



March 18th, 2023

# GERDA'S EQUINE RESCUE

## Spring Newsletter 2023

### About Gerda's Equine Rescue (GER)

Gerda's Equine Rescue is a Vermont based 501(c)3 committed to rescuing, rehabbing, and re-homing slaughter-bound and at-risk equines in need.

GER primarily rescues horses from auction whose lives are in imminent danger. We save the ones we can; giving them a chance to live out their lives, happy and loved. Since our founding in 2005, we have rescued, rehabilitated, and rehomed over 1,000 horses, minis, & long-ears.

We embrace diversity and equality at GER, and are committed to embracing our community with a variety of backgrounds, skills, and views. The more inclusive and diverse we are, the better our work will be and the more horses we can help.

GER strives to provide low cost opportunities to horse owners in our community as well as education. We host a variety of free or low cost health clinics, offer educational clinics, and accept owner surrendered equines when we have the space available.



### What's New at GER?

**PERSONNEL-** Slowly over the past year and a half, we have been working hard to grow and better our crew of dedicated staff and volunteers at GER. With the addition of our new manager, her full time assistant, a growing group of volunteers, two part time repairmen, two terrific veterinarians, two barefoot trimmers, and a farrier; we feel our crew is by far the best it has ever been! We are constantly working to provide more for our equines and do more for the equine community around us.

We are always accepting new volunteers and are excited to make new connections to help us offer more to horses in need! If you are interested in volunteering your time or talents please reach out to us!



*Nancy P, one of our most dedicated volunteers, is celebrating 10 years of volunteering at GER!*

**ADOPTIONS-** In 2022, we saw a total of 39 adoptions to forever homes. We placed equines rescued from slaughter, equines surrendered due to owner health or financial concern, and equines returned for various reasons. These 39 adoptions helped to fund the continued care of equines still at GER, as well as to open up space for us to rescue more in need.

A grant for a program named "Seniors for Seniors" helped us place older horses with some medical needs into homes with senior adopters at reduced or waived adoption fees! The program even provided some future financial support for known medical needs to the adopters!

2023 is already off to a terrific start, with 7 adoptions and 5 more pending! To see all of our current equines available for adoption, and to keep an eye on the ones that will be available soon, visit our newly updated website!

<https://www.gerdasequinerescue.org>



Joy and Roscoe were recently adopted together! Joy (right) is fully blind but trusts Roscoe (left) completely.

**Farm Repairs and Maintenance-** In 2022 and 2023, the rescue has put lots of time, energy, and money into upkeep of the rescue and it's future. We have repaired multiple barn roofs, started repairing and replacing stall doors, added crushed stones to our paddocks for better drainage, replaced fencing, and worked to brighten up the stalls and barns with brighter lighting.

Coming up in the spring, we are planning to add drainage to our "park" pasture, build a new shelter in one of our paddocks, fix the drainage in our outdoor arena, redo the fencing in our two large seasonal pastures, and add a permanent bedding storage area. All of these repairs are pertinent to continuing to care for our equines the best we can, but also to the future of the rescue.

## Update:

**STRANGLES-** Unfortunately, as many of you know, strangles hit GER in the fall of 2022. We require a quarantine period followed by a blood test checking for infection (SAA) in all incoming horses to help protect our herd, but we had one carrier of strangles that made it through all of our protocols with no symptoms and unfortunately brought the virus into the herd. Though it is rare, carriers make up about 10% of the equine population. They are usually asymptomatic but shed the virus, infecting other animals that they come into contact with.

In mid October, we started a quarantine on the farm to protect any horses not yet exposed to the virus and to contain the spread of strangles off farm. Though few actually had symptoms and were sick, we had to rule out contamination with the entire herd of 32 equines. This process involved three individual nasal swab tests, each one week apart, to clear each animal. Any that came back positive during that time were moved to our quarantine area for closer monitoring and care. Then all horses they had contact with, had to wait 3 weeks without symptoms before we could begin the swabbing process again. This process is expensive and time consuming, but was the only way to truly ensure that it was safe to lift our quarantine.

During our full testing process we identified three true carriers that continued to shed the virus without symptoms months after their original positive test. These three were sent to an equine clinic for full treatment. Unfortunately one of the three, Silky, passed away from complications most likely caused by pneumonia. The other two made full recoveries during their 4 week stay and have been released from the clinic!

As of today, we are happy to report that our farm has been lifted from quarantine and we have been watching many horses, minis, and ponies leave for their forever homes!



Cookie, from our tiny town barn, about to have a nasal swab taken .

## Looking Ahead

While Strangles really put a pause on all adoptions and heavily affected us financially, we are excited to finally move on to a great year to come!

