



## **Fourth REPORT**

ANALYSIS OF DATA  
REPORTED FOR:

January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020

# **EQUINE WELFARE DATA COLLECTIVE**





Our data analysis is verified by  
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This report has been peer reviewed by  
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**Director of Equine Programs,**  
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**University of Denver.**

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## A LETTER FROM THE UNITED HORSE COALITION

The United Horse Coalition (UHC) is pleased to share with you the 4<sup>th</sup> Equine Welfare Data Collective Report.

The UHC continues to reflect on all that happened from 2019 through 2021, and the ramifications of COVID on the equine industry. We are proud of the continued efforts and role the Equine Welfare Data Collective plays in furthering our mission of helping at-risk horses and those in transition.

This report will help us begin to understand COVID's impact on at-risk equines. It is through data that we can comprehend without bias where we stand, and how we measure up when it comes to equine welfare in this nation.

It is important that all organizations contribute to this data whenever applicable so that we can better recognize and shape programs for the equines and owners who need us the most.

It bears repeating that this data truly is what you, our contributors, and readers, make of it. Dive into the details of the report, share your findings with others, talk about what inferences you are making or seeing in its pages. Think about what you would like to see for the future. Use this data to help facilitate discussions on where advancements can be made, as well as programs and initiatives that are working well to make true and lasting changes. On behalf of UHC and the equines who rely on us most, thank you.

**Ashley Harkins**

UHC Program Director

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## A LETTER FROM THE EQUINE WELFARE DATA COLLECTIVE

With each report published by the EWDC, information critical to helping owners and equines in need spreads throughout the community. As our knowledge base grows, so too does the power of welfare organizations and the industry to assist those reaching out for help.

While attending the November 2021 Equine Affaire in Springfield, MA, Ashley Harkins and I had many amazing conversations with all walks of equine life. One note rang clear; this information is needed and wanted by the community to better understand the specifics of owners and equines in need and how to identify successful programming to aid them.

Once again we find ourselves working to evaluate this information in the hold of the on-going pandemic. As with many initiatives now, the current working environment creates added logistical difficulties. Data submissions were slow to come in, and organizations are still anecdotally reporting difficulties staffing their programs and making time to participate.

The data in this report represents the hard work of hundreds of organizations with thousands of people helping tens of thousands of equines each year. We are constantly moved by the sheer force of good works happening within our communities to assist equines and owners.

As we look to the future, we're building a strategic plan to continue to grow our sample sizes and encourage participation. We hope you'll continue along with us in whatever capacity you're able.

**Emily Stearns**

EWDC Program Manager

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**If you or someone you know needs assistance,  
visit our resource database to find help:**

[UnitedHorseCoalition.org/equine-resource-database/](https://UnitedHorseCoalition.org/equine-resource-database/)

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## INTRODUCTION

The Equine Welfare Data Collective (EWDC) is a collaboration to accumulate, analyze, and report data to enhance programming for transitioning and at-risk equines. The EWDC was created by the United Horse Coalition (UHC), a program of the American Horse Council Foundation (AHCF). Funding partners include the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) including The Right Horse Initiative, The Foundation for the Horse, and the USA Equestrian Trust.

Our data analysis is verified by Matthew Konopka (Data Analyst and Consultant, San Francisco, CA) and this report has been peer reviewed by Nina Ekholm Fry, MSSc., CCTP, Director of Equine Programs, Institute for Human-Animal Connection, University of Denver.

We understand the power of data and how it can vastly shift the dialogue around an issue and drive positive change. We strive to remain unbiased in the process of data collection, analysis, and presentation. The EDWC does not direct or determine how individuals and organizations use the information provided in reports.

The EWDC greatly values the privacy of our users. The data they have chosen to share with us contains sensitive information. All data is aggregated with identifying information removed once authentication is complete. Raw data is never shared without the contributing organization's explicit permission.



## INTRODUCTION

The EWDC launched its first survey in November 2018. The data analyzed in each report is a snapshot of a specific time period as told by the numerous 501(c)(3) and municipal organizations that assist at-risk equines and those in transition across the United States. The analysis is provided on a national and regional level.

