



# UNITED HORSE COALITION

EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. COLLABORATE.



## CONTACT:

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# TERMINONLOGY

Changing the way we talk about “unwanted” horses.

- **AT-RISK:** An equine that has an increased possibility of experiencing a situation of neglect, abuse, or general poor welfare.
- **IN TRANSITION:** Any equine that is currently in transition from one home, vocation, opportunity or owner to the next.



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# WHAT DOES AN AT-RISK HORSE LOOK LIKE?



Avalanche, 12 yo  
Appaloosa stallion



Takoda, 5 yo  
Mustang mare

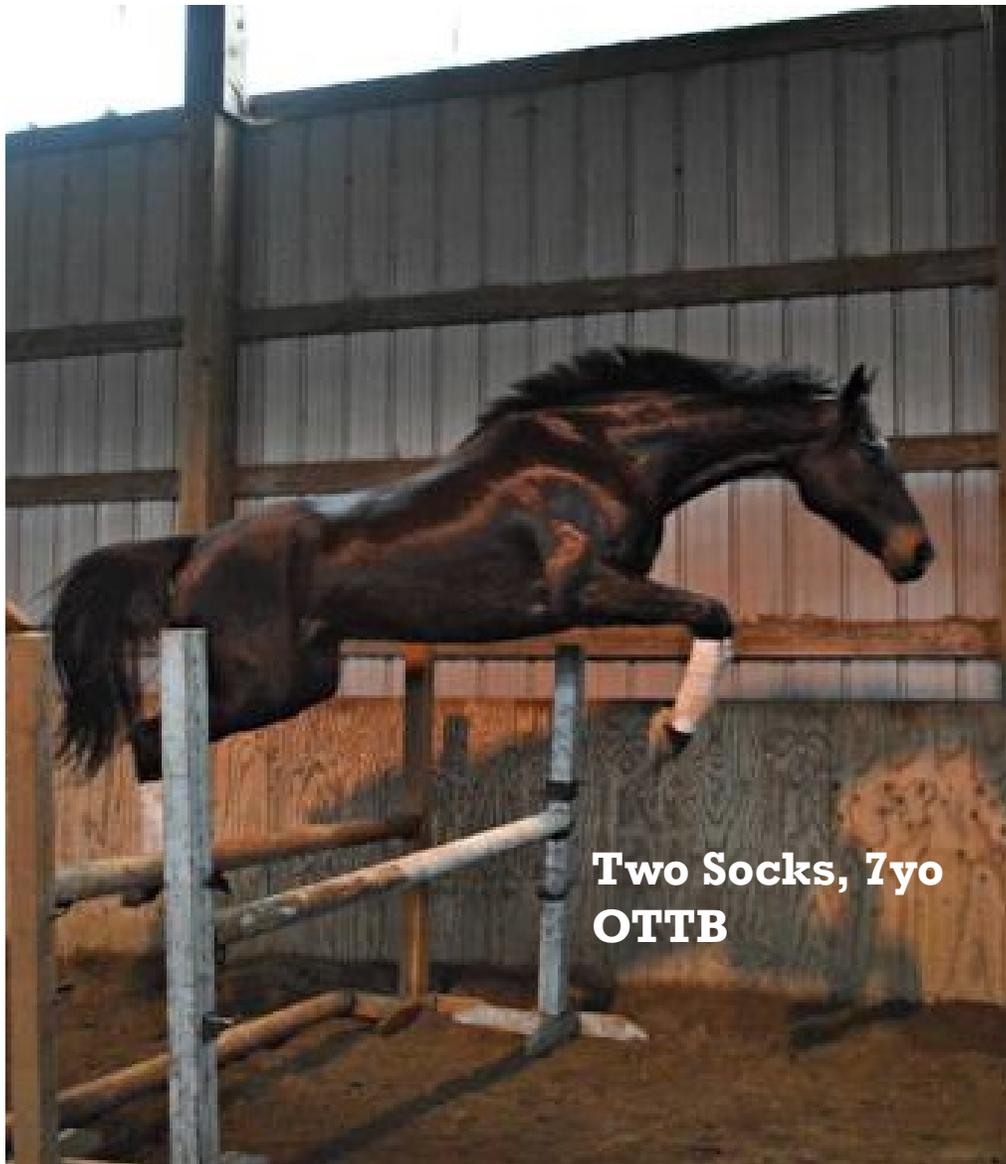


Jack, 16 yo  
Appendix QH  
gelding



Toby, 2 mos  
Orphan foal





**Two Socks, 7yo  
OTTB**

# WHAT DOES AN AT-RISK HORSE LOOK LIKE?

- Old
- Incurably Lamé
- Medical Issues
- Behavioral Problems
- Unattractive or wrong color
- Not athletic enough
- Is Dangerous to themselves or others
- Fails to meet owner's expectations
- Costs too much to keep
- Normal, healthy horses too!



# UHC HISTORY:



- United Horse Coalition came about through the Unwanted Horse Summit in 2005
- Key stakeholders came together to start a dialogue on the issue.
- Purpose was to develop consensus on the most effective ways to address the issue of horses at-risk or in transition.
- In June 2006 the UHC was folded into the American Horse Council



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## WHO IS THE UHC?

- A broad alliance of diverse equine organizations within the Horse Industry.
- Inclusive member base = wide range of knowledge and experience, excellent opportunity for collaboration to drive positive change within the equine industry.
- Provide information and important resources for:
  - Current horse owners
  - Prospective horse owners
  - Breeders
  - Sellers
  - And other horse organizations

# UHC MEMBERS: OUR DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

## Members:

- Industry Partners
- Rescues
- Sanctuaries
- State Horse Councils
- Associations
- Equine Businesses
- Foundations
- And more!