Last year brought us the first of our Equine First Aid clinics, which we are excited to offer again this year with the addition of an emergency preparedness training. This event will consist of 3 individual courses, two days in person at the rescue, and one day virtually. These courses cover everything from basic first aid, to handling emergencies, and planning to help make difficult situations go more smoothly. They are a terrific opportunity for horse owners and those working with horses.

We also enjoyed the return of our Equine Agility clinic last year, which had been cancelled for a few years due to covid. The clinic was a terrific success last year and we are thrilled to be able to host it again! Participants have the opportunity to bring their own equine, or pay a small fee and borrow a rescue for the day!

One of our long time supporters, Mary Elena Moran has gone above and beyond this year with a new clinic to be hosted on behalf of the rescue. The clinic is already full for participants, but has no limit to the number of auditors allowed. The clinic will cover mounted police training techniques applicable to all under saddle. All proceeds from this clinic will go directly to GER! The following day, she is hosting a horse handling clinic free to all volunteers of equine rescues and therapeutic riding programs. Proceeds from this clinic will be divided between multiple equine 501(c)3 programs.

In addition to these, we will have a few health clinics available along with our GER events! See the attached calendar of events at the end of our newsletter for all known GER dates! One of which will be our second annual GER OPEN HOUSE!



Photo from last year's Open House during our "Paint a Pony" event!

Below is a photo from the 4th of July parade in Wardsboro! Our terrific crew brought home a 2nd place ribbon for participating in the parade!





## How can you support us?

While GER is growing and changing and constantly striving to do better, we could not do it without the help of our supporters. Vet bills from the strangles quarantine that are not yet paid off, our constant feed/bedding/care bills, and upcoming repairs and maintenance needs all add up. We are awarded a number of grants every year that help with specific projects such as building shelters and hosting clinics, but the majority of our day to day expenses are not covered by grants or adoption fees alone.

Please consider donating to GER to help us continue to care for and rescue these equines that rely on us!

We accept donations in the forms of:

- **Check** mailed to PO Box 1352 West Townshend, VT 05359
- **Paypal** to [gerdasequinerescue@gmail.com](mailto:gerdasequinerescue@gmail.com) **\*recurring monthly donations optional**
- **Network For Good** to Gerda's Equine Rescue **\*recurring monthly donations optional**
- **Payments** towards our vet bills directly at:

Arlington Equine Clinic (802) 375-9322

969 Trumbull Hill Rd Shaftsbury, VT 05262

OR

Myrhe Equine Clinic (603) 335-4777

100 Ten Rod Rd Rochester, NH 03867

## Other ways to get involved:

**Volunteer**- Whether you want to spend time with the horses, or give your time building, gardening, cleaning tack, or helping at events!

**Donate items**- Our tack shack is made up of donated tack and equipment (in good, clean condition) that we sell. All proceeds directly benefit the farm.

**Business Sponsorships**- Every little bit counts. Flowers, paint, supplies, clinic awards, and much more can be donated to the rescue or sponsored by our supporters!

**Spread the word**- share our newsletter with friends, follow us on social media, and recommend us to others!

**Host an event or fundraiser**- no idea is too small. Bake sales, tack sales, parades, 5ks, and many more opportunities await. Clinics can be hosted at other farms on our behalf.

**Adopt or Foster**- check out our website for more information!



## Come stay with us:

GER officially opened a single Airbnb unit in February! All proceeds from the unit go directly to the rescue to help with costs. The Airbnb is a 2 bedroom, 4 bed unit that sleeps 7. We hope to start offering Airbnb experiences this summer as well to help introduce more people to the rescue and increase income to the rescue. Check us out and stay with us!

[https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/815948693734448728?source\\_impression\\_id=p3\\_1679065380\\_hAlB2yWPf9a0fABD](https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/815948693734448728?source_impression_id=p3_1679065380_hAlB2yWPf9a0fABD)



# GERDA'S EQUINE RESCUE

## 2023 Events

View our website or Facebook page for more event details and how to sign up!

### **GER Spring Clean-Up Volunteer Day**

Saturday, April 15th 9:00 am–2:00 pm

### **MOUNTED POLICE CLINIC with Mary Elena Moran**

Saturday, April 22nd 9:00 am- 4:00 pm

### **Harmony Horsemanship SAFE Horse Handling with Mary Elena Moran**

Sunday, April 23rd 9:00 am–5:00 pm

### **Horse Agility and Fun Show with Scherry Edwards**

Saturday, May 13th 10:00 am–2:00 pm

### **GER Annual Tack and Yard Sale**

Monday, May 29th 10:00 am–3:00 pm

### **Equine Health—First Aid—Disaster Planning with EquiFirst Aid East Coast**

Saturday, June 10th and Sunday, June 11th 11:00 am- 4:00 pm

### **GER Discounted dental clinic**

Date and Time to be decided

### **GER Free Castration Clinic**

Date and Time to be decided

### **GER OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday, October 7th 10:00 am–2:00 pm