This report and all previous reports can be viewed at:  
<https://unitedhorsecoalition.org/ewdc/#ewdc-reports>





## DATA COLLECTION

**The EWDC maintains a database of 501(c)(3), nonprofit, and municipal organizations within the United States and Puerto Rico that assist at-risk equines and those in transition. These organizations are eligible to receive grants, public funding, and donations. They are often the “first line of defense” to assist local law enforcement with animal confiscations.**

This database was created by searching publicly available information within the IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search <sup>(1)</sup>; individual state tax exempt databases<sup>(2)</sup>, and nonprofit auditing companies such as Charity Navigator. Organizations were also located via social media groups; through web searches using combinations of the words “equine”, “horse”, “pony”, “rescue”, “shelter”, and “sanctuary”; and provided directly by partner organizations.

Organizations listed in the database are verified by the EWDC using Form 990, EIN numbers, and Letters of Determination. The database is updated on an ongoing basis and undergoes an annual audit to remove organizations that are no longer in operation.

The EWDC’s choice to solicit data specifically from 501(c)(3), nonprofit, and municipal organizations represents one option to better identify and understand the needs and trends of at-risk equines and those in transition in the U.S.

**The survey in its entirety can be seen at  
[www.unitedhorsecoalition.org/submit-data](http://www.unitedhorsecoalition.org/submit-data)**



## DATA COLLECTION

Two surveys were built in Qualtrics® to collect data for 2020, each representing one six-month time period: January 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020 and July 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020.

Organizations in the EWDC database were contacted via phone and email between July 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021 to solicit participation in the data collection for 2020. Participation reminders were provided via phone and email until the end of the data collection period. A link to the surveys was also posted on the United Horse Coalition website.

This report includes data from organizations who responded to both 2020 surveys as well as organizations that have previously submitted data for all time periods between 2018 and 2020.

Population data specifically for non-custodial services was also obtained from the United Horse Coalition Equine Resource Database<sup>(3)</sup>.

Organizations with duplicate submissions and those with considerable response outliers were contacted via phone and email to confirm their survey responses. Only one set of data per time period was analyzed for each respondent. Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) were used to identify organization respondents and detect duplicate submissions. All identifying information such as name, phone number, and email address were removed from the dataset before analysis. Region designations were assigned based on Federal Census Regions<sup>(4)</sup> (Appendix A).

A glossary of terms used in this report can be found in Appendix B.





## POPULATION

977

Organizations within the United States (including Puerto Rico) that take custody of at-risk equines and those in transition.

247

Organizations reporting non-custodial safety net services (i.e. hay banks, veterinary assistance, euthanasia services, training services, etc.)

Many organizations offer both types of services, but that has not yet been fully evaluated.

In 2020, the EWDC found a total of 1041 nonprofit, 501(c)(3), and municipal organizations within the United States and Puerto Rico that assist at-risk equines. Of these, 977 organizations provide custodial services. Data collected by the United Horse Coalition on available safety net services in the United States showed 247 organizations that provide non-custodial services. These services include feed banks, veterinary assistance, castration assistance, direct placement services, euthanasia-related services, and more.