## Levels of Membership:

- Full Membership
- Associate Membership
- Supporting Membership
- Non-Profit Membership



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# THE UHC CURRENTLY CONSISTS OF 241 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- 6 Full Members
- 4 Associate Members
- 6 Supportive Members
- 225 Non-Profit Members



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# FULL MEMBERS



**American Association  
of Equine Practitioners**





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# ASSOCIATE AND SUPPORTIVE MEMBERS

## Associate Members



## Supportive Members

- Arabian Horse Association **R**
- Kentucky Horse Council
- Maryland Horse Breeders Association
- Retired Racehorse Project **R**
- Standardbred Transition Alliance
- United States Dressage Federation
- United States Equestrian Federation
- United States Hunter Jumper Association
- United States Polo Association



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# NON-PROFIT MEMBERS



- 13 Hands Rescue
- 1 Horse At A Time Draft Horse Rescue
- A Little Bit Of Heaven Inc.
- A Place For Peanut Inc.
- All About Equine Animal Rescue Inc 🇺🇸
- Allegiance Ranch and Equine Rescue Inc.
- America's Equine Sanctuary
- Angel Wings Equine Rescue (fka Ways Ranch)
- Animal Response Foundation
- Animal Services & Assistance Program
- Arabian Horse Rescue & Education
- Beauty's Haven Farm and Equine Rescue, Inc.
- Believe Ranch and Rescue
- Beyond The Roses Equine Rescue and Retirement
- Big Hearts Horse Rescue
- Blue Bonnet Equine Humane Society 🇺🇸
- Blue Rose Ranch, Inc 🇺🇸
- Bodega Meadows Horse Sanctuary
- Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Horsemanship Program 🇺🇸
- Borderlands Horse Sanctuary
- Broken Road Horse Rescue
- Brook Hill Retirement Center for Horses, Inc
- By His Grace Equine Rescue
- CANTER Michigan 🇺🇸
- CANTER USA
- Cape Fear Equine Rescue Inc
- Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare Inc 🇺🇸
- Carolina Equine Rescue & Assistance 🇺🇸
- Central Oregon Equine Rescue
- Central Pennsylvania Horse Rescue
- Changing Fates Equine Rescue of Delaware Inc
- Coastal Arabians and Equine Rescue Inc
- Florida Thoroughbred Retirement and Adoptive Care Inc
- Francis, Florence, and Friends Equine Rescue
- Full Circle Equine Rehabilitation Center
- Gaited Advocate Intervention Team Inc 🇺🇸
- God's Cavalry Rescue Ministry Services
- Godspeed Horse Hostel Inc
- Great Escape Mustang Sanctuary
- Grey Oaks Equine Sanctuary
- Grune Heidi Farm Inc
- Guardian Hearts Equine Defenders
- Guardian Oak Growth By Giving
- Happy Endings Animal Rescue Sanctuary
- Happy Tails Haven
- Harmony and Hope Horse Haven 🇺🇸
- Harmony Horsecworks & Equine Welfare Fund
- Harmony New Beginnings Animal Rescue
- Hasty's Haven Inc
- Headin' Home Inc
- Healing Hearts With Horses
- Healing Horses One Child At A Time Inc
- Heart and Hooves Rescue and Sanctuary
- Hearts of Horse Haven
- Helping Hearts Equine Rescue
- Hickory Hill Farm 🇺🇸
- Hidden Acres Rescue For Thoroughbreds
- Hidden Pond Farm Rescue Rehab Rehome
- Homeward Horse and Hound of Mississippi
- Hooved Animal Humane Society
- Hooved Companion Project
- HOPE Acres Rescue 🇺🇸
- Hope For Horses, Inc 🇺🇸 🇺🇸
- Hope For Horses NC
- Hope's Castaways Equine Rescue Limited
- New England Equine Rescue-North, Inc.
- New Freedom Farm Inc
- New Hampshire SPCA
- New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸
- Newfoundland Pony Conservancy Center
- Next Step Horse Rescue (Equine 808 Horse Rescue)
- North Shore Horse Rescue and Sanctuary 🇺🇸 🇺🇸
- Old West Special Trails
- Painted Harts Rescue Corporation
- PA Racehorse Rehoming, Rehabilitation & Rescue (PARR)
- Panhandle Safe Hayven Equine Rescue Inc
- Pasture Pals Equine Rescue
- Peaceful Acres Horses Inc
- Peaceful Ridge Rescue
- Pine Meadow Horse Rescue & Sanctuary
- Pits R. Us All Breed Rescue
- Pleasure Acre Equine and Feline Rescue
- Powhatan Equine Rescue League
- RACE Fund, Inc 🇺🇸
- Racer Placers Inc 🇺🇸 🇺🇸
- Randy's Rescue NFP
- Redwings Horse Rescue & Sanctuary
- Refuge Farms Inc
- Remedy Ranch Rescue
- Rerun Inc 🇺🇸 🇺🇸
- Right Way Rescue Incorporated
- Rising Starr Horse Rescue 🇺🇸
- Riversong Ranch Rescue
- Roanchar Ranch Draft Horse Rescue 🇺🇸
- RVR Horse Rescue Inc.
- Saddlebred Rescue Inc 🇺🇸



