding for equine rescue, a group of committed horse lovers and advocates banded together to form an organization capable of bridging the gap. GERL's mission is clear: to provide care, shelter, and ultimately new homes for horses in need, while actively promoting humane education and equine welfare.

At the heart of GERL's work lies its Foster Horse Program, which acts as a lifeline for equines who have nowhere else to turn. The program exists not only to save horses from immediate peril, but also to heal them—physically, emotionally, and socially—preparing them for new beginnings with loving adoptive families.

How the Foster Horse Program Works

Fostering is a temporary arrangement in which a volunteer, or foster caregiver, houses and cares for a rescued horse until a permanent adoptive home is found. The program is designed with flexibility and support in mind, offering options for foster caregivers of various experience levels and resources.

Intake and Assessment

When GERL receives a report of a horse in distress—often from concerned citizens or animal control agencies—the organization acts swiftly. Horses may be seized in cases of neglect or abuse, surrendered by owners unable to provide adequate care, or found as strays. Once in GERL's custody, every horse undergoes a thorough veterinary evaluation, which may include vaccinations, deworming, dental care, farrier work, and diagnostic tests as needed.

This assessment phase is critical. Horses are evaluated not only for their physical health but also for temperament, training level, and any behavioral issues. This information helps GERL match each horse with the most appropriate foster situation and, eventually, a suitable adopter.

Placing Horses in Foster Homes

The network of GERL foster homes spans the state of Georgia. Foster caregivers may be individuals, families, or farms who have the facilities, knowledge, and compassion to provide a safe, nurturing environment for a horse in transition. The selection of foster homes is a careful process. Prospective fosters must complete an application, undergo a facility inspection, and agree to routine check-ins to ensure the horse's continued well-being. Also be a member of GERL.

GERL covers all veterinary, feed, hay, blacksmith and supplement expenses related to the horse's rehabilitation, while foster caregivers are generally responsible for daily feed, bedding, and routine care. In some cases, GERL may provide additional support for special needs horses or in situations where the foster is unable to cover all costs.

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Georgia Equine Rescue League Foster Horse Program

A Lifeline for Horses in Need

By CeCe Calli

Continued from page 14

Rehabilitation and Socialization

Many horses entering the program arrive malnourished, injured, distrustful of humans, or lacking basic training. The foster period is a time for recovery and growth. With patience and attentive care, foster caregivers nurse horses back to health, address behavioral challenges, and help them rediscover trust.

Some horses require specialized rehabilitation, such as wound care, physical therapy, or refeeding protocols. Others need groundwork or training under saddle to enhance their adoptability. Foster homes may collaborate with professional trainers or veterinarians as needed, always prioritizing the well-being and safety of the horse.

Adoption and New Beginnings

The ultimate goal of the foster program is to prepare horses for adoption into permanent, loving homes. When a foster horse is ready, GERL promotes them through its website, social media, and community events. Potential adopters are screened through an application and interview process, and home visits are conducted to ensure a suitable environment. Adoptive homes must commit to providing lifelong care and are required to sign a contract with GERL. In the event that an adoption does not work out, the organization maintains a policy of always accepting horses back into the program, ensuring they will never again face neglect or abandonment.

The Importance of Fosters: Changing Lives, One Horse at a Time

Foster caregivers are the unsung heroes of the Georgia Equine Rescue League. Their dedication makes it possible to save more horses each year, as GERL's capacity to help is directly tied to the number of available foster homes. Fostering can be a deeply rewarding experience, offering a front-row seat to the transformation of a horse from frightened or broken to healthy, happy, and adoptable.

- **Community Impact:** Foster homes create ripples of positive change, inspiring others to become involved in rescue or to learn more about responsible horse ownership.
- **Education:** Many fosters play a role in educating their local communities about equine welfare, the realities of neglect, and the joys of rescue.
- **Support System:** GERL provides comprehensive support to its fosters, including mentorship, training resources, and emergency assistance if needed.

