

Stolen Horse International, Inc.  
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## **GEORGIA WOMAN ENDURES 51 HOURS OF GRIEF BEFORE HER STOLEN HORSE FINDS ITS WAY HOME**

BALL GROUND, GEORGIA – The last 48 hours have been a whirlwind of activity at Stolen Horse International (SHI), following the theft of a paint mare in Ball Ground, Ga. At the same time, the last 51 hours have been filled with fear, agony and despair for Carol Lane Tresan, but through fast thinking, the action of SHI's NetPosse members and the Internet, Tresan is now celebrating!

When Tresan went to check on her mare, Scout, and other animals shortly after feeding them Friday afternoon, she was alarmed that Scout didn't immediately greet her. After a frantic search, while carrying her one-year-old daughter with her in a baby backpack, Tresan summoned her husband from the dog training lessons he was instructing to help her. What he discovered changed their lives in an instant.

Mr. Tresan was able to search the property on a four-wheeler, and he found a section of fence cut with hoof prints leading through it. The Tresans were dumbfounded! It was broad daylight, and they were both on the property only 200 feet away! Working through their shock long enough to contact the local sheriff's office, Carol Lane was surprised that the deputy was reluctant to investigate.

Like the Tresans, many theft victims learn the hard way that this situation is not uncommon. Not all law enforcement agencies are prepared or properly trained to deal with horse theft. And, unfortunately, while horse owners view their animals as family members, the legal system categorizes them as property.

The 13-year-old tobiano paint is definitely much more than a horse to Carol Lane who has taken her on everything from 100-mile trail rides to the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Parade to hunter/jumper shows. Tresan trusts Scout around her infant daughter with no reserve, as well. Whatever she asked from her, the horse gladly gave.

Despite the reluctance of the officer to make a report, Carol Lane persisted and the paperwork was filed. Yet, she knew that wasn't nearly enough so she began contacting other friends who owned horses, seeking their advice. Almost immediately, she was directed to Stolen Horse International. Without hesitation, Tresan wrote SHI an email, begging for help.

Angela Kirby, a volunteer who helps process reports for SHI, first saw Carol Lane's email. Following SHI procedures, she responded to Tresan's email by requesting that she fill in a "stolen horse report", and sending Tresan the online link to the form. "The reports are required by SHI so that we have all of a victim's essential contact information and the facts of the theft," Kirby states.

Tresan filed the report, and Debi Metcalfe, founder of SHI, quickly began sending emails to private list groups, alerting them to the situation. As soon as the report was processed, and a webpage and flyer created, Metcalfe and Kirby issued Idaho Alerts to NetPosse members, several hundred Internet groups and thousands of private individuals.

Then, late Sunday afternoon, Metcalfe received the call from Tresan that Scout was home! Only 48 hours after NetPosse first received the report and 51 hours after Tresan realized her horse was gone, emails were again flying through Cyberspace, but this time with good news! While some people doubt a horse is stolen, despite a cut fence, Tresan has further evidence ... Scout's mane was cut off and black shoe polish had been used to try and disguise her white patches.

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In the midst of her celebration, Tresan made a point to personally call Debi Metcalfe and give her heartfelt thanks, while also taking a moment to fire off a few emails letting other Internet friends know Scout was home. Then she happily ran back to the barn where a tired, skinnier Scout was contentedly enjoying her evening meal.

The Tresans' story is hardly unique and it is a testimony to the power of the Internet, but just as importantly, as Carol Lane Tresan declares, "Obviously all the hard work Stolen Horse International did paid off - they scared whoever stole her and tried to cover up her gorgeous markings into letting her go!"

As Debi Metcalfe is fond of saying, "Never underestimate the power of one!" It only takes one person to forward an email, post a flyer or make a phone call. Scout is now home because of every one that did just this. For more on Scout, visit her webpage: <http://www.netposse.com/stolenmissing/scoutGAJan06.htm>.

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