

Equine Welfare Data Collective

Frequently Asked Questions



What are we?

A collaboration to accumulate, analyze, and report data to enhance programming for transitioning and at-risk equines.

Who are we?

The Equine Welfare Data Collective (EWDC) was created by the United Horse Coalition (UHC), a program of the American Horse Council (AHC), with funding partners being The Right Horse Initiative (TRH), The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), and the American Association of Equine Practitioners Foundation (AAEPF).

We are collecting national data on at-risk and transitioning equines from adoption centers, transition centers, rescues, sanctuaries, shelters, and other organizations involved in equine welfare.

We collect and share baseline trends such as capacity, current population demographics, intakes, and outcomes.

Why are we doing this?

Most of the current data on equine welfare in the United States is anecdotal and we feel we've done what we can with the data we have. As funders and industry professionals, we identified a need for accurate and credible data.

We must measure progress and identify risks and opportunities within the industry on a national scale, so organizations like yours can develop impactful and sustainable programs.

How do we accomplish this?

Online surveys are distributed to organizations in the United States involved with helping equines in transition. We are transparent with our methodology to encourage participation and produce credible data.

Results remain anonymous with no identifying factors of contributing organizations.

Why should your group become a member and contribute data?

Your data contribution provides for more accurate study results to help you understand and communicate the scope of the issues you are tackling, better serve your community, and become a benchmark among industry leaders.

Organizations such as UHC, TRH, and ASPCA will be looking for your contribution to the EWDC as part of their funding considerations for certain grants.

Contributing organizations are the first to receive reports, attend member roundtable discussions, and are given an EWDC member badge for their website to publicly demonstrate their commitment to our mission.

To learn more or to become a member and contribute data:

Contact program manager Emily Stearns at EWDC@HorseCouncil.Org

Or visit us at www.unitedhorsecoalition.org/ewdc/

Will the EWDC use this data to promote slaughter?

No. The EWDC was formed with the principal goal of providing data to the public that is pivotal to improving the welfare of at-risk and transitioning equines. The data analysis is given freely in an objective manner to educate all about the current status of at-risk equines, those in transition, and the organizations that assist them. Everyone has access to the same data analysis, and we do not restrict, nor promote, the use of the analysis for any one endeavor.

What do the results mean for horses at risk?

This data demonstrates the varied demographics of the at-risk equine population, the population of organizations assisting them, and the various ways equines are entering and exiting available assistance programs. We feel our reports are a key aspect to understanding how to improve and expand programming for at-risk equines and those in transition.

How do you determine your necessary sample size?

Our goal is to collect from the largest sample size possible. 27% is the response rate for the inaugural report, and we constantly strive to recruit more organizations to participate.

Why didn't you include other types of groups in the industry? Why is it just nonprofit, 501(c)(3), and municipal organizations that take custody of equines?

Data was collected from the types of groups whose primary mission involves serving horses in transition: rescues, shelters, adoption agencies, sanctuaries and municipal organizations. We felt this population was a key starting point as they can receive grant funding, public donations, and other public funding. As we grow, we are beginning to survey other aspects of the community, such as groups that provide direct placement services. i.e. assisting transitioning equines without taking custody of them.

Can I see the individual survey results?

We do not share the full dataset as we always strive to maintain the privacy of our respondents. Our results are audited and verified by a third-party data analyst and the entire report is peer reviewed by an independent organization.

How do you know the reported breeds are correct?

All our data is self-reported by the 501(c)(3), nonprofit, and municipal organizations. This includes data on breeds. Some breeds, such as Thoroughbreds tattooed with registration numbers, use permanent forms of identification that link to breed registries. Organizations contributing data estimate breeds to the best of their ability and according to their own standard procedures.

What does this first report say about the capacity of the entire population of shelters?

Currently, it is out of the scope of the EWDC survey to make national projections due to the sample size. However, it is promising to note that the respondents, representing one quarter of all welfare organizations, reported a total daily capacity of over 13,000 equines.

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