Volunteer Opportunities and How to Get Involved

While fostering is a significant commitment, there are many ways individuals can support the Georgia Equine Rescue League Foster Horse Program:

- **Become a Foster Caregiver:** Open your heart and home to a horse in need. No experience is required—GERL offers guidance and support every step of the way.
- **Volunteer:** Assist with transport, fundraising, administrative tasks, or community outreach.
- **Donate:** Financial contributions go directly toward veterinary care, feed, and program expenses. Donations of hay, feed, tack, or services are also welcome.
- **Adopt:** Consider giving a rescued horse a permanent, loving home.
- **Spread the Word:** Share GERL's mission within your network, help educate others, and encourage responsible equine stewardship.

Continued on page 17

Thank you for your donations

Cecelia Severens	Frances Kemp
Peggy Paris	Carla Tribble
Kathy Adams	Lisa McKinney
Lisa Casey	Ashley Hammonds
Anonymous	Geo. & Denise Mortensen
Sherry Massey	Kar Wanner
Kim Hampton	Sherry Driggers
Angela M. Samuels	Bar G Horse & Cattle
Allison Jenkins	Jane Buckler
Jan Smith	Marian Campbell
Susan and Christopher	Cindy Woodrum
Gregory	Jim & Susan Stevens
Scott Lawler	Sara Hill

Cumberland Island Horses

Heather Peters

In Honor of

Freeborn, a geriatric BLM mare, by Gisela Dalton
Leslie Lambert & Jacki Moore by Kimberly Wilson

In Memory of

Melanie Wilhoite by Matthew Harper
Baron, beloved cat of Lisa Williamson & Gary Burton,
by Jeanne Barsanti
Deezal by Patricia Mote
Judy Ricketson by Nan Troutman
Judy Ricketson by Ray & Pierrette Ziebell

Welcome New Members

Jimmy Morrison	Sherry Driggers
Diana Carman	Bar G Horse & Cattle
Karol (Kar) Wanner	Randy Jackson
Susan White	Sarah Logan & Family

Feed A Horse

Erik Wittenzellner – In memory of Sara 4L Farm
Harriet Halstein
Dr. Gisela Dalton
Lee Hager
In honor of Susan Bozeman & Rebecca Thomas’
birthdays
In honor of Tina Mulvihill for fostering BeBe by
Margaret & Bob Wallace
George & Charlotte Zubowicz
Gerald & Vivian Gowitt
Penny & Bill Burgess
Jim Januzelli
Hunter Family Charitable Trust
Pam Auchmutey

BeBe - Newton County Rescue

Lula Whitworth
Samantha John
Buffie LaVoie

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

Your Donations Make a Difference!

Huge thanks to everyone who donates to GERL. Your 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 newsletter. www.gerlltd.org. Thank you!



Georgia Equine Rescue League Foster Horse Program

A Lifeline for Horses in Need

By CeCe Calli

Continued from page 15

Success Stories: Triumphs of the Foster Program

The true impact of the Georgia Equine Rescue League Foster Horse Program is best illustrated through the stories of horses who have overcome adversity. From neglected mares nursed back to health and finding joy in new pastures, to formerly abused stallions learning to trust and thrive, each story is a testament to the resilience of the equine spirit and the power of community compassion. These success stories resonate throughout Georgia's equine community, serving as powerful reminders of why rescue and fostering matter.

The Broader Context: Equine Welfare in Georgia

Georgia faces unique challenges when it comes to equine welfare. The state's rural character, combined with economic hardship and lack of education about proper horse care, results in a steady stream of horses requiring rescue. The GERL Foster Horse Program addresses not only the immediate needs of at-risk horses but also advocates for systemic change through education, legislation, & partnerships with law enforcement & animal control.