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# NON-PROFIT MEMBERS

- Collar to Halter Forever Home Sanctuary
- Colorado Horse Rescue 🇺🇸 🇧🇪 🇩🇪
- Coyote Hills Equine Rescue and Therapeutic Riding
- Cracker Box Palace – Farm Animal Shelter
- Creekside Farm and Equine Rescue
- Cross Critters Rescue
- Crossroads Animal Rescue (CARE)
- D&R Acres Hobby and Rescue Farm 🇩🇪
- Daisy Chain LTD
- Daisy Girls Rescue
- Days End Farm Horse Rescue 🇩🇪 🇧🇪 🇩🇪
- Dharmahorse Equine Sanctuary
- Diamond B's Last Chance Rescue Ranch
- Draft Gratitude 🇩🇪 🇺🇸
- Drage Second Chance Ranch
- Dream Catcher Therapy Center, Inc. 🇩🇪
- Dreamcatcher Horse Ranch Rescue Center 🇩🇪 🇺🇸
- Dreamchaser PMU Rescue & Rehabilitation
- Easy R Equine Rescue
- End of the Trail Rescue, Inc. 🇩🇪
- EPONA Safe Haven
- Equestrian Inc Thoroughbred Rescue 🇩🇪
- Equine Advocacy of Louisiana
- Equine Outreach, Inc.
- Equine Rescue
- Equine Rescue And Adoption Foundation 🇩🇪 🇺🇸 🇩🇪
- Equine Rescue League 🇩🇪
- Equine Rescue of Aiken 🇩🇪
- Equine Rescue Outakuntrol
- Equine Rescue Resource Inc.
- Horse Haven of Tennessee Inc 🇧🇪
- Horse Heaven Rescue Wild Horse Challenge
- Horse North Inc
- Horse Protection Association of Florida, Inc 🇩🇪
- Horses 4 Heroes Inc
- Horses Healing Heroes
- Horses Lives Matter Equine Sanctuary
- Horses of Pamlico, Etc.
- Iron Horse Sanctuary Inc
- Janice Faye's Ranch
- Kentucky Equine Adoption Center 🇩🇪 🇩🇪 🇧🇪
- Last Chance Corral
- Lasting Impressions Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Leap of Faith Equine Rescue and Sanctuary
- Leilani Mae Horse Rescue
- Life Horse Inc 🇩🇪
- Lifeline Horse Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Lipizzan Rescue Foundation
- Little Hooves Rescue Incorporated
- Long Ear Rescue
- Lucky 7 Farms
- Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue 🇩🇪 🇩🇪
- Lucky Star Equine Rescue And Rehabilitation
- M & M Acres NFP
- Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals 🇩🇪 🇺🇸
- Mantino Life Center
- Maryland Horse Industry Foundation
- McConathy Farm Rescue Team
- Meadow Haven Horse Rescue
- MG Equine Rescue & Therapy
- Midwest Horse Welfare Foundation, Inc. 🇩🇪
- Safe From Slaughter Equine Rescue
- Safe Haven Equine Rescue 🇩🇪
- Saltrick Farms
- S&P Stables and Horse Rescue
- Save A Forgotten Equine (SAFE) 🇩🇪 🇩🇪
- Save Them All Horse Rescue
- Save Your Ass Long Ear Rescue
- Second Stride Inc 🇩🇪
- Serenity Farm Equine Sanctuary
- Seven Sisters Sanctuary
- Skagit Animals In Need 🇩🇪
- Silver Canyon Equine
- South Florida SPCA 🇩🇪 🇩🇪
- Southern Maryland Equine Miracles Ltd
- Southern Redhead Farms Rescue
- Spirit Acres Inc
- Stable Companions
- Starting Gaits Inc
- Sully's Heart Inc
- Sumner Brook Farm Inc
- Sunshine Horses Inc 🇩🇪 🇩🇪
- Tara Farm Rescue
- The American Saddlebred Legacy Foundation
- The Homestretch Thoroughbred Rescue
- The Hooved Companion Project
- The Mustang Acres Farm
- The Pegasus Project
- The Santana Center
- The Warriors of the Rainbow Horse Sanctuary Inc
- The Wings Programs, Inc
- This Old Horse Inc 🇧🇪
- Thoroughbred Athletes Inc 🇩🇪 🇩🇪



# NON-PROFIT MEMBERS

- Equine Spirit Sanctuary
- Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary 🐾
- Equine Welfare Network Inc
- Equine Well Being Rescue Inc
- Escalante Springs Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Faith N Friends Horse Rescue and Sanctuary 🐾
- February Star Sanctuary
- Feel Better Farm Equine and Farm Animal Sanctuary
- Ferry County Equine Rescue Team
- Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program 🐾
- Fleet Of Angels
- Forget Me Not Horse Rescue and Sanctuary
- F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Horse Rescue 🐾🐾
- Mile High Rescue
- Misfit Acres Inc.
- Misfit Island Inc.
- Missouri Forget Me Not Horse Rescue and Sanctuary 🐾🐾
- Mountain Oasis Animal Sanctuary
- Mountain Valley Horse Rescue 🐾
- Mountainview Horse Rescue
- Mustang & Wild Horse Rescue of GA Inc
- Mustangs MEND, Inc.
- Nassau County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- National Riding Stables Horse Rescue
- National Thoroughbred Welfare Organization
- Thoroughbred Charities of America
- Travellers Rest Farm Sanctuary
- Triple R Equine Ranch Inc
- Twisted Tails Inc
- Unbridled Thoroughbred Foundation 🐾🐾
- United Pegasus Foundation
- US Horse Welfare And Rescue
- Voice For Horses Rescue Network
- Walk In Faith Animal Rescue
- West Virginia Horse Network, Inc.
- Wild At Heart Horse Rescue
- Wild Horse Rescue Center 🐾
- Wildhorse Ranch Rescue
- Win Place Home 🐾
- Wings Programs Inc
- Woerth It Hollow Inc
- Yavapai Humane Society
- ZAR Horse Rescue, a part of Zois' Animal Rescue



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# PARTNERSHIPS / COLLABORATIONS

## A Home for Every Horse



**A HOME  
FOR EVERY  
HORSE**

Fed by 

## The Right Horse Initiative



**THE RIGHT  
HORSE  
PARTNER**

# GOALS OF THE UNITED HORSE COALITION:

THE UHC IS COMMITTED TO HELPING HORSES AT-RISK, OR IN TRANSITION BY:

- Educating current and future horse owners on Responsible Ownership, proper care and breeding, and options available before a horse reaches a state of being at-risk.
- Raising awareness about the issue of horses at-risk, and its impact on the horse industry.
- Reducing the number of horses at-risk and working toward eliminating the problem.
- Ensuring that horses are treated humanely and with dignity



# GOALS OF THE UNITED HORSE COALITION:

THE UHC IS COMMITTED TO HELPING HORSES AT-RISK, OR IN TRANSITION BY:



- Facilitating the exchange of information on adoption, care, and alternative careers
- Providing information on end-of-life decisions, including veterinary decisions, euthanasia, and disposal.
- Explaining the issue through presentations at industry gatherings, including horse association meetings, conferences, symposiums, and horse fairs.

# WHAT DO WE DO?

Through industry collaboration, the UHC promotes education and options for at-risk and transitioning horses.

- Educated. Advocate. Collaborate.
- Educational Materials on Responsible Horse Ownership.
- UHC Resource Database
- The Equine Welfare Data Collective





# PROMOTING “RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP.”

**Prevention** is a great way to keep horses from becoming At-Risk in the first place. Helping owners make *responsible* decisions, by providing *responsible* choices.

