

Hoofprints of Love

**BEGIN AGAIN FARMS, INC. EQUINE SHELTER
DECEMBER 2024**



**SPRING MEMORIAL RIDE—May 17, 2025
Mark Your Calendars!**



HEAVY METAL

In Her New Home

HORSES SPONSORED

Mark Uno

HORSES ADOPTED

Gia

HORSES ADOPTION PENDING

Annabelle

HORSES DECEASED

**Prince
Ruben
Beauty**

***Hoofprints of Love* is the newsletter of Begin Again Farms, Inc., a 501c-3 equine rescue in Ellerslie, GA.**

If you are not on our e-mail list for the newsletter and upcoming events, please contact:

josiereus@bellsouth.net (same editor, different email)

WINNERS OF YOUTH RIDERS COSTUME CLASS AT THE FALL RESCUE RIDE

First Place: Savannah Arrington

Second Place: Lilly Lane

Third Place: Stanley Slapppy



FOCUS ON THE FARM

By Lisa Palmer

We had a great trail ride back in October. The weather was clear and not too hot, so many people showed up, resulting in one of our best turnouts. That always makes the weeks of prep work worthwhile. The costume contest is getting more creative every year and more adults and kids are dressing up.

After such a warm October and November, we are finally getting some cold weather. We are not complaining about the extended warmth: the grass is still green and we didn't have to start feeding out hay until just recently. Let's hope for a mild winter though: harsh cold really takes a toll on our elderly horses. And with the hot humid weather coming to an end, our horses with breathing issues are feeling lots better.



We have had a number of new volunteers coming out on Saturdays. They have been helping us feed horses and we are teaching them how to use a rope halter and lead horses safely, and how to groom. For those with no previous horse experience, we will train! For some, just being close to a large animal is a little nerve-wracking, and we stress safety while building their confidence. It's a pleasure to watch them learn and enjoy themselves and, of course, the horses love the extra attention.

With the fall trail ride completed, we can now focus on some maintenance issues, such as rebuilding or repairing shelters that are showing their age. The next big project is to rebuild a new floor in our store room in the barn. We have been trying to get that done for over a year, but as you well know, life stuff happens and it keeps getting put off.

We are always happy to see more new folks come out to see what we do. With winter weather coming, it's not always pleasant, so be prepared for mud and cold wind! But a day outdoors with the horses is always better than being stuck inside, and it builds character. For sure, our regular volunteers are all characters! We are there twice a day to feed and care for the horses, every single day, no matter how bad the weather is, or what else is happening out in the world or in our lives. Those of you who are horse owners know the deal. BAFI is taking care of 70+ horses, and we really appreciate our regular feeders, those who come out on the weekends, help us put together special events and those that foster and sponsor our horses. It takes a big team. If you are interested in volunteering, or have young people needing to complete volunteer hours, the best time to get started is to come out on Saturday mornings between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Come see us!

RESCUE RIDE 2024—OBSTACLES



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The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.



HORSES AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

Please visit our website for more information about the horses available—
www.BeginAgainFarms.com

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Maia | Annabelle |
| Chantilly | Sirocco |
| Scout | Chiquita |
| Terramon | Blaze |
| Arrowlena | Princess |
| Finale | Luna |
| Biscuit (pony) | Ben |
| Bella | Rico |
| Mark | Mocha |
| Midnight | Neon (miniature) |
| Lulu | Little Bit (miniature) |

All horses available for adoption are also available for sponsorship until they are adopted.

FINALE

Finale is a 15 year old Black purebred Arabian Mare. She stands for the farrier. Leads and can be handled on the ground. No training under saddle. Was abandoned here by her owner so she is in need of either a sponsor or a forever home.



ON THE TRAIL

By Alice Stagg

I saw the following article back in December of 2023. It was posted on Facebook by M.T. Paladino and written by Megan Bolentini Equine Bodywork. Megan operates Top Line Chiropractic, Bolentini, Inc. and can be found online and on Facebook. While many of these points were very familiar to me, learned through observation and interaction over my lifetime with horses, they are important to highlight as reminders to all of us who spend time around these complicated and fascinating creatures.

