



## PROGRAMS THAT EXTEND THE USEFUL LIVES OF HORSES:

Supply and demand — they are the ingredients that form the foundation for nearly all successful business models. Markets are sound and profitable when there is a healthy balance between the two. The theory holds true for the horse market as well. Often, however, owners may not be aware of the demands that exist for horses that may be “unwanted” by some, but desired by others.

The purpose of this chapter is to show some of the many programs already in place by horse breed organizations and other groups, in which horses are needed by participants. From trail riding enthusiasts to horse show exhibitors, people are searching every day for horses that fit their lifestyles and interests.

By understanding the activities encouraged by breed organizations, owners of some unwanted horses might find a good fit, and a good market, among people seeking horses for organized shows and recreational events.

Following is a listing of some of the most popular programs and activities underway today and some true-life stories of unwanted horses that developed into champions.

### **Competitive Horse Shows:**

Nearly all horse breed associations offer opportunities for friendly competition. Although a horse may be retired or reaching advanced years of maturity, horse shows offer outlets to help keep the horse active and involved. The registries offer several different disciplines with classes ranging from leadline to saddle seat pleasure to barrel racing. A horse owner can often find a way to keep horses involved for a long time in the variety of disciplines offered in the showing world.

The majority of breed registries in the United States host local shows. More competitive riders enter their horses in national and world championship horse shows. The events are qualifying or non-qualifying, based on each association's standards. Contact the specific association you are interested in to find out more information on how to become involved in showing and what various other programs they offer.

The United States Equestrian Federation ([www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)) is the national governing body for horse sports in the U.S.



## PROGRAMS THAT EXTEND THE USEFUL LIVES OF HORSES:

**The following organizations offer both competitive and noncompetitive options to keep your horse active.**

Horse Breed Association Programs

American Hackney Horse Society

[www.hackneysociety.com](http://www.hackneysociety.com)

American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA)

[www.morganhorse.com](http://www.morganhorse.com)

American Paint Horse Association (APHA)

[www.apha.com](http://www.apha.com)

American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA)

[www.aqha.com](http://www.aqha.com)

American Saddlebred Horse Association

[www.asha.net](http://www.asha.net)

American Shetland Pony Club

[www.shetlandminiature.com](http://www.shetlandminiature.com)

Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHC)

[www.appaloosa.com](http://www.appaloosa.com)

Arabian Horse Association (AHA)

[www.arabianhorses.org](http://www.arabianhorses.org)

International Andalusian and Lusitano Horse Association  
[www.ialha.org](http://www.ialha.org)

International Friesian Show Horse Association

[www.friesianshowhorse.com](http://www.friesianshowhorse.com)

Missouri Fox Trotters Horse Breeders Association

[www.mfthba.com](http://www.mfthba.com)

Palomino Horse Breeders of America (PHBA)

[www.palominohba.com](http://www.palominohba.com)

Paso Fino Horse Association

[www.pfha.org](http://www.pfha.org)

Pinto Horse Association (PthA)

[www.pinto.org](http://www.pinto.org)

Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association  
[www.twhbea.com](http://www.twhbea.com)

Welsh Pony and Cob Society

[www.welshpony.org](http://www.welshpony.org)



## PROGRAMS THAT EXTEND THE USEFUL LIVES OF HORSES:



### **Wild Horses and Burros:**

One aspect of the unwanted horse situation that the coalition does not want to forget is the tens of thousands of America's wild horses and burros that are managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM has offered these horses for adoption for years under the Adopt-A-Wild Horse Program, but herd sizes continue to grow at a faster rate than horses are adopted. This is a growing part of the issue of unwanted horses, and a private organization has been created to help deal with this situation.

The Mustang Heritage Foundation is dedicated to helping increase the successful adoptions of America's excess Mustangs and burros. The Mustang Heritage Foundation works with the BLM and other adoption-oriented programs to find quality homes for these animals. In addition the foundation has created training programs designed to involve knowledgeable horsemen and horsewomen in the gentling of Mustangs prior to adoption. The organization is also committed to creating a more marketable horse through improving selection and expanding and enhancing training programs for critical mustang age groups.

Mustang Heritage Foundation  
[www.mustangheritagefoundation.org](http://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org)

### **Racehorses:**

Although many require a knowledgeable trainer/handler, with proper re-training, ex-racehorses are suitable for myriad horse-related activities. They have been successful at all levels of competition in multiple disciplines, including eventing, show jumping, barrel racing, dressage, trail riding, endurance, and roping. They also make excellent pleasure riding horses and companion animals. Those interested in providing a home in which to extend the useful life of an ex-racehorse can find information through the following organizations:

American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA)  
[www.aqha.com](http://www.aqha.com)  
The Jockey Club  
[www.jockeyclub.com](http://www.jockeyclub.com)  
National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA)  
[www.ntra.com](http://www.ntra.com)  
United States Trotting Association (USTA)  
[www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com)

### **More Information:**

For an extensive listing of breed organizations and other groups that offer programs and activities for horses, see the Horse Industry Directory published annually by the American Horse Council. You can reach them at (202) 296-4031.