Conclusion: A Legacy of Compassion

The Georgia Equine Rescue League Foster Horse Program exemplifies what is possible when a community comes together for a common cause. Through fostering, education, and advocacy, GERL works tirelessly to provide hope and healing to horses in need. Their efforts remind us that every horse deserves a chance at safety, health, and happiness—and that each act of kindness can change a life.

For those inspired to make a difference, fostering is a profound way to give back, learn, and grow while playing an invaluable role in Georgia's ongoing quest for equine welfare. In the end, the legacy of the Foster Horse Program is measured in lives saved and futures transformed—one horse at a time.

GERL Volunteers of the Quarter

By Patty Livingston

For the Georgia Equine Rescue League this quarter was busier than some others just for the pure fact that we took in more horses. Burke County Animal Control called and asked us to take a mare, her new foal and a stallion. We were scrambling to find a foster who could accommodate them. Mark Balentine and Linda Kruszka, our new Area Coordinators down in Randolph County, heard about the need for a foster home for a skinny mare and her new foal, they stepped right up and volunteered not to just foster them, but they offered to travel to Burke County to pick them up. I couldn't believe it when Mark offered to pick up the stallion and take care of the castration. Chad at Burke County Animal Control was most likely doing a happy dance, too!



Mark and Linda traveled over 250 miles to pick up the 3 horses and arrived back at their ranch late in the day, got the horses settled in and promptly sent out an update of their observations about each horse. Thorough is an understatement. Mark and Linda have been my heroes since they first joined GERL, always promoting our cause. They are putting on an event at their ranch November 1st that will benefit GERL and a couple of other well-deserving organizations in their area. You might remember they were our featured Area Coordinators last quarter. They are a whirlwind of energy and a nice breath of fresh air and we are so grateful that they are representatives of the GERL team! Thank you Mark and Linda!

Area Coordinators

-Anderson, Cynthia - Baldwin & Putnam

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

-Aronson, Dr. Amy - Lowndes

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

Balentine, 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

(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

-Cleghorne, Tina - Hall, White & Banks

(678) 977-0441 / Tinacle@gmail.com

-Cowley, Robyn - Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach & Twiggs

(404) 805-0922 / footlooserockies@gmail.com

-Dale, Rhonda - Paulding, Polk & Carroll

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

-Driggers, Sherry - Tattnall, Evans, Liberty & Long

(478) 538-8688 / sherryodriggers@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) 886-4057 / 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

-McCullar, Susan - Morgan

(678) 907-0771 / srmac49@gmail.com

-Mitchell, Melissa - Troup & Harris

(706) 773-7218 / southerngaitedstable@outlook.com

-Niven Valentina (Tina) - Burke

(706) 564-9507 / valentinaniven@gmail.com

-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

-Rockwell, Sabra - Clarke, Franklin, Jackson, Madison, & Oglethorpe

(706) 224-9769 / spiritriderescue@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

-Tyson, Kim - Lamar, Pike & Upson

(770) 584-6176 / kbtyson@gmail.com

-Uhlenbrock, Rita—Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham

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

-Whitworth, Debbie - Elbert & Hart

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

-Williams, Crystal - Butts, Lamar, Spalding, Jasper, Newton, Monroe & Pike

(770) 775-8011 / cwilliams@buttscountyso.com

-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/>



LET ME SAY THIS...ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

Things have really picked up in our foster horse program lately. More and more counties are reaching out, asking if we can step in to take a horse—or sometimes several—off their hands. On the one hand, this is a positive sign: people know that GERL is a resource and that we will show up when horses are in need. On the other hand, it puts us in a constant scramble to find additional foster homes so we can keep saying “yes” when those calls come in.

The challenge we face isn't just the number of foster homes available, though that is a very real and pressing need. It's also that many of the horses currently in our program have been with us much longer than we would like. Ideally, a strong rescue program looks like a revolving door—horses come in, receive care and good nutrition, recover their health and confidence, and then transition into new, permanent, loving homes. That's how we know we're truly making space to save even more lives.