# WHAT ARE OUR RESOURCES?

## Resources for Current Owners:

- Facilities that accept horses
- Questions to ask before surrendering/retiring a horse
- Feed and hay safety net programs
- Castration programs and clinics
- Funding for Veterinary Care
- Euthanasia programs and clinics
- Information on helping owners with end of life decisions
- Racing Aftercare, placement, and training
- Other programs

## Resources for Prospective Owners:

- Owning Responsibly
- Finding “The Right Horse”
- Basic Horse Care and Costs
- Alternatives to buying a horse
- Is horse ownership right for me?
- And other information

## Resources for Rescues and Sanctuaries:

- Guidelines for Rescues
- Accreditation
- Matching programs for horses and adopters
- Non-Profit Management
- Fundraising
- Equine Welfare Grants
- USTA Financial Assistance
- Other programs



The image shows a screenshot of the United Horse Coalition website. At the top left is the logo, which features a horse's head in profile inside a circular frame with a sunburst pattern. To the right of the logo, the text reads "UNITED HORSE COALITION" in a bold, sans-serif font, with the tagline "EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. COLLABORATE." underneath. Below the logo and tagline is a dark blue navigation bar with white text for the following links: "COVID-19 RESOURCES", "HOME", "ABOUT", "EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS", "RESOURCE DATABASE", "MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS", and "JOIN THE". The main content area has a light blue background with a blurred image of a horse in a field. Overlaid on this image is the text "OPTIONS FOR HORSE OWNERS WHO HAVE A HORSE AT RISK, OR IN NEED OF PLACEMENT" in a large, bold, dark blue font. On the right side of the page, there is a vertical sidebar with a dark blue background and white text, listing several resource categories: "Join Our Resource Database", "Own Responsibly", "Resources Available For Horses At-Risk Or In Transition", "Information For Current Owners", "Information For Rescues And Sanctuaries", "Information for Prospective Owners", "General Educational Information", "Youth Outreach and Resources", and "Equine Emergency And Disaster Preparedness".

Equine Resource Database  
Join Our Resource Database



- Searchable Database by type of resource or assistance program needed.

For a list of Rescues and Sanctuaries, select “All Resources” and search by state.

What type of resources or assistance program are you in need of?

All Resources

State

All States



SUBMIT

UHC would like to encourage those who have found the Equine Resource Database to be helpful to become a UHC Member by clicking [\[here\]](#) or consider making a donation [\[here\]](#) to help support and continue the important work being done to help at-risk horses and those in transition.



Search Results for:

Hay/Feed Assistance

Display

20

records

A Home For Every Horse

5720 Flatiron Parkway, Suite 210, Boulder, CO

Affiliations :

- United Horse Coalition Member
- A Home For Every Horse Member

Email : [ahfeh@equine.com](mailto:ahfeh@equine.com)

Website : <https://ahomeforeveryhorse.com/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/AHomeForEveryHorse>

Beech Brook Farm Equine Rescue

74 Anthony Rd, North Stonington, CT

(860) 705-8456

Affiliations :

Email : [beechbrookfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:beechbrookfarm@yahoo.com)

What type of resources or assistance program are you in need of?

Hay/Feed Assistance

State

All States

Are you looking for a breed specific organization?

All Breeds

What type of Affiliations?

All Affiliations

Select National or Local/Regional Programs

National AND Local/Regional Program

- User can search by different filter parameters, including by state, breed specific resources national programs, or local programs.
- UHC Members can help define filters that would be most useful!

## Add To Our Resource Database

Help horses at risk or in transition

Are you willing to allow UHC to provide this information on our database? \*

- Yes
- No

Name of Organization: \*

Primary Contact Name: (Individual completing this form.)

First

Last

Primary Contact's Position within the Organization:

Primary Contact's Phone Number:

This number will not be listed, and is only utilized should UHC need to follow up on this form.

Primary Contact's E-mail:

- Draft Breeds
- Other

Does your organization provide hay or feed assistance to the public? \*

- Yes
- No

Does your organization provide castration services or financial assistance for castrations to the general public? \*

- Yes
- No

Does your organization provide veterinary services, or financial assistance for veterinary services for owners in need? \*

- Yes
- No

Does your organization provide microchip services, or financial assistance for micro-chipping to owners in need? \*

- Yes
- No

Does your organization provide euthanasia services, or financial assistance for humane euthanasia to owners in need? \*

- Yes
- No

# UHC RESOURCE DATABASE QUESTIONNAIRE

Being sent to:

- All known equine welfare organizations nationwide
- 4H Groups
- Extension Specialists
- Veterinary Colleges and Universities
- State Horse Councils
- State Horse Specialists
- State Veterinarians/DAR
- Municipal Groups that assist with equines
- Equine Industry Orgs



HORSE OWNERS



EQUINE NON-PROFITS



EQUINE BUSINESSES



EQUINE INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES



STATE SPECIFIC RESOURCES

## CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES FOR HORSE OWNERS

Please note, resources will be added daily as they become available. Check this page frequently for ongoing updates.



### GENERAL INFORMATION ON COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS

#### (AS IT PERTAINS TO HUMANS)

Coronavirus Disease 2019 ([coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus))

Center for Disease Control and Prevention COVID -19 ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov))

COVID-19 CDC Youtube Informational Videos (CDC Youtube Official)

The Coronavirus Explained & What You Should Do (Video)

#### (AS IT PERTAINS TO EQUINES)

Coronavirus Resources – Equine Disease Communication Center

Equine Coronavirus and Covid-19: No evidence of horse-human spread ([Horsetalk.co.nz](https://www.horsetalk.co.nz))

Equine Coronavirus vs. COVID-19: Two Distinctly Different Diseases (Palm Beach Equine Clinic)

Can Your Animals Get Coronavirus? (UCDAVIS)

Coronavirus Updates (UCDAVIS)

Are your horses ready for you to be quarantined? ([thehorse.com](https://www.thehorse.com))

COVID-19 and Best Practices for Your Equestrian Activities ([eventingnation.com](https://www.eventingnation.com))

### SAFETY NET PROGRAMS FOR OWNERS

If you are in need of safety net programs for your horse (such as feed or veterinary assistance), click [here](#) to be directed to the UHC Resources available for horses at-risk or in transition.

Horse Owner Help During COVID-19 ([Horse.com](https://www.horse.com))

**STAY SAFE, STAY HOME!**

Rescues and shelters are stressed for resources during the COVID-19 crisis. Reduce costs to help you keep your horse as long as possible before seeking surrender options.

- Turn out as long as possible. It is much less labor intensive, will save money on bedding, and will help keep your horse sane and exercised!
- If your climate requires outdoor shelter, lease a shed temporarily to allow for 24/7 turnout.
- Consider turning out normally solitary horses with others if appropriate herd dynamics can be arranged and hay and water access safely managed.
- Increase hay consumption and decrease grain and supplements where possible. Hay cubes, hay extenders, and other pelleted forages are a nutritious and potentially less expensive option. Talk to your veterinarian before making any changes.
- Try round bales in place of traditional square bales to reduce labor as long as it will be consumed in a timely manner to prevent mold and waste.
- If your horse is shod, discuss with your veterinarian and farrier the possibility of pulling shoes temporarily.