I am adding my own personal comment here. Horses learn retroactively by repetition. It takes only a very few repetitions of poor training or treatment to install undesirable behaviors, but it takes dozens and maybe hundreds of repetitions of correct training or treatment to replace those undesirable behaviors with the ones desired. So, it is incumbent on us to be aware of what the “right” behavior desired is, and to make sure that we are teaching the horse correctly and fairly to make the choices we want.



14 Interesting Facts About a Horse’s Brain

1. A horse’s brain is relatively small compared to the size of its body, and accounts for only about 0.1% of its total weight.
2. Despite their small size, horses have very complex brains, with a highly developed cerebral cortex, the part of the brain responsible for conscious thought, decision making and memory.
3. Horses can learn and remember complex tasks, such as navigating a jump course, or with specialized functions. The left hemisphere is responsible for the processing of logical and analytical information, while the right hemisphere is more involved in emotional processing and creative thinking.

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Local

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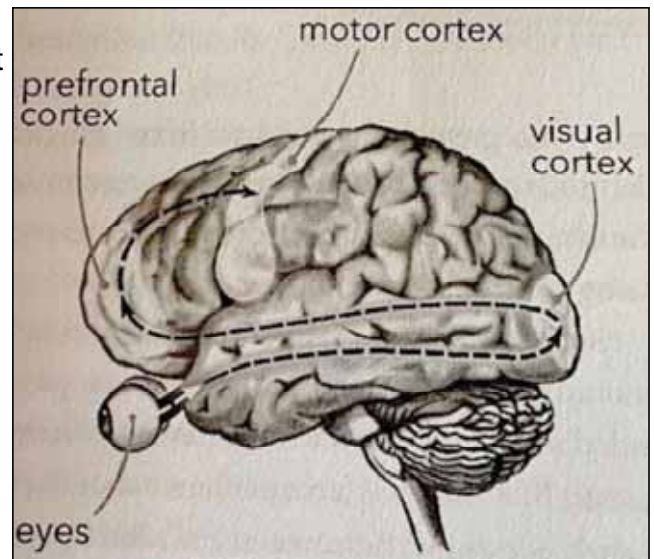
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On The Trail *(continued from previous page)*

4. Horses have a great memory and can remember specific people, places and experiences for many years.
5. Horses can learn by observation, and often they can acquire new behaviors and skills simply by observing other horses or humans.
6. Horses have a very sensitive sense of touch and can detect even the slightest pressure or movement on their skin. This helps them respond to subtle cues from your rider or guide.
7. Horses can process visual information very quickly and accurately, allowing them to avoid potential hazards and navigate their environment with ease.
8. Horses are social animals and rely on nonverbal communication to interact with other horses in their herd. This communication is facilitated by the horse's brain, which can interpret subtle changes in body language, facial expressions and vocalizations.
9. Ultimately, like all animals, horses have a unique personality and individual traits that are shaped by their experiences, genetics and environment – all of which is reflected in their brain function and behavior.
10. Horses have a very strong sense of smell and their odor bulb, which processes smells, is relatively large compared to other parts of their brain.
11. The brain, which is responsible for coordinating movement and balance, is also relatively large in horses. This is because horses must be able to move quickly and efficiently to escape predators or navigate through difficult terrain.
12. Horses have a very high pain threshold, which is believed to be related to how their brains process pain signals. While this can be beneficial in some situations, it can also mean that horses may not show obvious signs of pain, making it harder for their caregivers to detect and treat underlying health issues.
13. The hippocampus, a part of the brain involved in learning and memory, is particularly well developed in horses. This allows them to remember not only specific experiences, but also general concepts and patterns that they can apply to new situations.
14. Finally, studies have shown that horses, like other animals, are capable of experiencing emotions such as fear, happiness and anger. These emotions are believed to be mediated by the limbic system, a group of interconnected brain structures that play a key role in regulating mood and behavior.



RESCUE RIDE—Costumes



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HORSES AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP

Please visit our website for more information about the horses available—
www.BeginAgainFarms.com

A few of the newer horses and ponies may be moved to adoption after they have regained weight and/or been evaluated.

Levi
Pickleena
Jenny
King Tutt
Max
Matilda
Izzy
Dude
Okie Dokey
Maia
Finale
Luna
Vino
Paris



LUNA

This sweet mare is a permanent resident at Begin Again Farms.