Unfortunately, the reality is often very different. Many of the horses we take in don't move on quickly, and it's not because of lack of effort on our part or our fosters' part. When you're working with law enforcement, you don't get to “cherry pick” the horses you rescue. We don't get to choose the young, adoptable, well-mannered prospects. Instead, we are most often asked to take the older ones—the horses who have been used up by their owners, or who come with years of neglect or trauma that make them less appealing to an adopter looking for a ready-to-go companion.

To make matters more complicated, we're seeing a steady increase in the number of feral horses we're being asked to handle. Feral horses come with an entirely different set of challenges. They haven't been socialized, they don't trust people, and the process of gentling them takes time, patience, and often specialized skills. A feral horse may take months—or even years—to get to the point where they are safe, adoptable, and able to transition into a forever home.

Years ago, GERL was fortunate to have access to a remarkable man who was proficient at handling these situations. He had the skill and experience to safely dart feral horses when needed and get them onto a trailer without unnecessary stress or injury. Sadly, he passed away years ago, and since then, we've had a real void in this area. Donkey and horse wranglers—the folks with the unique blend of courage, finesse, and know-how to take on feral equines—are nearly non-existent these days. That leaves organizations like ours in a tough spot. The need hasn't gone away, but the resources to meet that need have grown thin.

Still, one thing hasn't changed: the feral horses are out there, and they deserve a chance. They need someone to give them the opportunity to step into a new future instead of being shipped off on the meat truck. And let me say this about that—I'm still game. GERL is still game. We may not always know exactly how we'll manage each new situation, but we are committed to finding a way.

This is where our community comes in. We can't do it alone. We need more foster homes willing to step up, more adopters willing to consider horses who may need extra time and patience, and more supporters who believe in the work we're doing. Every foster home, every adoption, every donation makes a direct and life-saving difference.

Our mission has never been about taking the easy road. It's been about doing right by the horses who have no one else looking out for them—whether they're old, feral, or simply forgotten. As long as we're here, we'll keep showing up. Because at the end of the day, every horse deserves more than neglect, abandonment, or a final ride to slaughter. They deserve a chance.



GERL ADOPTABLES

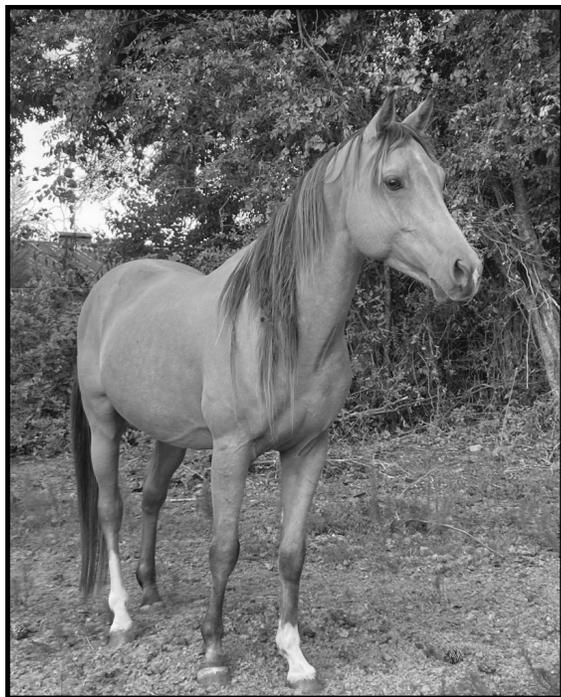
For adoption fees and additional information,
please contact CeCe Calli, Adoption Coordinator.
(706) 371-6804 / adopt@gerlltd.org



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!



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.



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.



BeBe is a 20+ year old approx. 14.3 hands, Sorrel QH mare. She is currently in a rehab state to gain weight. She has nice ground manners and stands quietly for the vet and farrier. She does not have any lameness nor require meds. BeBe is being offered as a pasture pal..