At this critical time, community collaboration is essential. Reach out to others to get ideas and share resources!

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[www.unitedhorsecoalition.org](https://www.unitedhorsecoalition.org)

# COVID-19 RESOURCES

Resources specifically for:

- Horse Owners
- Equine Non-Profits
- Equine Businesses
- Equine Industry Employees
- Section for State Specific Resources

# UHC EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS:



## IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE RE-HOMING OR SURRENDERING A HORSE:

Finding a new home for a horse is not always an easy job and various equine facilities play a role in providing care or finding new owners for horses. Whether an owner is searching for the perfect retirement farm, looking to find their horse a new job in therapeutic riding or in the mounted patrol, or if they are in need of placement with a rescue or sanctuary, there are questions every owner should ask before giving up care and control of their horse.

In order to ensure that your horse is placed within the best-suited organization, please consider asking the organization(s) the following:

1. Does the facility subscribe to accepted guidelines for operating such facilities, such as the "Care Guidelines for Rescue and Retirement Facilities" prepared by the American Association of Equine Practitioners?
2. Is it an entity exempt from federal tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code?
3. Does it file IRS Form 990 and forms required by the state? Will the facility provide copies?
4. Does it have a mission statement and a board of directors? Who are they?
5. How long has the facility been operating?
6. If it is a facility that will use the horse, how will it be used?
7. Does the facility have ample room for horses to graze and/or move about?
8. Will the horse stay at the facility or be placed into foster care? If the facility uses foster care, how are foster homes screened?
9. Does it have an agreement regarding the use, boarding or care of the horse?
10. If it is a facility that adopts horses out, what are the requirements for adoption? Does the facility follow up with the new owners to ensure the horse is being properly cared for?
11. Does the facility have a policy against breeding or restrict the horse's use in any way?
12. What is the facility's post-adoption policy on breeding and use?
13. If this is an adoption facility, are stallions gelded upon entry and before adoption?
14. What becomes of the horse when the adopter or the user no longer wants the horse?
15. Will the organization advise you before your horse is transferred to a new owner?
16. Can the original owner ask for the horse back?
17. Will the facility provide routine and emergency veterinary and dental care and farrier needs?
18. Does the facility provide training/re-training for the horse?
19. What are the physical characteristics of the facility, including barns, pastures and shelters?
20. Can owners visit if they wish?
21. Have any welfare charges been brought against the facility?
22. Does the facility euthanize horses that cannot be placed? If so, will the facility notify the owner beforehand?
23. Does the facility appear to have adequate feed (hay, pasture, grain) for the number of horses on the property? What is the overall appearance of the facility?

## OWN RESPONSIBLY

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP AMERICA'S HORSES AT RISK OR IN TRANSITION.



An informational booklet for current and potential horse owners from the United Horse Coalition.

**EDUCATE:**

**MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON THE UHC WEBSITE OR HARD COPY:**

- The UHC Handbook, **Own Responsibly: Guidance for Current and Potential Horse Owners** from the United Horse Coalition.
- **UHC Own Responsibly** Brochure
- **UHC Gelding/Spaying** Brochure
- The 2009 **Unwanted Horse Survey**
- The UHC Handbook, **Best Practices: How Your Organization Can Help At-Risk Horses**
- **Rehabilitating the Neglected Horse: A Caregiver's Guide**

The UHC continues to spread the word about At-Risk Horses through the **UHC Roundup**. This newsletter is sent out via Facebook and E-mail, and contains UHC updates, industry highlights, and individual success stories.

Visit our website for further information on each of these resources available: [www.uhccoalition.org](http://www.uhccoalition.org)

**ADVOCATE:**

**THE AT-RISK HORSE:**

A 2009 survey conducted by the UHC revealed three primary reasons why a horse reaches an at-risk state:

1. changes in owner's situation
2. the horse is too old or injured
3. the horse is unmanageable

**OWN RESPONSIBLY, OWNING RESPONSIBILITY:**

Regardless of how a particular horse reaches a state of being at-risk, it is the **responsibility of every owner, and the industry at large**, to ensure that we are doing everything possible to prevent horses from becoming at-risk. Luckily, this issue is recognized by equine organizations, businesses, and individuals alike, and is one for which numerous industry groups are currently working towards a solution.

The **United Horse Coalition** is one of them.

**COLLABORATE:**

**WHO WE ARE:**

The **United Horse Coalition** is a broad alliance of equine organizations that have joined together under the **American Horse Council (AHC)** to educate the equine industry about the issue of horses at-risk or in transition.

The UHC is an **educational alliance** that seeks to provide information for current and prospective owners, breeders, sellers, and horse organizations, regarding the **long-term responsibilities** of owning and caring for horses, as well as focusing on opportunities available for these horses. UHC also provides information regarding end of life decisions, including veterinary care, euthanasia, and disposal options.

The **United Horse Coalition** works closely with industry leaders and equine organizations to stay up-to-date on current issues and initiatives.

**UHC RESOURCE DATABASE:**

*UHC is continuously expanding it's collection of resources...*

**RESOURCES FOR CURRENT OWNERS:**

- Facilities that accept horses
- Questions to ask before surrendering/retrieving a horse.
- Feed and Hay Safety Net Programs
- Castration programs and clinics
- Funding for Veterinary Care
- Euthanasia programs and clinics
- Information on helping owners in end of life decisions
- Racing aftercare, placement, and training.
- Other programs

**RESOURCES FOR RESCUES/SANCTUARIES:**

- Guidelines for Rescues
- Accreditation
- Matching programs for Horses and Prospective Adopters
- Non Profit Management/Fundraising
- Equine Welfare Grants
- USTA financial assistance

**RESOURCES FOR PROSPECTIVE OWNERS:**

- Owning responsibly
- Finding "The Right Horse"
- Basic Horse Care and Costs
- Alternatives to buying a horse
- Is horse ownership right for me?
- and other important information

If you would like to help horses at risk or in transition, and want to be added to the UHC Resource database, please contact [uhc@horsecouncil.org](mailto:uhc@horsecouncil.org), or visit the UHC website at [www.uhccoalition.org](http://www.uhccoalition.org).



## ESTATE PLANNING FOR YOUR HORSE:

The following information is intended to be a general guide for estate planning as it applies to your horses. The UHC recommends contacting a knowledgeable attorney to guide you through the details of estate planning involving your equine.

