

Brecht Stables & Dustin's Place

Therapeutic Riding and Lead Line Lessons

Say Hi to "Tony the Pony"!

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Tony is finally ready to start the lesson program. He still needs to work on his patience, but has been doing wonderful. Dustin has been learning to lead him and has also ridden him a few times around the farm. I feel that Tony will prove to be an integral part of the program and will allow us to help not only children with special needs, but adults as well.

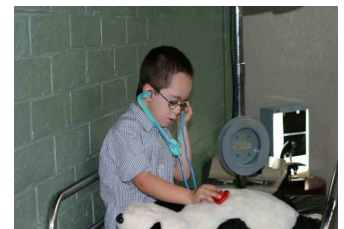
Tony came from the Social Circle area, south of Monroe, GA. He was used as a trail horse from his previous owners and was a wonderful companion. They have owned him for eight years and when they first bought him, he was kicked by one of their other horses. Tony has shoulder damage from the kick, but it definitely does not slow him down or hurt him in any way.

Tony loves to work and has proved himself to be a determined little work horse in the short time that he has been with us.



Tony– 13 year old Haflinger Cross

"Using today- to make a better tomorrow"



Saying Good Bye to a Dear Friend and Faithful Teacher

It's a horrible thing when you have to say good bye to a loved one. You feel so helpless and like no one knows exactly how you feel. On September 1st, I decided to have Nemo put down at the barn. Nemo had founder which is a rotation of the coffin bone inside of the hoof. The rotation of the coffin bone can eventually pierce through the sole of the horses foot. After getting X-rays of Nemo's front feet, I realized the extent of the situation. I was advised by the vet to not even scrape too hard with a hoof pick because the coffin bone was so close to breaking through the sole.

I tried different things to keep Nemo comfortable including special rubber boots that only rubbed on his feet after long periods of time and were too hot to wear during the hot summer months that we just went through. I tried expensive silicone pads that were filled into his sole and then had a shoe put over the pad, but the pad wore away from the rocks over about 3 weeks and he was uncomfortable and limping again. Lastly I also tried keeping him on pain medication every day with Bute, which is a powder pain medication for horses. Nothing worked the way that I felt comfortable with continuing. So, I started making arrangements for Nemo to get put down and decided to take Dustin and Nemo to one last horse show where they competed against his peers and also competed in two adaptive classes with other special needs children.

There were more bad days then good in the past month of Nemo's life and he had begun to lose weight and just look like he didn't feel well. One day he would look clear eyed, whinny and trot to me at dinner time and the next day he would be limping around the pasture barely able to move. The day before I had Nemo put down, he enjoyed all of the things he loved. He ate grass for hours and I completely emptied my fridge of apples and carrots.

It is very hard to explain death to a small child who can not grasp the concept. I finally have found the comfort

in the fact that Dustin thinks Nemo went to a new home and that they are making his feet feel all better.

- | Wish List |
|-----------------------------------|
| • Velcro pieces |
| • Felt animals |
| • Squishy toys |
| • Small action figures |
| • Velcro Baseball mitt w balls |
| • Large clothes pins |
| • Small basket ball hoop with net |
| • Childs saddle with full QH bars |

I know that as many people do, I build a wall up around myself and tell everyone that things are fine. Thank you to my friends and family who have seen through my wall and made me sit down for a minute and talk about Nemo. I am forever grateful for your hugs, your well wishes and your pure concern for the well being of myself and my son. I am forever grateful.



Dustin and Nemo at their last horse show at Banks County

Events for October and November-

October 3rd, 2009– Rucker Horse and Pet “Horse Fair”

Brecht Stables and Dustin's Place will have a table set up at Rucker feed store all day long! Come see what we have to offer! Also at the table, will be Patty Rozzell with “Custom Stall Stuff” <http://www.customstallstuff.com/> and Amy Krueger owner and trainer of “Lone Star Riding Center” <http://www.lonestarridingcenter.com/>



October 18th, 2009– Buddy Walk

Join us at the Buddy Walk on Sunday, October 18th, 2009 from 1pm to 5pm. Come support the Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta- <http://www.atlantadsaa.org/> Brecht Stables and Dustin's Place is proud to donate 3 individual half hour lessons for the raffle.

November 13, 14, 15 2009– Special Olympics State Horse Show

We will be at the Special Olympics State Horse Show this year to show our support. Next year I hope to have Dustin and a few students entered in the show as well as be a coach for the team. The show is in Perry, GA. Please see the Special Olympic website for more info at <http://www.specialolympicsga.org/>



News-

Tony the Pony is ready to start his lesson program-

I am very proud to announce that Tony is ready to start taking on lesson kids. He is a wonderful little guy and absolutely loves to work.

Free riding lesson for all referrals-

One free riding lesson for referring other students to the program. You can receive the free lesson AFTER the referred student has signed up and paid for one months worth of lessons with Dustin's Place.

Photo Contest-

I am very excited to announce that we won 1st place in a picture contest with Equine Monthly Magazine. We are now entered in the end of the year contest with all other 12 winners.

http://www.equinemonthly.com/winner_909.htm

New Logo– See our new logo to the left!!



Brecht Stables & Dustin's Place

2990 Holtzclaw Rd.
Cumming, GA 30041

Phone: (678) 644-5243

E-mail: lynn@brechtstables.org

Dustin's Place was founded in 2009 in the name of my son with Down Syndrome. The program was started with one little Shetland Pony and one student. Our mission statement of "Using today- to make a better tomorrow" fits perfectly and explains that we need to use each and every day to strive for tomorrow. Every word expressed, hug given and push to achieve, gives our children a better chance for the future. Therapeutic Riding gives children a different avenue towards every day therapy. Please visit my website and call or email to set up either a Therapeutic Riding lesson for a special needs child or a lead line lesson for all other children under the age of ten.

"Using today- to make a better tomorrow"

Useful Links for Parents-

We're on the web!!!!
www.brechtstables.org

Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta-

<http://www.atlantadsaa.org/>

Was created to support the families of Down Syndrome children throughout the Atlanta area since 1979. DSAA holds many interesting functions that promotes the awareness of Down Syndrome and other disabilities.

Special Olympics of GA-

<http://www.specialolympicsga.org/>

Special Olympics concentrates on providing different sports opportunities for people with disabilities year round. They offer individual training and help to provide integration into peer sports.