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Wish List

Horse Supplies:

Feed: Senior Feed
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Probiotics
Buteless Pellets
Mineral Blocks
Shavings or Pellets for Stalls
Wormer
Fly Spray
Salt Blocks

Tools and Equipment:

Any kind of yard tools
Steel T-Posts—6'
Any Size Gates
Hog or Horse Wire
Treated Lumber any size
Power tools
Wooden fence posts

Tack:

Any new or used saddles &
miscellaneous tack
Horse Blankets

Event Needs:

Awnings (Free Standing)
Table Umbrellas

Volunteer Help:

Plumber for minor repairs
Electrician for minor repairs
Mechanic for maintenance & minor repair
Carpenter for repairs
A.m. or p.m. feeding one or more days per
week
Drag pastures weekly
Misc. maintenance of property and fences
Knowledgeable horse people who want to get
their horse fix brushing horses and
giving them attention
Photographer to help horses get adopted

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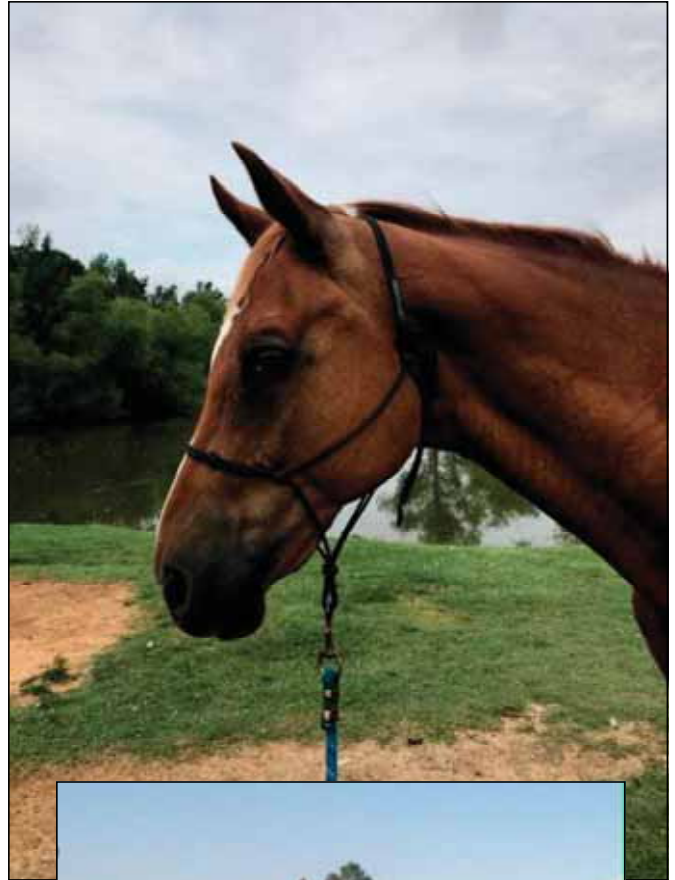
READY OR NOT (RUBEN)

6-1-1993—10-16-2024

by *Debbie Snead*

Certainly one is never ready to say “good-bye”. You’ve been at Begin Again for fourteen years. I don’t know where the time went. I was just beginning my dressage journey, and your career was over. You needed a soft place to land. You were the best trained horse I ever got on. Extremely well bred. You had an amazing canter! You had a soft, kind eye. You never said no. My dear sweet man, I will miss you forever. Each day was a gift. You even tried to tell me good-bye several times before it was time.

I know I took too much for granted. You are tucked into my heart. I give you back to God who only loans horses for a short time. I hope you will meet me at the gate when it’s my time. I hope you know you were loved. So loved. Run free, my friend.



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THE LITTLE PRINCE 2008-2024

Prince arrived at Begin Again as a yearling with a small herd of miniature horses. How many times did we “rescue” him with his head “stuck” in the fence before we realized he knew perfectly well how to remove it himself? He only wanted the attention. He soon became everyone’s favorite, and when the others found adoptive homes, Prince and his brother Navajo remained to become ambassadors for Begin Again Farms.



Among Prince’s accomplishments: the Waverly Hall Christmas parade, teaching at Creekside School and at the Thompson-Pound Art Project in the Rankin Center, booths at Tractor Supply, Frogtown Crawfish Festival, and others, bearing very young riders on the Merry-Go-Round at Begin Again’s Memorial and Rescue Rides, participating at Wounded Warrior events, teaching children and adults not to be afraid of horses, and how to groom.