While it's common for people to regularly think about what they need to do to establish their will and ensure that their property and belongings are taken care of in the event of their death, it's not common that their horses are included in this process.

Without a will, your horse could become the property of your heirs, and these family members may have no interest, or even the required knowledge, to inherit and care for your horse.

Some owners might just elect to have their horse sold at either a private sale or a dispersal sale at an auction. However, some owners may also be wary of this as once a horse leaves an auction, its fate can sometimes be unknown and the horse may end up in the wrong hands. Additionally, horses that are retired or have special needs might be more difficult to sell or place in a good new home.

### How do I protect my horses if they outlive me?

One of the first things to consider when estate planning is "Who": Who do you know among your equine contacts, friends, or family that has the knowledge, and most importantly, the desire to care for your horse after your death? Will this person not only be able to care for the horse, but will he or she also be able to successfully sell or rehome him?

Another consideration is "How": How does this person you have identified take ownership of your horse? Here there are two options: Naming the horse in a will; or creating a trust for the horse.

### Naming the Horse in a Will

A will is a legal document that allows you to leave property to certain individuals and organizations. Many owners will take the simplest option and state in their will that the horse must be given to this specific person. Some owners even leave a bequest of a specific amount of cash or property (if the horse is stabled on the owners property) to help cover the costs that will be associated with the care of the horse. However, it is also important to note that a will does not automatically give your estate away the minute you die. It must go through probate, which means it is filed with the court and becomes a public document that can be seen by anyone who looks up the file. Probate can take anywhere from 9 months to several years, depending on the complexity of the estate and whether challenges arise from family members to the will. A will may also require the payment of estate taxes. In conclusion, if you haven't made other plans for the probate period, your assets are not available to pay for horse's needs, such as board, feed, and farrier care, leaving your beneficiary on his or her own to incur the costs for caring for your horse.

**Additional note:** While probate assets are tied up during administration, the executor has a fiduciary responsibility to take care of estate assets which would include making sure that the horses that are part of the estate are cared for.



# UHC EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS:

## TIPS FOR LESSON BARN DURING COVID-19

*Keeping your business afloat and your community engaged during uncertain times!*

Loss of lesson income is devastating not only for lesson barns, but also the horses in the program. In addition to the tips below, check out our Cost Saving Tips for Barns during COVID-19 and other resources at [www.unitedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unitedhorsecoalition.org)

- Your clients love and care about the horses in your program - ask them to become involved and **sponsor their favorite lesson horse!**
- **Apply for feed assistance** - examples of available programs in your area can be found at [www.unitedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unitedhorsecoalition.org).
- **Seek Small Business Loans** through the CARES act, or Economic Injury Disaster Loans. More information at: [sba.gov](http://sba.gov) --> Coronavirus Relief Options.
- **Keep your community engaged!** Host a Live Stream story time with a horse, or virtual lesson program such as "how to groom."
- Check if your veterinarian or farrier offers **payment plans**.
- **Lease out your lesson horses** off farm temporarily, or within your own barn if safe to do so.
- **Sell gift cards or vouchers** for future riding lessons.
- **T-Shirt Fundraiser** with funny barn related catch phrases. (Everyone loves a good pun!)



- Offer a social distancing drive through your farm "neigh"-borhood to visit the horses, or a "picnic at the farm" option for a household.

**Get creative and share your ideas with others!**



## STAY SAFE, STAY HOME!



Rescues and shelters are stressed for resources during the COVID-19 crisis. Reduce costs to help you keep your horse as long as possible before seeking surrender options.

- **Turn out as long as possible.** It is much less labor intensive, will save money on bedding, and will help keep your horse sane and exercised!
- If your climate requires outdoor shelter, **lease a shed** temporarily to allow for 24/7 turnout.
- **Consider turning out normally solitary horses with others** if appropriate herd dynamics can be arranged and hay and water access safely managed.
- **Increase hay consumption and decrease grain and supplements** where possible. Hay cubes, hay extenders, and other pelleted forages are a nutritious and potentially less expensive option. Talk to your veterinarian before making any changes.
- **Try round bales in place of traditional square bales** to reduce labor as long as it will be consumed in a timely manner to prevent mold and waste.
- If your horse is shod, discuss with your veterinarian and farrier the possibility of **pulling shoes temporarily**.

**At this critical time, community collaboration is essential. Reach out to others to get ideas and share resources!**

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



## TIPS FOR ADOPTING A HORSE DURING COVID-19

*If you're able to do so, now is a great time to welcome a new horse into your home!*

Many rescues are still adopting during COVID-19. By adopting you save two lives - the horse you adopt, and the horse that is able to take its place at the rescue. Most rescues want to ensure the best possible match between horse and a new adopter, leading to a greater chance of a long-term home for the horse. They may also provide ongoing education and assistance to an adopter as the horse transitions into the new home.

Here's some tips on adopting your new partner:

- Check out online listings such as **A Home For Every Horse, My Right Horse, and Petfinder.com**.
- **Call in advance** to learn their adoption process - many follow social distancing recommendations and are by appointment only.
- **Research the rescue** - are they a registered 501c3 or nonprofit? Do they have any accreditations? Do they follow the AAEP Care Guidelines for Equine Rescue? Will they take back the horse if you can no longer keep it?
- **Have a list of references** in case the rescue requires them - usually a farrier, a trainer, and/or a veterinarian.
- **Take a video** of you riding to send to the rescue so they can facilitate a good match. In return, request a video of the horse's ground manners and recent work under saddle (if applicable).
- If you cannot meet the horse, ask if the rescue has a **foster to adopt** option - this allows you to get to know the horse better before finalizing an adoption, and opens up resources for the Rescue.
- **Complete adoption paperwork in advance** to minimize face to face interaction and exposure.
- Check out [www.unitedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unitedhorsecoalition.org) to learn how to Own Responsibly, and find a rescue local to you.

**Adopt a new horse today!**



# “JOIN THE EFFORT” BOOKLET

- Going through an update for 2021
- Also known as “Best Practices: How Your Organization Can Help.”
- A culmination of industry activities and programs available to help at-risk horses and promote Responsible Ownership
- Booklet is a living document and is meant to change and be updated as new programs and initiatives are developed.
- Revised copy will be sent to UHC Members for revisions/additions.

## JOIN THE EFFORT

UPDATED FOR 2020



Programs to Help At-Risk  
Your Organization Can Help



UNITED HORSE  
COALITION  
EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. CARE.

