



The Gingersnap Girls

Equine Education & Rescue Foundation

This issue is dedicated to all of the small, hardworking, private shelters in this country – shelters who take in the unwanted, sick, and abused - shelters that depend entirely upon public donations and do not receive government support. Thanks to all of the tireless workers who care for these animals who would have otherwise been forgotten but now are afforded the respect they deserve and a chance for a “forever home.”

Volume 2 Issue 1

Spring 2008

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED

A LITTLE HORSE IN NEED.....

From all of us at the Gingersnap Girls Foundation **thank you** to all of you who came forward to help P.C. (Prince), a wonderful old quarter horse who had cancer.

When he was first diagnosed with cancer, we all worried, not only about his illness, but also how we would come up with the money for his surgery. We shouldn't have worried. So many of you came forward to help P.C. (Prince) and us. The Foundation cannot begin to be able to express enough gratitude to you for your generosity and concern. You have helped so much.

P.C. had his surgery in late December and it was a complete success thanks to everyone at **Piedmont Equine Practice**. He is now healthy, happy, and living in a new adoptive home. The **Dukinfield family** of Round Hill saw beyond a horse who had cancer to the spirit that lay beyond. P.C. is very happily living with his new family Kerry, Dave, Amanda, and pony, Logan. He doesn't have to worry anymore.

If not for the “kindness of strangers” and friends alike, this gentle soul may not have survived to know the love of his forever home. Thanks to those, both old and young, local and far-reaching, strangers (who are now friends) and friends (who are loved even more), and our veterinarians. You truly gave P.C. and all of us at the Foundation a real Christmas miracle.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!



P.C. (Prince) and new adoptive mom Kerry Dukinfield



Pebbles upon arrival - November 07 - thin and sick



Pebbles - HAPPY! with Bob Payton, Mary Gray and granddaughter, Rachel

LITTLE PEBBLES NEEDS YOUR HELP.....

In November, the Foundation was contacted about a little pony so starved and debilitated, it was said that she would not make it into the winter. Although our funds were (and are low), how could we say no to this wonderful girl, Pebbles? She is elderly and has apparently never received much care. She had been working for a pony ride company that continued to take her out to work even in her debilitated condition. She came to us through a very caring young woman who recognized Pebbles' bleak future and DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

Pebbles immediately responded to kindness and FOOD (imagine)! Her weight increased and her personality started to shine. But, just recently, Pebbles suffered a grand mal seizure. It was very scary for this sweet little pony, along with Ann and Bob, who were with her at the time. She has been seen by our vet who tells us that these seizures will most probably continue. She will be placed on medication and we will hope for the best for her future.

Pebbles was due to be put up for adoption in March. We know now that this cannot happen. Any change may be detrimental to her condition and we feel she should live out her life where it is familiar. That being said, the Foundation needs donations towards Pebbles' care. Please consider sponsoring her. Our sponsorships start at \$35 a month and Pebbles needs several. Thanks so much to the **Harralson** family of Purcellville for the kindness and concern they have shown for Pebbles from the very start. To learn more about Pebbles and how you can possibly help her out too, please call 540/338-5218 or make a donation directly to her care through Paypal on our website at www.gingersnapgirls.org.

Thank you to the **Tack Exchange** in Middleburg for supplying us with a new blanket for Pebbles – thanks to **Anne Travell**, too.

OUT & ABOUT FOR THE HORSES...

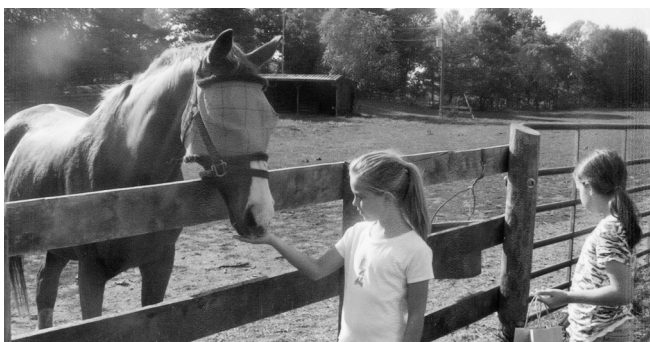
The past few months have been busy ones for the Foundation. As noted, we saw our wonderful horse, P.C., through his cancer scare to a wonderful outcome. Our little pony, Pebbles, has become our newest challenge. She is so dear to us and now we will make life as comfortable for her as we possibly can.

