



GERDA'S EQUINE RESCUE

WELCOME SPRING

About Gerda's Equine Rescue (GER)

Arlo (formally known as Willie) enjoying his new life.



We are a Vermont based 501(c)3 equine rescue committed to saving as many at risk horses, minis, donkeys and mules as possible, wherever they might be. We are not a breed specific rescue. It does not matter to us if a horse is from a situation of neglect, abuse, or a kill pen destined for slaughter. A horse in danger is a sad sight and we will do whatever we can to change its fate! At our rescue the heart, compassion, and funds of our supporters are what help drive our lifesaving work forward. Each successful rescue and rehoming represents a huge triumph and reaffirms our commitment to making a difference in the lives of all the horses we have yet to help.

Adoptions

GER adopted out an astonishing 61 horses in 2023! This also means we were able to do intake 58 horses. A grant program funded by the Pet Finder Foundation called "Seniors for Seniors" has helped us place older horses into homes with senior adopters at a waived adoption fee! This grant allowed us to get many of our aged companion horses adopted. 2024 is already off to a terrific start, with multiple adoptions already taking place. To see all of our available horses, and to keep an eye out on the ones that will be available soon, visit our newly updated website!



Alena was adopted by Amy after going to Amy for foster

What's new at GER?

After weathering the challenges of winter in Vermont, we are bursting with energy and enthusiasm here at the rescue! Spring has brought a renewed sense of vitality to the farm. Our full time handyman has been great sprucing up our barns with a makeover. We have 3 pregnant mares that we have added cameras into each stall for so we can be on alert 24 hours a day and night. New electric outlets are being installed in every horse stall now, no more extension cords everywhere. We have ordered heat sensors in place of fire alarms (we were told there is too much dust in barns for traditional alarms to be trustworthy.) Lastly we are planning a "Pasture Paradise" for our horses, who spend too much idle time in their stalls and paddocks and really need to move for the sake of mind, body and hooves! As you can see, we have rolled up our sleeves!

Joy, completely blind, and Roscoe, her support pony, in their new home after adoption



Updates and Looking Ahead

We have many plans for the future and what we would like to accomplish. We are converting one of our stalls into a much needed wash stall! Due to the nature of rescue, many of the horses coming in have skin conditions that have to be treated even in the winter. This will also better allow us to treat leg swellings and other injuries. Currently our outdoor wash areas not only stay wet when we are able to use them during the year, but they also flood the paddocks next to them, this flooding will be eliminated along with standing water which invites pests such as mosquitoes and flies. We are also hoping to fundraise for a "soft quarantine" shed for horses that have been sick in our 30 day Quarantine area or horses that we do not have a medical history on. This will allow us to rescue more horses as there will always be an area available for quarantine. As always we look to the future. Keep a lookout on our website and Facebook page for our upcoming events.

From Town Nuisances to Loving Homes

During the January winter, we were contacted about a herd of five minis ranging in ages of 21-30 years old, in desperate need of rescue. They were all in poor shape with the four little mares said to be pregnant. The fifth and smallest mini was the older stallion, blind in one eye with questionable vision in the other. They were found after their owners relocated, leaving them behind. Police in the town began getting reports of the minis roaming the neighborhood, digging up people's lawns through the snow looking for grass. We were contacted by one of the feedlots saying they had been asked to take the little group to one of their kill pens, but then ask us if we could help. Our supporters immediately stepped up and raised enough money to cover transporting them to Vermont and enough to help us fund their medical care once here. Their story pulled at so many heartstrings, and we can happily report that they are all now have loving homes. Target, the tiny black stud, is scheduled to be castrated and at the same time have his painful eye removed. Once Target has recuperated, he has a wonderful adopter ready with open arms to welcome him home!



The five ponies looking for food in a neighbors yard before coming to GER

The Training or Re-Training the Rescued Horses

Once the horses have completed both their 30-day quarantine as well as their medical needs, the next step to being adoption ready is the all-important training phase. A good match is the most important part of the adoption process. Knowing the horse's temperament, abilities, and triggers are the keys to successful adoptions, and knowing how to handle those issues should they arise is powerful for new owners. We are fortunate to have June, who began as one of our volunteers we later discovered she has worked with training horses! June now comes a few days a week and works as our trainer. But even so, we would not be able to help as many horses as we do without the amazing gift that the that "Horses with Hope" has given us by training those horses, donkeys or mules that we do not have the resources or knowledge to help. Their mission is "Offering a comprehensive evaluation and retraining program for rescued equines. We emphasize the importance of consistent, quality training and are committed to helping these horses find lifelong homes through successful adoptions." Check them out on FB and their website at horseswithhope.org
*They are miracle workers!



Sydin
learning the
skill of
ponying a
horse at
Horses With
Hope

Lewis and
our head
trainer June
working on
not being
fearful
around
people



Hamlet, one of
our pigs,
sunbathing after
our long winter.
He will have to
hang up his hat
until next winter!

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!

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

Sponsorships– Every little bit counts. Flowers, paint, supplies, clinic awards, monthly horse sponsorships, 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!

GER 2024 EVENTS

GER Spring Clean-Up Volunteer Day
Saturday, May 5th 9:00 am—2:00 pm

GER Annual Tack and Yard Sale
Saturday, May 11th 10:00 am—3:00 pm Equine

Wellness Clinic
Saturday, July 20th 10:00 am– 2:00 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 5th 10:00 am- 2:00 pm

Gerda's Equine Rescue's First Annual Benefit Dinner
Saturday, October 19th 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Spot, our completely blind mini, enjoying some love in his new home with Britt.

