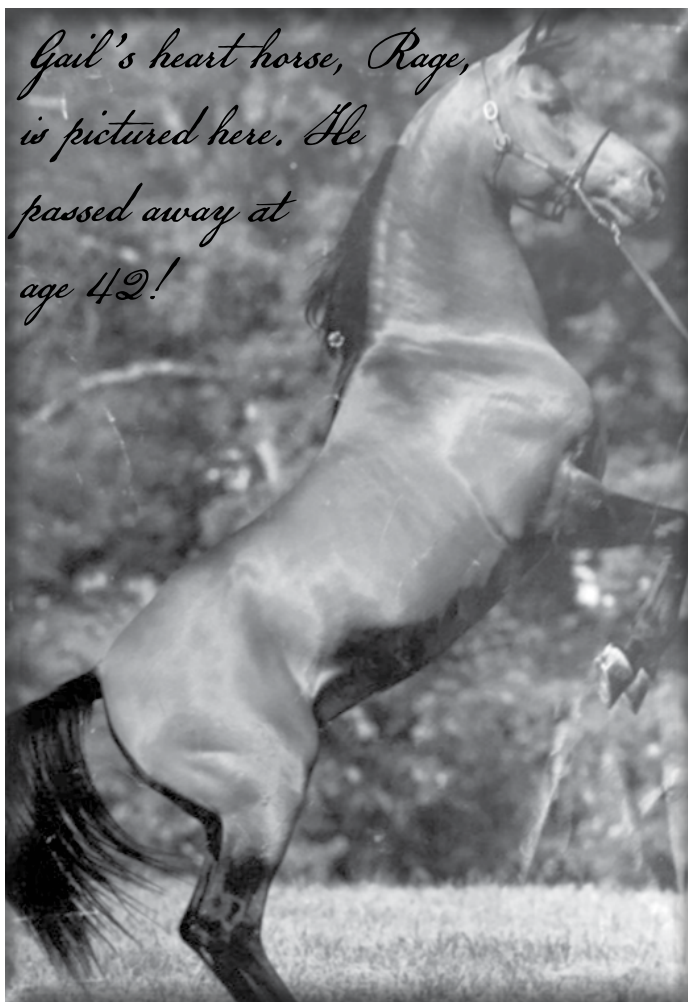


The Story of Gail and Ella: A Perfect Match

LRF Adoption Synergy

by Lauren Self

This story began with a lovely equestrian and long-time horse mom named Gail, who reached out to the Lipizzan Rescue Foundation about possibly adopting a horse. Her heart horse, a beautiful Polish Arabian gelding named *Rage*, pictured below, had passed away at the astonishing age of 42! After some time had passed, Gail's heart was ready to continue



Gail's heart horse, Rage, is pictured here. He passed away at age 42!

healing by adding another special horse into her life. Perhaps it would be a Lipizzan? She filled out an adoption application and completed the adoption approval process with flying colors. Gail checked the LRF website for available horses and a handsome gelding caught her eye. After inquiring further about him, Gail decided that he did not completely meet her specific medical needs as her next partner. (The handsome gelding was soon adopted into his forever and perfect home.)

Gail's medical needs and requirements could not be compromised in any way. She had suffered from a horrible car accident in the past, and she could not injure her back or neck again. Her next horse would have to be a saint of a horse, very steady in mind and body, to be Gail's perfect fit. Gail says, "I had to have a horse that worked with me as a team, and where I felt safe." Was this horse out there? Was this angel-horse a Lipizzan? Thus, still very much interested in adopting a Lipizzan or Lipizzan cross, she waited patiently for possibilities. Several months passed and then the LRF received a potential fit: A Lipizzan cross mare named *Ella*. Gail was notified: Would she be interested in this newly-available horse? Gail had never owned a mare, and she had not considered owning a mare. Even with slight hesitation, she decided to pursue this option and see what, if anything, unfolded. Something told her to find out more about this mare. Perhaps that gut feeling Gail had was partially guided by her old companion, *Rage*? After all, the cross part of *Ella* is $\frac{1}{4}$ Arabian. It is nice to think he helped guide *Ella* to Gail, checking the box of past Arabian love with the future love of a Lipizzan/Arabian cross.

Ella's details, photos, and videos were then sent to Gail for review. Immediately, she felt a spark of a connection with *Ella*, and she began to see the possibility of a match between them. On paper, *Ella* checked all the boxes, so it was time to meet her in person! Gail purchased a plane ticket and off she went to meet *Ella* to see if the spark she felt in watching her videos was stronger when they met face-to-face. Would *Ella* feel the same for Gail? They had to find out!

Knowing horse/human relationships can take time to develop, Gail gave herself and *Ella* several days together without pressure or expectations to determine her next steps. In this time, they introduced themselves and learned about each other. Gail discovered that *Ella* has quite the personality, as well as being very

LRF Mission Statement



The USLF now estimates that there are fewer than 1,000 purebred Lipizzans in North America. The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation was formed to assist with breed preservation and to provide aid to individual horses.

The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation is a registered 501(3)(c) organization based in Las Vegas NV. The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation (LRF), as the only non-profit Lipizzan Rescue in the United States, joins others who have dedicated themselves to the preservation and safety of the Lipizzan horse breed. The first priority of the LRF is the rescue of Lipizzan/ Lipizzan Cross horses, who suffer from malnutrition or abuse, or are in physically dangerous or neglectful situations.

<https://lipizzanrescuefoundation.org>

Lyn Schaeffer President – Lipizzan Rescue Foundation



Gail and Ella share a moment

but Ella is helping me heal.” Every step along the way of this adoption screams synergy. All parts working together for this adoption fell into place like it was meant to be. At every place when something needed to happen, it did. It all worked out in a fluid, positive, and effortless way.

As a reminder, it is because of donations from you in Lipizzan community, that a perfect match such as this can occur. The Lipizzan Rescue Foundation would like to give a sincere “Thank You” to all of our supporters.



*Above: Rage
Below: Gail and Ella*

treat motivated. Ella bribed Gail out of her granola breakfast bar from the hotel on day one and by the next day, Gail had been caught taking ALL the hotel granola bars to bring to Ella! Ella was thrilled. The next step was to take Ella for a test ride. Together, they took several soft and easy rides, and at the end of her visit, Gail says, “She’s the one!” Ella seemed to agree. A vet check was performed and with a clean bill of health, shipping was arranged, and the “adoption ball” was officially rolling.

A couple of weeks later, after the perfect boarding facility was found to meet Ella’s dietary needs, and Gail’s wishes for her new horse, Ella arrived at her new home in Florida. Ella settled in quickly, and immediately let all other horses in the barn know that she is the princess and that is just how it is going to be. She has a big personality, is quite intelligent, and sometimes silly. But that’s the naughty kind of silly, in that she soon learned how to unlock her stall door and free herself to roam the aisles or go out to pasture on her own accord. Gail was once met at the front gate of the facility by Ella who greeted her with a, “Where have you been with those treats?” The barn management had to eventually give Ella a new lock for her stall door, about which she is now less than thrilled!

After only three days of being at her new home, Ella officially picked Gail as her person. We all know how amazing that feeling is when a Lipizzan picks you. What pure joy it is! Now both are officially hooked on each other and could not be happier. Gail says, “To not have my balance, and to be able to do what I am doing with Ella is a miracle.” “My heart still aches for Rage,