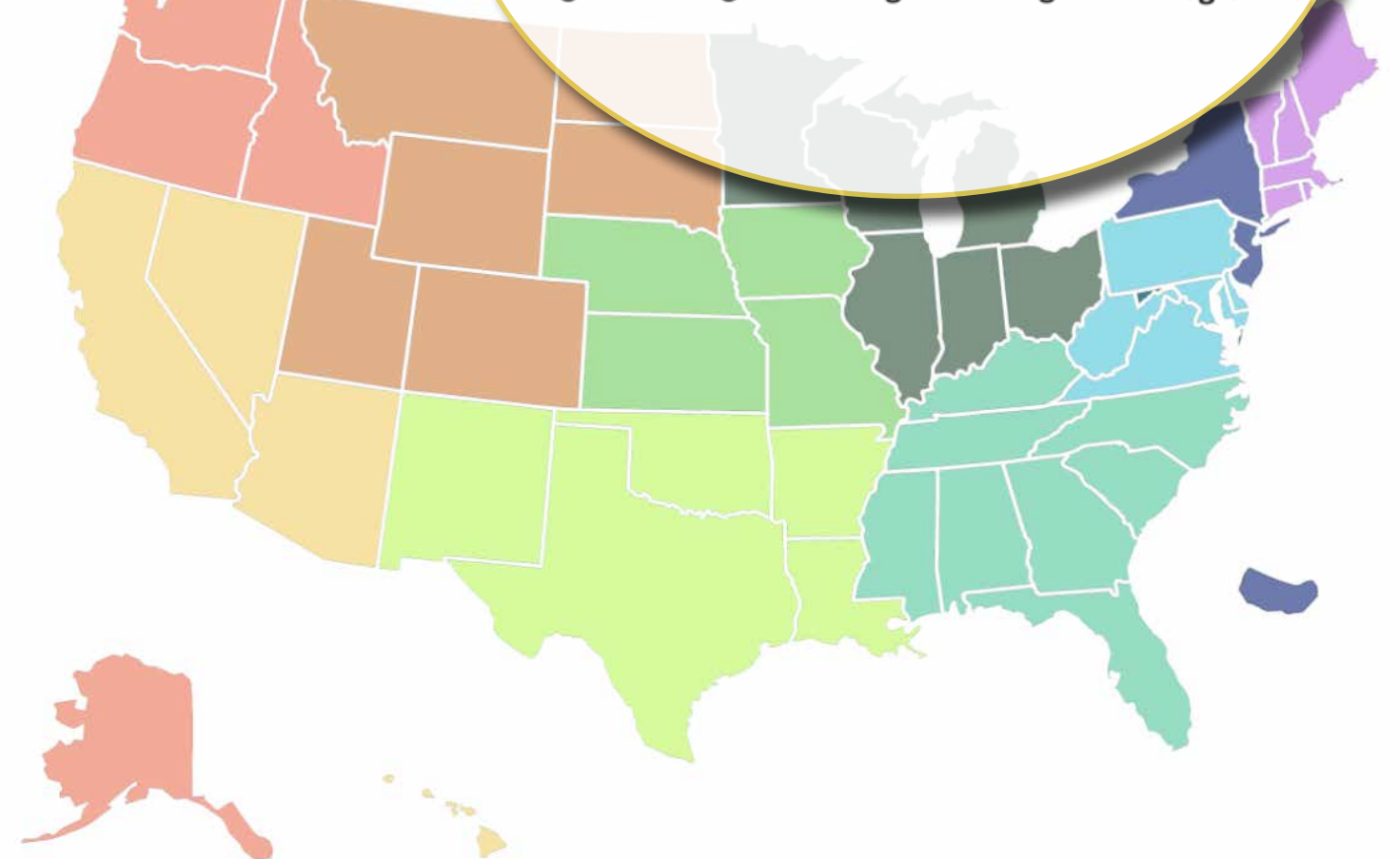
To date, the EWDC has had 359 organizations custodial organizations submit at least one time period of data, representing 36.7% of the entire population. 221 organizations have submitted at least one full year worth of data (22.6% of total population). 22 organizations have submitted full data sets for all of 2018-2020 (2.2% of total population).

As in previous reports, data was solicited for two six-month time periods (January - June 2020 and July - December 2020). For this report, analysis was only completed on data submitted for the full year. The EWDC felt this was a critical aspect to understanding potential impacts of COVID-19 on equine welfare. A total of 167 organizations submitted partial data for 2020. Out of those, 76 organizations submitted complete data for 2020. A full table of state organization populations and participation can be found in Appendix C.



## POPULATION

What's your region?