In October, we attended Southern States "Autumnfest". **L'il Chief**, our mascot, went along and, as usual, he was the hit of our booth. He is a treasure to us and a wonderful traveler to these events! He met some terrific people and did his usual bang-up job of educating everyone to the plight of unwanted horses and ponies. **Sandy Rose**, of the **Southern States Cooperative in Purcellville**, always does such a great job of organizing this event. Please put it on your calendar for next October and visit L'il Chief and his human friends (!) at the Southern States' Autumnfest in Purcellville.

Our Annual Fall Yard Sale was rained out in October so...we held it in November! Thanks to Foundation treasurer **Bob Payton**, Foundation secretary **Amy Delery**, and her girls **Elizabeth and Blair**, along with Foundation president **Melea Ann Mercer** for helping out so much. Thanks to ALL of our generous donors and shoppers, we made over \$700 and hope to do even better for the horses at our next sale. *KEEP IN MIND, don't throw out that table, chair, or lamp – it could be a treasure for the Gingersnap Girls for Fall 2008 yard sale!! Please call 540/338-5218 if you have a donation for the next yard sale.

In February we were happy to attend Loudoun Horse Association's tack sale in Lovettsville. Again, we met so many terrific and concerned individuals and carried the word of unwanted and abused horses and ponies. It was a great time!

To try to keep pace (and we mean **try!**), the Foundation has been busy spreading the word that we need donations of hay! Our funds have been low and our expenses continue to be high. We have been seeking out donated hay, to no avail, as everyone is having the same problem. If any of our supporters know of anyone willing to donate hay, preferably good quality round bales, please let us know.



Daisy and Rebekah K. who along with her friend, Lauren S., continue to help the horses through their lemonade stands and bake sales.

A LITTLE EXPLANATION ABOUT OUR NAME.....

We are asked, nearly everyday, why the name "**Gingersnap Girls**". We have an explanation on our website but for those that haven't seen it the reason is as follows:

The Gingersnap Girls were three horses - not people - and it is in their honor and memory that this organization was founded. They were three wonderful old mares – Chrissy, Calypso, and Flag - each saved from their own horrors by caring individuals. All three had an overwhelming love of their treat of choice, gingersnaps, and came to be known by their friends as "The Gingersnap Girls". They brought much joy and love to the founder of this organization and it is in their name we try to help other abused, neglected and/or slaughterbound equines.

They were "**always loved and are forever remembered**" by our founder, Melea Ann Mercer and others who knew them well.



Bob, Lil Chief, and Bres checking out the new truck

THANK YOU.....

In December, the Foundation was happy to receive the donation of a 1998 Chevrolet Silverado pick-up truck from **Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates**. Thank you so much BRVA!

Also in December, **Dr. Nancy Hall, DVM**, donated a two-horse trailer to the Foundation. THANK YOU, DR. HALL, again!!!!

Thank you to the **Adams** family for their generous donation which funded our shelter completely for over a month and covered the remainder of P.C. (Prince)'s surgery costs. A **big** thank you Adams family.

Southern States Cooperative in Purcellville came through for us again, giving us a generous donation which we used for hay cubes, wormer, and feed. Thanks Southern States for your ongoing support.

AGAIN, a BIG THANK YOU to ALL who donated to P.C. (Prince)'s veterinary medical costs. We couldn't do it without you.

And last but not least.....thank you to our old friends, **Mary, Melissa, and Rachel Gray**, along with our new friend, **Patti Stinson**, for bringing our horses and ponies their treat of choice – GINGERSNAPS!! You all are great!