### STARTING AT THE WALK: SMALL STEPS



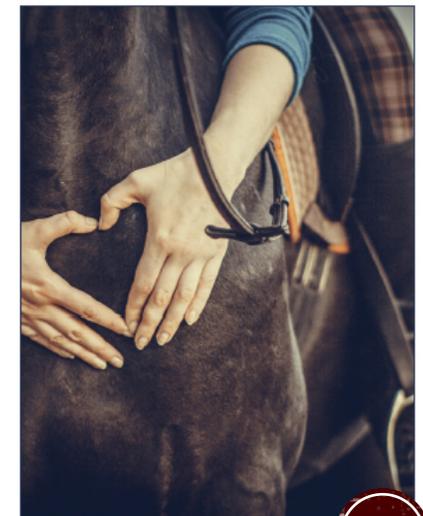
*Introducing 16 specific ways a group of any size can help at-risk horses.*

**1** Identify someone who cares about at-risk horses to be a point person for your organization or event. This individual should be given some time to stay up-to-date on industry issues and efforts. (S)he can ensure every activity provides an opportunity to bring awareness or direct support to at-risk horses, starting with the ideas in this publication.

**2** Request and Distribute materials about responsible ownership and responsible breeding. You do not have to spend time or resources recreating the wheel. There are many excellent resources available from organizations willing to share their work.

The AAEP has a brochure on [What to Expect When Owning a Horse](#), and the AVMA publishes a guide to [Selecting a Horse](#).

The UHC provides educational materials free of charge on the UHC website at [www.unitedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unitedhorsecoalition.org). All you have to do is share with your members, clients, new owners, and/or the general public.



United Horse Coalition: Join the Effort



IS HORSE OWNERSHIP RIGHT FOR ME?



CARING FOR YOUR HORSE



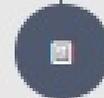
RESPONSIBLE BREEDING



FINDING THE RIGHT HORSE



ESTATE PLANNING FOR YOUR HORSE



OPTIONS FOR OWNERS WHO CANNOT KEEP THEIR HORSE



QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN RE-HOMING OR SURRENDERING



PROGRAMS THAT EXTEND THE USEFUL LIVES OF HORSES



TAX RAMIFICATIONS OF CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS



END OF LIFE DECISIONS AND EUTHANASIA



DISPOSAL OPTIONS FOR EQUINES

# NEW OWNER PACKET (COMING 2021)

- Packet filled with Responsible Ownership materials also available on our website
- Available for distribution anywhere a horse changes ownership
  - Adoption facilities
  - Sales Barns
  - Breeding Barns
  - Auctions
- Could also include provisions like buy back agreements, first right of refusal contracts, Full Circle programs etc.

A close-up photograph of a horse's mouth, showing its teeth and tongue. The horse is looking towards the camera. A semi-transparent grey text box is overlaid on the top half of the image, containing the title. The background is a blurred field of yellow flowers and green grass under a blue sky.

# TRANSFORMING OUR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS / INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY

- Replicating our educational materials into other types of mediums
- Video's, educational modules, 1-page graphics, etc.
- Allows for a wider range of options to share this important information
- Makes the information less dry, and more palatable for the general public and horse owners.



# Equine Welfare Data Collective

**Program Manager**

Emily Stearns

[EWDC@HorseCouncil.org](mailto:EWDC@HorseCouncil.org)



# Mission

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**Provide rescues, sanctuaries, municipal facilities, funding agencies, certifying agencies, and all others involved in the equine community with the data necessary to evaluate and guide actions that support equines at-risk and in transition.**



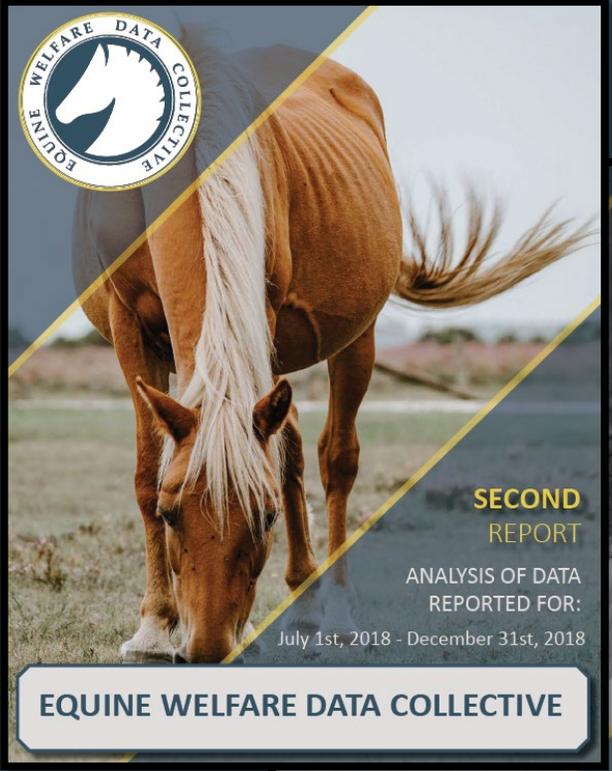
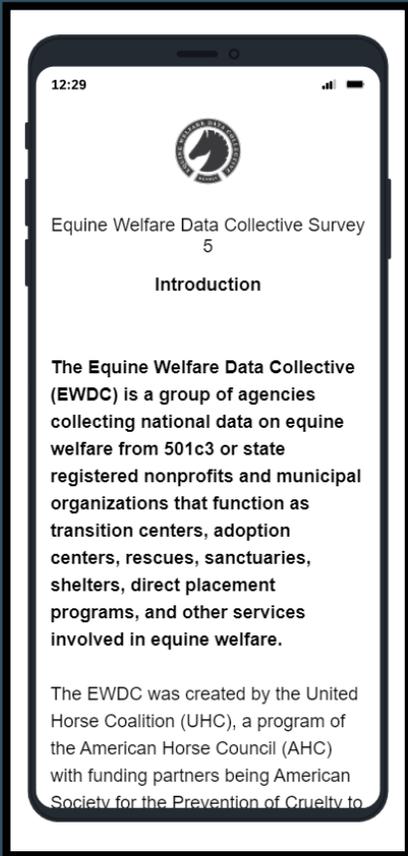


# Accomplishments

- Database of over 1000 equine welfare orgs
- Data from 30% of equine welfare population
- 2 published reports
- Ambassador program
- Intern program