## POPULATION



## POPULATION

Table 1

### Total Population Size

*Organizations assisting at-risk equines and EWDC participation rates from 2018-2020*

Region	Total Population	2018-2020 Complete Participants	% of Total Population	Count Full Year 2020 Participants	% of Total Population	Jan-Jun 2020 Partic.	% of Total Population	Jul-Dec 2020 Partic.	% of Total Population
1	49	1	2.0%	4	8.2%	8	16.3%	7	14.3%
2	65	1	1.5%	3	4.6%	9	13.8%	7	10.8%
3	105	4	3.8%	10	9.5%	16	15.2%	13	12.4%
4	194	2	1.0%	15	7.7%	26	13.4%	25	12.9%
5	118	2	1.7%	10	8.5%	15	12.7%	18	15.3%
6	98	4	4.1%	6	6.1%	12	12.2%	9	9.2%
7	38	2	5.3%	4	10.5%	5	13.2%	6	15.8%
8	89	4	4.5%	11	12.4%	18	20.2%	17	19.1%
9	159	2	1.3%	7	4.4%	17	10.7%	15	9.4%
10	62	1	1.6%	6	9.7%	9	14.5%	7	11.3%
National	977	23	2.4%	76	7.8%	135	13.8%	124	12.7%



## NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

### Non-Custodial Services

Non-custodial data reporting represents services for owners and equines experiencing temporary difficulties without organizations having to take legal custody of an equine.

Any changes noted programs in this dataset comparative to 2019 could be a result of many factors, not just the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. This may be inclusive of changes in services, funding, owner awareness of the availability of programs, changing socioeconomic factors, and more. Until more data is collected, significance of trends and potential causation unknown.

#### *Safety Net Services*

Non-custodial services are inclusive of “safety net services”. These services include hay banks, veterinary assistance, husbandry assistance, euthanasia and related services, and more. These are intended to be short term assistance solutions to facilitate owners maintaining custody of their equines during times of need. Until more data is collected, it is unknown if the changes in average rates of requests and fulfillments per organization year to year are significant.

For the full year of 2020, 59.2% of respondents submitted data for non-custodial services. 40.8% of organizations reported not keeping formal records of requests for assistance or fulfillments. As similarly reported for 2019, some organizations have a greater than 100% fulfillment rate. Several organizations document requests for assistance by one owner for multiple equines as a single instance, but the services provided are recorded as multiple fulfillments.



## NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

In 2020 the average requests per organization was 11.8 (n=45) and the average fulfillments was 10.9 (n=45). The total fulfillment rate nationally was 91.9%. Organizations identifying as Sanctuaries (n=8) reported an average of 9.5 requests per organization and 9.0 fulfillments per organization. Organizations identifying as Rescue/Transition/Adoption Centers (n=26) reported an average of 16.1 requests per organization and 14.4 fulfillments per organization. Organizations identifying as both Sanctuaries and Transition centers (n=10) reported an average of 3.5 requests per organization and 4.9 fulfillments per organization.

#### *An important note on Direct Placement Programs*

Direct placement programs facilitate transitioning equines from one home to another without taking legal custody of the equine. The responding sample size for the full year of 2020 was 6 organizations. This sample size is too low for us to analyze, and further work will be done in following reports to track the positive impact of direct placement for at-risk equines.





NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES



NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Table 2  
Safety Net Service Requests and Fulfillments

	Sample Size	Requests Feed	Avg Per Org	Requests Vet Care	Avg Per Org	Requests Behavior	Avg Per Org	Requests Disaster	Avg Per Org	Requests Hsbndry	Avg Per Org	Requests Castration	Avg Per Org	Requests Other	Org	Total Requests	Total Avg per org
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	41	204	5.0	152	3.7	23	0.6	80	2.0	19	0.5	16	0.4	96	2.3	418	10.2
Combination	21	5	0.2	11	0.5	20	1.0	23	1.1	13	0.6	1	0.0	0	0.0	35	1.7
Municipal	1	1	1.0	2	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.0
Sanctuary	13	30	2.3	12	0.9	1	0.1	5	0.4	9	0.7	2	0.2	19	1.5	76	5.8
Total	76	240	3.2	177	2.3	44	0.6	108	1.4	41	0.5	19	0.3	115	1.5	532	7.0