Continued on page 27

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.

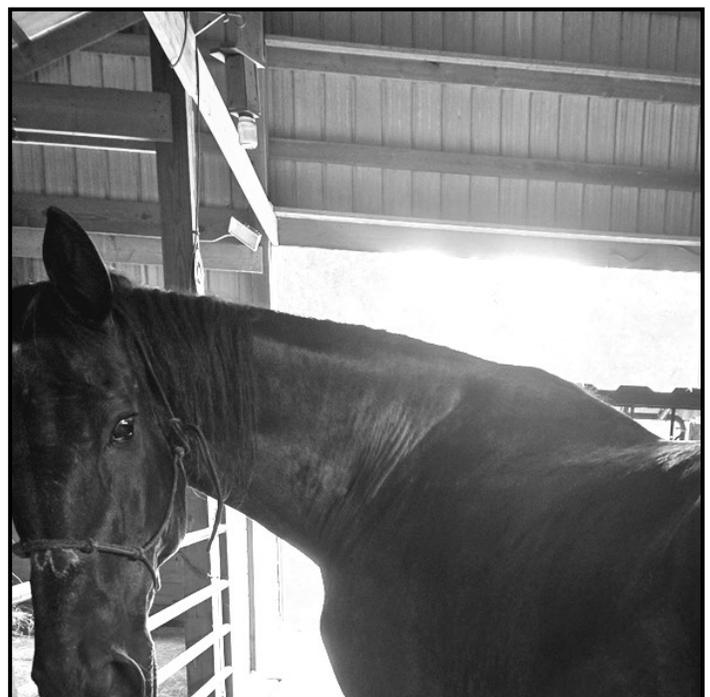


Kat is a 7 year old 16.2 Chestnut Thoroughbred Mare. Kat had 9 starts at various racetracks and retired clean and healthy. She has had 60 days of re-training. She is a sweetheart. She is low girl in the paddock and gets along with other mares and geldings. Kat would do well with a confident rider looking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

Update on Midnight (Mac)

By Penny Kwirant

September 11th Is our one year anniversary of you dropping Mac off for us to love on. Airy and him have grown into a sweet old couple and I love watching them. Airy is certainly in charge, but Mac never pays her any mind. If she gets crabby, he usually moves out of the way. Then when things calm down, he's right back close to her again. We remodeled the barn and made his stall bigger. He could barely lay down and then get up in his stall which was originally made for Arabians!! I'm attaching a couple of photos and I hope you are able to see how beautiful he has become. He has the shiniest coat and certainly eats his whole bowl of food, three times a day. Thank you for him. We all certainly love him.



GERL Stallion to Gelding Program.

Stallions Gelded
To Date By GERL:

1456



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
Glory	20	Mare	Yes	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
BeBe	20	Mare	Unknown	Tina Mulvihill
Cowboy	10	Gelding	Unknown	Mark Balentine
Suki	17	Mare	Unknown	Mark Balentine
Samatha	5 wks	Filly	No	Mark Balentine



Please Help!

GERL receives money for the following...

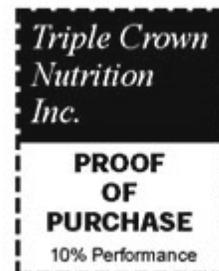
Please save Proof Of Purchase seals from bags of these feeds:

Southern States feeds, Legends, Reliance, Triple Crown and Pro Elite.

and send them to:

Ginny Scarritt

4835 Kendall Court * Atlanta, GA 30342





The Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.
is hosting the 15th Annual

STALLION *to* GELDING **CASTRATION MONTH** *November 2025*

DON'T MISS THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY

A low-cost castration clinic for \$175.00 per horse.

GERL will pay \$75.00 and the owner will pay \$100.00.

Area Vets will be performing castrations for this program through the
Month of November.

More Information to follow on
Participating Veterinarians.