Good night, sweet Prince. You taught me more than I ever taught you.



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*Accounting
Tax Preparation*

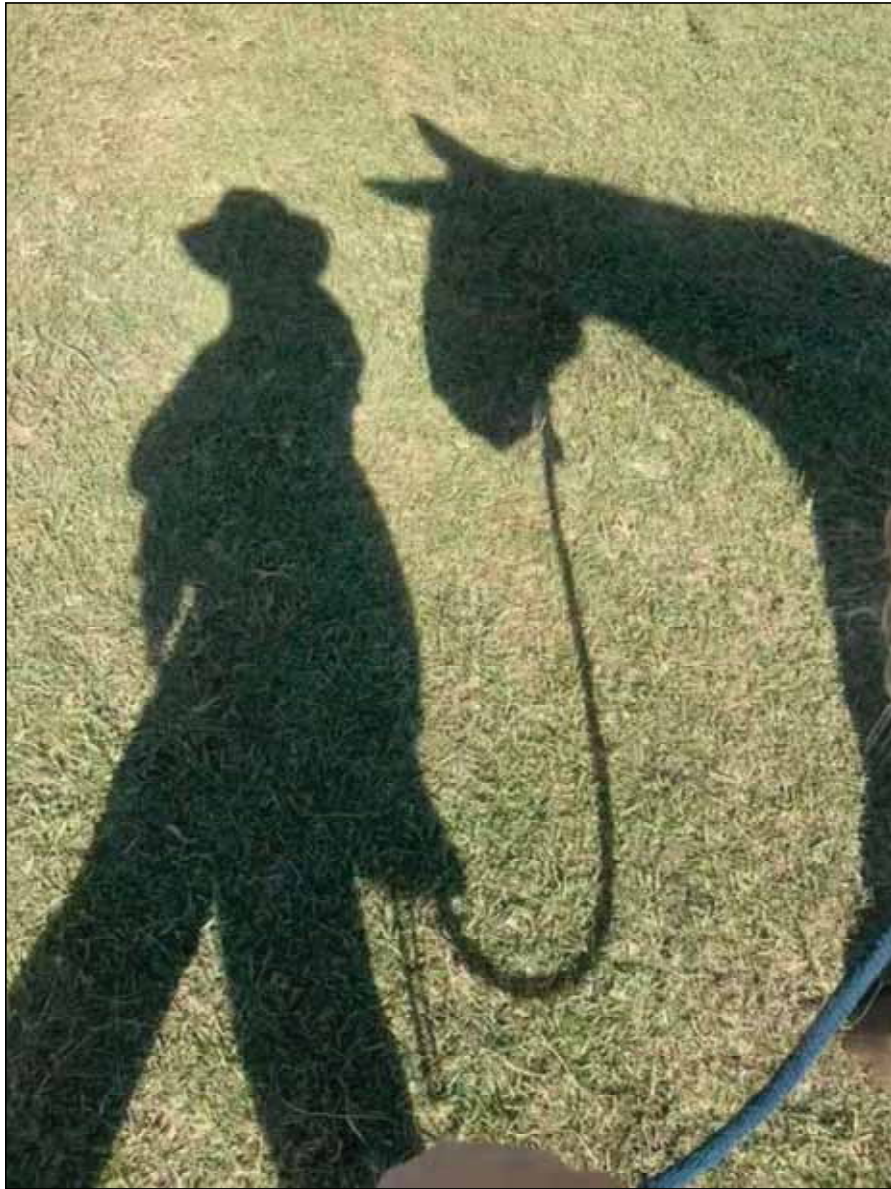
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**Macon Road
Veterinary
Clinic**

The logo for Macon Road Veterinary Clinic features a silhouette of a person in a white coat examining a dog and a cat. The dog is sitting on a table, and the cat is sitting on the ground. The background is a gradient of orange and yellow.



FARRIER DAY—Photo by Lisa Palmer

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**Looking for an easy way to help
Begin Again Farms?**

**Print this newsletter and hang a copy
in the break room of your office of
workplace (or any waiting room)!**

**Spreading the word about Begin
Again Farms is a huge help to us!**