	Sample Size	Fulfill Feed	Avg Per Org	Fulfill Vet Care	Avg Per Org	Fulfill Behavior	Avg Per Org	Fulfill Disaster	Avg Per Org	Fulfill Hsbndry	Avg Per Org	Fulfill Castration	Avg Per Org	Fulfill Other	Avg Per Org	Total Fulfillments	Total Avg per Org
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	41	204	5.0	152	3.7	23	0.6	80	2.0	19	0.5	16	0.4	96	2.3	418	10.2
Combination	21	5	0.2	11	0.5	20	1.0	23	1.1	13	0.6	1	0.0	0	0.0	35	1.7
Municipal	1	1	1.0	2	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.0
Sanctuary	13	30	2.3	12	0.9	1	0.1	5	0.4	9	0.7	2	0.2	19	1.5	76	5.8
Total	76	240	3.2	177	2.3	44	0.6	108	1.4	41	0.5	19	0.3	115	1.5	532	7.0

Percent Fulfilled of all Requests		46.3%		128.2%		104.5%		29.6%		68.3%		105.3%		21.7%		91.9%	
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NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Euthanasia and Disposal Services

Of the 76 respondents that submitted data for the full year of 2020, 17 (22.4%) provide structured community requested euthanasia assistance as a routine service.

Respondents reported 66 requests for euthanasia assistance and were able to fulfill 44 requests (66.7% fulfillment rate). Similar to safety net assistance records, some organizations recorded a request by an owner for multiple equines as one instance, and the fulfillment as multiple instances. This results in some regions reporting a fulfillment rate above 100%. As we move forward in collecting this data the EWDC will develop more detailed questions to better assess community euthanasia programs.



NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

The average number of requests per organization in 2020 was 3.9 (n=17) while the average number of fulfillments was 2.6 (n=17). In 2019 the average number of requests per organization was 2.3 (n=42) and fulfillments was 1.6 (n=42). The national fulfillment rate for 2019 (n=42) was 71.1%.

Additionally in 2020, the EWDC collected the number of euthansia service requests an organization could potentially fulfill annually. The average potential fulfillments per organization was 12.5 service requests annually.

The EWDC continued to track reasons for Owner Requested Euthanasia as provided by respondents. Respondents are able to select all available reasons listed. As seen in 2019, equine related issues, with heavy bias for equine age and equine health, were the main reasons given for owner requested euthanasia. It is noted that Equine Age was the most reported reason for January-June 2020 (58.8% of organizations selecting, n=17) and Equine Health was the most reported reason for July-December 2020 (70.6% of organizations selecting, n=17). Until more data is collected, it is unknown if this annual variability is significant.

	Sample Size	Euth Req.	Avg Per Org	Euth. Fulfillments	Avg Per Org	% Fulfilled	Reported Capacity for Services	Avg Per Org
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	11	50	4.5	42	3.8	84.0%	164	14.9
Combination	3	7	2.3	1	0.3	14.3%	30	10.0
Sanctuary	3	9	3.0	1	0.3	11.1%	20	6.7
Total	17	66	3.9	44	2.6	66.7%	214	12.6

Table 3: Owner Requested Euthanasias and Fulfillments





## NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES



## NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

*Table 4 Primary Reasons for Owner Request Euthanasia as Reported by Organizations  
January-June 2020*

(n=17)	Euth. Owner Age	Euth. Owner Health	Euth. Finances	Euth. Relocating	Euth. Behavior	Euth. Equine Age	Euth. Equine Health	Euth. Unknown	Euth. Other
Adoption/Rescue/ Transition Center	2	2	0	1	1	5	3	0	0
Combination	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	0
Sanctuary	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
Total	3	3	0	1	2	10	6	0	0
Percentage of all reporting organizations	17.7%	17.7%	0.0%	5.9%	11.8%	58.8%	35.3%	0.00%	0.00%

*Table 5 Primary Reasons for Owner Request Euthanasia as Reported by Organizations  
July-Dec 2020*