You may call for further details: GERL - Gloria Bell (706) 392-7520

Disclaimers: No Cryptorchids. Tetanus Required. GA Residents Only



Dear **GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE, LTD.**

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to not just part of, but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community.

We encourage you to ask your supporters to link their rewards card to your organization. Community Rewards is easy to use,

The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

We are committed to carefully protecting our customer's personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Community Rewards participation as well.

Thank you for being such an important organization in our community,

Community Rewards Staff

June 15, 2025 - September 14, 2025

118 - Households - \$233.03 - Total Donations

Join the Kroger Community Reward Program and help GERL

<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

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 \$5,966.00 for feed, hay, and farrier service for our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$ 986.00 on vet care for new foster horses arrivals.
- GERL SPENT A TOTAL OF \$6,952 THIS QUARTER DIRECTLY HELPING HORSES.

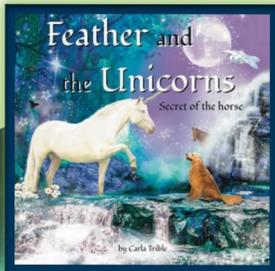


SADDLE UP AND SUPPORT THE
GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE

Feather and the Unicorns

This new book is now available on Amazon

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.



Dyslexia Friendly
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Scan to purchase on Amazon

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.

Please leave a review on Amazon after you purchase books. More reviews means more exposure for us!



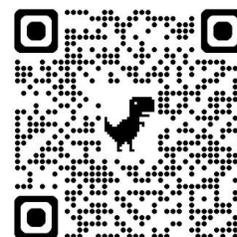
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Meet BeBe - From Neglect to New Beginnings

By CeCe Calli

This sweet girl was found wandering the roads by **Newton County Law Enforcement**, searching for help. Thanks to their quick action, BeBe is now safe in our **GERL foster program**, where she is finally experiencing the love and care she deserves.

She still has a long road ahead, but her foster mom is giving her the best chance at recovery.

Update after just one week:

BeBe has already blossomed! She enjoyed a **bath and spa day**, got a **pedicure**, and received a full veterinary workup — dental care, bloodwork, coggins, and fecal testing. With a **balanced diet** and lots of love, BeBe is on her way to becoming the stunner we know she can be.

At around **20 years old**, she is truly the sweetest girl — nickering every time she sees her foster mom.

If BeBe's journey touches your heart, please consider supporting her recovery with a donation to the **Georgia Equine Rescue League** at gerlltd.org. Every gift helps us continue caring for horses like BeBe.



GERL Attends Purina Days at Winder Tractor Supply

By Patty Livingston

Big thanks goes out to the Tractor Supply store in Winder for inviting the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) to participate in their Purina days. It was a rainy day in Georgia, but there was a line of people waiting to get their dogs vaccinated, an event that takes place every Saturday at TSC.

The manager of the store had a table set up just inside the front door where they were giving out dog treats. She gave me use of half the table and a chair for me to sit on. I gave out newsletters and free penlights

I enjoyed meeting the people who stopped at my table to speak to Tuff.



YOU ARE INVITED

Fall Horse Show & Market

DCSC
Dougherty County Saddle Club
Est. 1963

HORSE SHOW - FOOD - VENDORS - GAMES AND MORE!

18 OCTOBER 2025
10 AM - UNTIL

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The Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.
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STALLION to GELDING CASTRATION MONTH

November 2025

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Participating Veterinarians.

You may call for further details: GERL - Gloria Bell (706) 392-7520

Disclaimers: No Cryptorchids. Tetanus Required. GA Residents Only

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://gerltd.org>

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

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Discipline Demonstrations
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Cryotherapy Demo & Seminar
Consignment Horses
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710 Hunters Ridge Lane, Coleman, GA. 39836



Meet Glory - Another New Arrival

By Patty Livingston

Those who know me know that I have a thing for black Walking Horses, given that I've been riding them for the past 40 years. I lost my personal mare to colic back in November and had vowed that another would someday come into my life. Losing her also meant we were one horse short for the work we do at Ft. Stewart with our active duty soldiers. So, I had been keeping an eye out for the right foster who could help fill that role.