**“A NEW DAY FOR THE HORSES”
SILENT AUCTION BENEFIT**

On Saturday, May 3, from 2PM-6PM, the Gingersnap Girls Foundation will hold their Silent Auction Benefit, **“A New Day for the Horses”** at Harmony Hall, Hamilton Safety Center, 39071 East Colonial Highway, Hamilton, VA.

100% of the proceeds from this event will go towards the rescue, rehabilitation, and daily care of neglected, abused, and at-risk horses and ponies, as well as helping the Foundation fund a humane educational program.

Items to be auctioned include artwork, jewelry, and photography by local artisans, photography sittings, antiques, gift baskets from area merchants, and gift certificates from local restaurants, along with MUCH, MUCH MORE! There will be door prizes and raffles, along with **food, drink, and merriment**. This event promises something for everyone, not just “horsepeople.”

Please come and meet our mascot L'il Chief, too. We are hoping that P.C. can also make it so that he can thank all those who generously donated to his successful surgery.

The cost is \$25 per person, \$35 per couple in advance (by 4/23) and \$35 per person, \$45 per couple at the door.

Come join us for a lot of fun while, at the same time, helping the horses. Visit the Foundation's website at www.gingersnapgirls.org for more details or send your check to the **Gingersnap Girls Foundation, 101 Ivandale Road, Hamilton, VA 20158**. Please call 540/338-5218 for further information. If you cannot attend (though we hope you will!), please consider sending a donation. **HELP US PUT AN END TO EQUINE ABUSE!**

***If you have an ITEM or SERVICE you would like to donate for the silent auction, please call 540/338-5218.**



Miss Poco and Ann

**PLEASE HELP THE HORSES BY
BECOMING A SPONSOR
(We really need your help)**

Just by virtue of what we do, The Gingersnap Girls Foundation, gives shelter to the most debilitated and at-risk animals in the equine world. Because of that fact, we oftentimes find ourselves giving permanent sanctuary to these animals instead of being able to adopt them out. Many problems ranging from physical ailments and injuries to behavioral issues slow down or preclude the adoption of some of our horses and ponies.

Right now, the Foundation finds itself in that position. Several of our horses and ponies are, for the most part, unadoptable. We know that there are very specialized homes out there who could possibly help us but, at this time, those homes are difficult to find. Right now the shelter is the permanent home for six horses who are considered unadoptable. That is just fine with us as we love them all so much, but our problem is being able to fund the care of so many unadoptables.

Please consider sponsoring one of our wonderful permanent residents and experience the joy of helping. Please call 540-338-5218 to find out who might need **YOU!**

**Website:
www.gingersnapgirls.org**

MISS POCO – is a 20+ year old, strawberry roan, quarter horse mare who walks with a limp due to a history of an untreated broken knee. She obviously cannot be ridden. Poco, who was a starvation case, as well, was on her way to a sale where she most probably would have been sold to killer buyers for slaughter. A caring young woman stepped in to save Poco. She so appreciates her new life and is learning to trust people – seemingly for the very first time.

Miss Poco is just one of our residents who is looking for your help!

Thank you to Diane Simone, the Harralson family, and Mary Elizabeth Myers for your continued sponsorships and concern.

Thank you to CadCol Web Publishing and Meredith Hilt for the design and hosting donation of the GGF website



The Gingersnap Girls

101 Ivandale Road
Hamilton, VA 20158



Cowboy and Melissa Bennett

COWBOY AND HIS WONDERFUL FOSTER MOM, MELISSA BENNETT

The Bennetts have epitomized the meaning of a foster home for this once cast-off, sick horse. They have loved him and given him a safe, secure place to rest and be happy while awaiting adoption. Thank you Bennett family for all you have done – and continue to do - for Cowboy and the GGF.

COME JOIN US FOR “A NEW DAY FOR THE HORSES” ON MAY 3 – 2:00-6:00PM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.gingersnapgirls.org OR CALL 540/338-5218

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

PLEASE HELP THE HORSES WHILE HAVING A LOT OF FUN!