



There is nothing like a peaceful trail ride through a gorgeous state to make you appreciate the beauty and bounty that is Kentucky, especially when the ride itself benefits a wonderful cause. That was the case on Saturday, July 17th, 2010 when riders from all over Kentucky came together, along with First Lady of Kentucky, Jane Beshear, to support the *Horses for Hope* organization to assist women who work within the equine industry for earlier detection of Breast cancer.

Mr. Gary Lane of Windswept Stables was proud to provide Mrs. Beshear with a gaited trail horse to ride at the event that began at the Mammoth Cave Horse Camp, located in Brownsville, Kentucky. The first lady rode a 12 year old Tennessee Walking Horse named "Gen's Ebony Shaker."



The *Horses for Hope* ride began at 11:00 a.m. and was a four-hour trail ride through Mammoth Cave National Park. The main focus of the event was to benefit *Horses For Hope*. Mrs. Beshear's organization works with the equine industry to raise Breast Cancer awareness, education, early detection and treatment referrals.

Watching enthusiastic riders come together wearing their pink shirts and with pink ribbons painted on their horses hindquarters (the breast cancer awareness logo) was "truly a sight to behold" according to one onlooker. The overall ride was a beautiful and relaxing experience.



A steady flow of trail riders followed Mrs. Beshear through the park, enjoying breath-taking scenery around every bend. As with all gaited horses, Gen's Ebony Shaker (barn name "Ges") provided a safe, smooth ground-covering ride. Ges was tacked with a Myler 33 Bit, a Western Tennessean Saddle, and factory stamped keg shoes.

Ges was chosen from a list of great walking horses for his ability to "walk" consistently. He has a flowing stride with a great headshake. He is extremely mobile on all types of terrain and footing and has the skill to lengthen and shorten his stride to

maintain an even-timed, ground covering, flat-footed walk. What's even more remarkable is that he has the talent to exhibit self-carriage at the rider's request, letting the rider feel the power and excitement of a truly great horse!



At the end of the ride, Mr. Gary Lane presented the first lady with a Myler Combination Bit on behalf of Dale Myler, founder of Myler bits), and Judy Auble, sales manager of Toklat Originals. The combination bit was given to Jane Beshear in recognition of her wonderful work and her compassion for all horses. The bottom-line of the *Horses for Hope* ride is the benefit given to those who need a "leg-up." It has also reminds us all that the trail systems in Kentucky are for everyone to enjoy. Those of us who live in Kentucky are fortunate to live in the horse Capital of the world! Let's enjoy the trails and continue to do all the good we can through the wonderful gift of horses among us!