In July, we received a call from Butts County Animal Control about a 20-year-old Tennessee Walking Horse mare in need of a rescue or permanent home. When they sent her photo, I could hardly believe it—she was exactly what I had been hoping for: a beautiful black horse. My interest was piqued.

Within a week, the Georgia Equine Rescue League welcomed a new arrival I named *Glory*. She needed to gain at least 100 pounds, but at 20 years old, I felt she would likely be rideable and capable of doing the tasks we had in mind for her.

Over the next few weeks, I let her settle into her new surroundings and into life with Levi, my Quarter Horse and her new boss. I was encouraged when she allowed me to pick up her feet, apply fly spray, and handle her in all the usual ways. Finally, I saddled her up and rode her around my yard. Let's just say she didn't exactly come with "power steering"—but that's something I can work with.

A week later, I asked a friend to ride Levi while I rode Glory and we hit the trail. It felt so good to be back in the saddle of a gaited horse again. Glory was green when it came to trail experience—at first, she lacked the confidence to take the lead. But after a few miles, she began to relax and even showed willingness to try leading. By the time we returned to the parking lot, I knew I was going to adopt her. Can you believe she is my first GERL horse?

A big thanks goes out to Cynthia Anderson for delivering this special mare.



Star K Equestrian Center Hosts Open House

By Karen Henderson

I was invited by Norma Karst to represent GERL on October 13 at Star K Equestrian Center in Leesburg. The covered arena was ideal for a hot south Georgia day! I spoke on behalf of GERL and spoke about the current membership drive and many of the great programs that GERL offers.

I previously fostered Sizzlelena through GERL and told her story of being discovered, fostered and re-homed. Many of the young girls really enjoyed the story about Sizzlelena. I set up a table, along with photos of Sizzlelena, distributed newsletters and other printed information on general horse health and body score conditions. The event was an open house with really great educational speakers. Topics covered were hay analysis, horse feeds, horse chiropractic care, what show judges look for and horse demonstrations in western and english riding. The grilled hot dogs and donuts were a hit too!



Karen
GERL Area Coordinator

Henderson

Tack and Auction Items Headed for South Georgia

By Patty Livingston



Over the past three months, I've been gathering auction items and tack in preparation for a special trip down south to deliver a loaded cargo trailer to Gloria Bell in LaGrange.

The first step was getting the trailer roadworthy again. After sitting unused for a couple of years, it showed some signs of leakage and needed attention before making the haul. Once the repairs were complete, I brought it back and began loading it with items to be sold at the upcoming Tagalong Ranch event on November 1st in Coleman, Ga.

With the trailer packed and ready, Cynthia Anderson and I hit the road for LaGrange to make the delivery. GERL will have a booth set up at the event, offering tack and other items for sale.

It's shaping up to be a great day—so mark your calendars and don't miss it!

Update on the Feral Threesome

By Patty Livingston



Airey and Breezy munching on their hay together.



Tucker is still a stallion and not broke to halter.



Breezy wearing a halter for the first time.

The *Feral Threesome* came into the GERL foster program last August from Gwinnett County Animal Services.

Airey and Breezy, the two palominos, are coming along, slowly but surely. I was able to get a halter on Breezy recently, after waiting for a year for her to settle down.

Airey has been the easiest of the three to work with. He loves attention and interacting with people. He likes to learn new things and catches on very fast. Breezy, not so much. She overthinks things and requires extra time to adjust to any changes in her surroundings.

Tucker is not broke to halter yet, nor is he castrated, but I am able to rub him all over and be around him without him running away.

I expect to see a lot of progress with Breezy now that she is wearing a halter. Stay tuned for more updates!

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