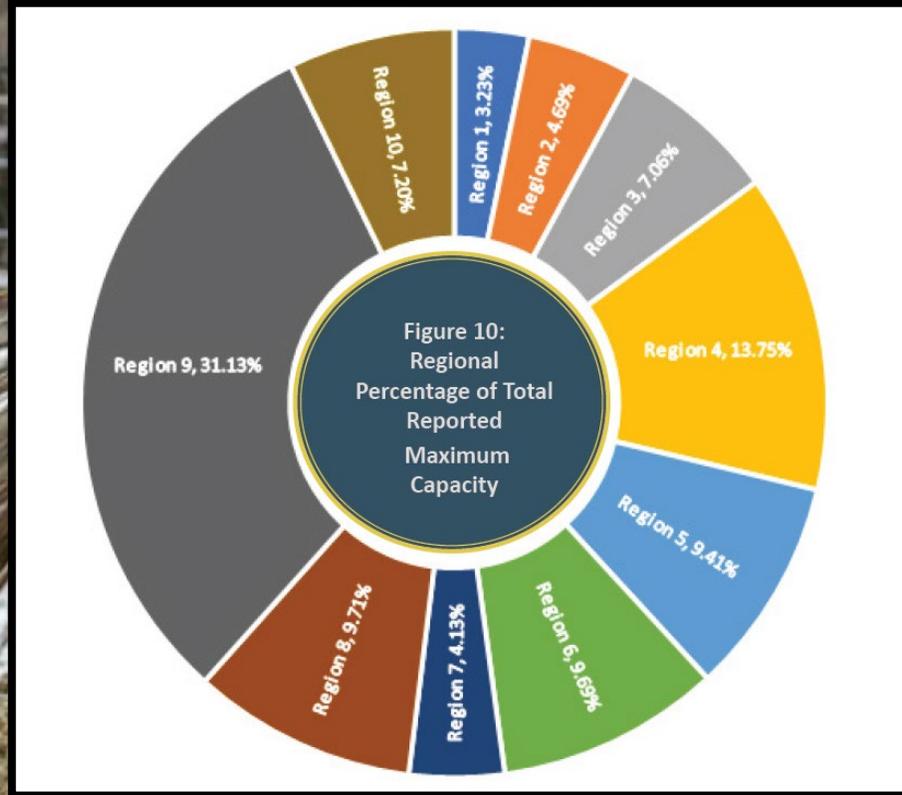
# How it works



[unitedhorsecoalition.org/submit-data/](http://unitedhorsecoalition.org/submit-data/)

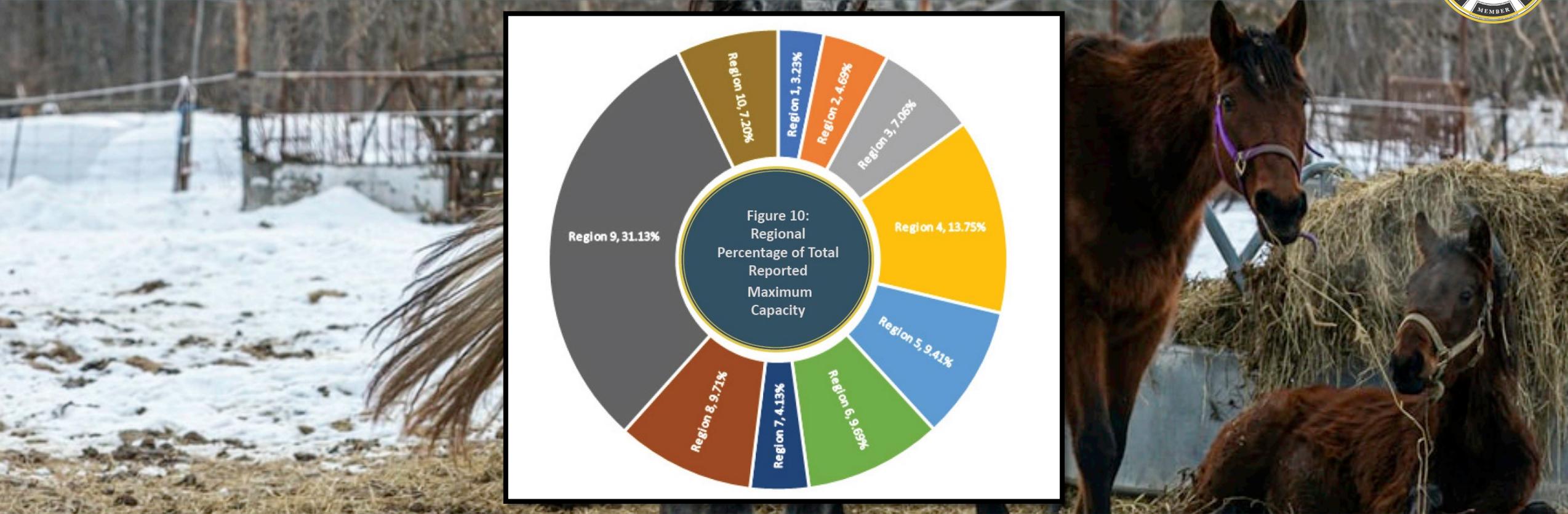


# Second Report Data



# Estimated Daily Max. Cap: 47,194

(95% CI, Std. Err. 4,664  
L 95% 38,017 U 56,370  
Accounting for outliers)





# Animal Shelter Software Education

## Webinar 1

Review of software geared to organizations that provide shelter/rescue support or sanctuary/retirement services.

## Webinar 2

Review of software geared to organizations that provide primarily safety net and direct placement services.

## Webinar 3

Fundraising and volunteer management.

All webinars recorded and available online



# WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP AT-RISK HORSES

- Own Responsibly
- Have contingency plans in place for your horse
- Include your horse in your Estate Planning
- Breed Responsibly
- Join the UHC Ambassador Program
- Volunteer at rescues or rehoming facilities
- Donate to UHC or your local rescue – or help raise funds.
- Share UHC materials on Responsible Ownership



# BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

Let's work at the root of the problem together –  
before a horse becomes at-risk.

Learn the facts and share them with other horse  
owners and breeders, clubs and organizations.

**Help the UHC spread the word to  
“Own Responsibly”**



# UNITED HORSE COALITION

EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. COLLABORATE.



**Thank you for listening!**  
**Feel free to contact UHC with any questions.**