(n=17)	Euth. Owner Age	Euth. Owner Health	Euth. Finances	Euth. Relocating	Euth. Behavior	Euth. Equine Age	Euth. Equine Health	Euth. Unknown	Euth. Other
Adoption/Rescue/ Transition Center	0	1	1	0	1	3	8	0	0
Combination	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Sanctuary	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Grand Total	1	2	2	0	1	5	12	0	0
Percentage of all reporting organizations	5.9%	11.8%	11.8%	0.00%	5.9%	29.4%	70.6%	0.00%	0.00%





Custodial Services

Custodial services encompass any program that necessitates an organization to take legal custody of an equine. This includes but is not limited to law enforcement confiscation, owner relinquishment, and adoption services.

Rehoming Requests

The EWDC asked organizations that provide custodial services to report the number of requests they receive to take custody of privately owned equines for rehoming. 76 respondents reported rehoming requests from January 2020 to December 2020. 27 (35.5%) did not keep direct record of the number of requests. There were no correlations between the number of requests received and the time of year.

Organizations identifying as sanctuaries received the least number of requests per organization (8.9, n=9), while organizations identifying as a combination of Adoption/Rescue/Transition Centers and Sanctuaries received an average of 26.4 requests per organization (n=12). Organizations identifying solely as Adoption/Rescue/Transition centers reported an average of 19.9 requests per organization (n=27). The average request per organization in 2020 was 38.2 (n=49), in 2019 it was 34.0 (n=140). As this is only the second year this datapoint has been collected and the large variability in sample size, it is yet unknown if this is a significant increase in average requests for rehoming.

Similar to requests for euthanasia services, all respondents were asked to identify the most common reasons owner give for needing to rehome their equines. Unlike requests for euthanasia services, there was no significant change in reasons given for owner requested rehoming between January-June 2020 and July-December 2020.



Table 6: Owner Requests for Rehoming  
January-December 2020

	Sample Size	Rehome Requests	Relinq. Jan-Dec 2020	% Fulfillments	Requests per Organization
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	27	1077	819	76.0%	19.9
Combination	12	633	345	54.5%	26.4
Municipal	1	0	0	0.0%	0.0
Sanctuary	9	161	58	36.0%	8.9
Total	49	1871	1222	65.3%	38.2





## Custodial Services

Similar to 2019, requests for owner rehoming centered on owner related reasons such as Owner Finances (61.8% January-June 2020, n=76) and Owner Health (34.1% January-June 2020, n=76).

Unlike 2019 where “Other” was cited by fewer than 10% of organizations as a reason given for rehoming, “Other” was given as a reason for rehoming with “COVID” being cited as the specific reason by 15.8% of organizations in January-June 2020 and 22.4% of organizations July-December 2020 (n=76). 14.6% (n=41) of Adoption/Rescue/Transition centers selected “Other (COVID)” as a primary reason for rehoming January-June 2020 compared to 26.8% (n=41) in July-December 2020. This compares to 7.00% of sanctuaries reporting “Other (COVID)” January-June 2020 (n=13) and 15.4% from July-December 2020 (n=13).

In 2019 Owner Health was chosen as a primary reason for owner requested rehoming by 55.9% of organizations compared to less than 40% in 2020. It is unclear if “Other (COVID)” as selected by organizations relates specifically to owner related health issues, or pandemic related logistical or financial issues.

Regional changes in reported reasons for rehoming varied greatly between January-June 2020 and July-Dec 2020. This variability may be related to regional lockdown procedures and economic impacts of COVID; however further data collection is necessary as the pandemic regulations continued through 2021. Overall, there was a 6.6% increase in the number of organizations reporting “Other (COVID)” from January-June 2020 to July-December 2020 (n=76).

As this datapoint wasn’t collected for the entirety of 2019, it is unknown if changes in percentages of organizations reporting other reasons for rehoming is significant.







## Custodial Services



## Custodial Services

*Table 7 Primary Reasons for Owner Rehoming Jan-June 2020*

	Sample Size	Owner Age	Owner Health	Owner Finances	Owner Relocating	Equine Behavior	Equine Age	Equine Health	Other (COVID)
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	41	6	14	27	8	6	4	9	6
Combination	21	6	10	13	5	4	4	3	5
Municipal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanctuary	13	4	2	7	2	1	4	4	1
Grand Total	76	16	26	47	15	11	12	16	12
Percentage	-	21.1%	34.2%	61.8%	19.7%	14.5%	15.8%	21.1%	15.8%

*Table 8 Primary Reasons for Owner Rehoming July-Dec 2020*

	Sample Size	Owner Age	Owner Health	Owner Finances	Owner Relocating	Equine Behavior	Equine Age	Equine Health	Other (COVID)
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	41	12	15	23	5	4	5	12	11
Combination	21	8	10	16	5	3	4	4	4
Municipal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanctuary	13	3	4	7	1	0	4	7	2
Grand Total	76	23	29	46	11	7	13	23	17
Percentage	-	30.3%	38.2%	60.5%	14.5%	9.2%	17.1%	30.3%	22.4%



## Custodial Services



## Custodial Services

*Table 9 Regional Percent Change of Primary Reasons for Owner Rehoming June 30,2020 to December 31, 2020*

Region	Sample Size	Owner Age	Owner Health	Owner Finances	Owner Relocating	Equine Behavior	Equine Age	Equine Health	Other (COVID)
1	4	0.0%	25.0%	50.0%	0.0%	-25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-25.0%
2	3	33.3%	33.3%	0.0%	33.3%	-33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	-33.3%
3	10	30.0%	10.0%	20.0%	30.0%	-10.0%	-10.0%	20.0%	20.0%
4	15	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%	-13.3%	0.0%	-6.7%	0.0%	13.3%
5	10	10.0%	10.0%	-40.0%	-20.0%	0.0%	-10.0%	10.0%	20.0%
6	6	0.0%	0.0%	-66.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%
7	4	0.0%	-25.0%	0.0%	-50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-25.0%
8	11	9.1%	-9.1%	18.2%	9.1%	-9.1%	0.0%	9.1%	-9.1%
9	7	0.0%	-14.3%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%
10	6	16.7%	16.7%	0.0%	-50.0%	0.0%	33.3%	16.7%	0.0%
Grand Total	76	9.2%	3.9%	-1.3%	-5.3%	-5.3%	1.3%	9.2%	6.6%





Length of Stay and Capacity

Length of stay is a critical data point to understanding the current annual national capacity for assisting at-risk equines and those in transition in the custody of equine welfare organizations. In the EWDC Third Report, the EWDC identified preliminary data of average lengths of stay for all types of organizations. Currently the EWDC is working to build a large enough sample size of Length of Stay to make national estimates.

For this report, the Intake to Capacity ratio was analyzed over a 3-year time span to understand potential turnover rates of organizations. The turnover rate compares how many equines an organization assists annually to their reported maximum daily capacity.

**An Intake:Capacity ratio greather than 1 signifies an organization is able to assist greater than 100% of their maximum reported daily capacity annually and thus would have an average length of stay less than 365 days. Understanding turnover rate will eventually allow for national estimates on annual capacity for custodial services.**

**A decreasing Intake:Capacity ratio would signify an increasing length of stay. An increasing Intake:Capacity ratio would signify a decreasing length of stay.**

We also analyzed the average percent of intakes per organization without an outcome. This takes into account equines in custody that remained in care at the end of the reporting period. A negative rate of intakes without outcomes suggests a greater number of equines leaving the care of an organization than active intakes, correlating to an increase in availability of “stalls” for custodial services.

**As the 3-year trend sample size is small, it should be noted that this data point is a snapshot of reporting organizations and not necessarily a commentary on the larger population of custodial organizations.**



Reporting Adoption/Rescue/Transition centers (n=13) experienced a decrease in turnover rates from January 2018-December 2020. Reporting organizations that identify as Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center/Sanctuary combinations (n=9) experienced an increase in turnover rates from January 2018-December 2020.

Organizations reported varying percentages of intakes without outcomes between January 2018 and December 2020. Overall, Adoption/Rescue/Transition centers (n=13) saw a significant reduction between January 2018 and December 2020 in percentage intakes without outcomes, and Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center/Sanctuary combinations (n=9) saw an overall increase in percentage of intakes without outcomes.

	Sample Size	Jan-June 2018	July-Dec 2018	Jan-Jun 2019	July-Dec 2019	Jan-Jun 2020	July-Dec 2020
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	13	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3
Combination	9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.2
Total	22	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3

Table 10: Average Turnover Rate

	Sample Size	Jan-June 2018	July-Dec 2018	Jan-Jun 2019	July-Dec 2019	Jan-Jun 2020	July-Dec 2020
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	13	4.0%	23.1%	-2.6%	11.1%	-43.0%	-10.3%
Combination	9	-25.4%	28.0%	30.7%	-58.9%	-5.8%	-7.6%
Total	22	-8.0%	25.1%	11.0%	-17.5%	-27.8%	-9.2%

Table 11: Percent of Intakes without Outcomes



## Intakes and Outcomes

### Intake and Outcome Data Trends from 2018-2020

The EWDC now has a limited dataset of intake and outcome data from 22 custodial organizations spanning from January 2018 to December 2020. As stated before, since this dataset is a relatively small sample size, further data collection is necessary to understand if these trends are reflective of the population of custodial organizations at large.

The 22 organizations reported data in 6-month sections from January 2018 to December 2020.

	Sample Size	Jan-June 2018	July-Dec 2018	Jan-Jun 2019	July-Dec 2019	Jan-Jun 2020	July-Dec 2020
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	13	32.5	10.7	29.1	28.2	22.3	25.9
Combination	9	12.7	9.8	9.1	16.9	11.0	22.7
Total	22	24.4	10.3	20.9	23.6	17.7	24.6

Table 12: Average Total Intakes per Org. by Org. Type

	Sample Size	Jan-June 2018	July-Dec 2018	Jan-Jun 2019	July-Dec 2019	Jan-Jun 2020	July-Dec 2020
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	13	32.8	6.4	27.9	23.2	23.8	27.2
Combination	9	9.8	6.7	8.4	10.7	10.8	18.8
Total	22	23.4	6.5	20.0	18.0	18.5	23.7

Table 13: Average Total Outcomes per Org. by Org. Type



## Intakes and Outcomes

The EWDC Third Report noted a rise in intakes and a decrease in outcomes from 2018 to 2019. This trend can be seen in this sample set. Anecdotally it was thought that the ongoing pandemic may cause a rise in intakes and a decrease in adoptions.

While there was an increase in intakes from December 2018 to December 2019, and overall decrease outcomes during that time period, there was an initial decrease in intakes in the first half of 2020 and an increase in outcomes. In the second half of 2020 there was an overall increase in intakes, with the average intakes per organization nearing pre-pandemic rates, the number of adoptions and outcomes increased as well.

	Sample Size	Jan-June 2018	July-Dec 2018	Jan-Jun 2019	July-Dec 2019	Jan-Jun 2020	July-Dec 2020
Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center	13	26.0	3.6	21.2	18.2	19.2	21.5
Combination	9	6.1	5.4	6.2	6.4	9.3	13.3
Total	22	17.9	4.4	15.0	13.4	15.1	18.1

Table 14: Average of Total Adoptions per Org. by Org. Type

	Sample Size	Jan-June 2018	July-Dec 2018	Jan-Jun 2019	July-Dec 2019	Jan-Jun 2020	July-Dec 2020
Intakes	22	24.4	10.3	20.9	23.6	17.7	24.6
Outcomes	22	23.4	6.5	20.0	18.0	18.5	23.7
Adoptions	22	17.9	4.4	15.0	13.4	15.1	18.1

Table 15: All Average Intakes, Outcomes, and Adoptions per Org.





## Intakes and Outcomes

Types of intakes and types of outcomes varied across all organizations (n=22) from 2018-2020. The percentage of Law Enforcement confiscations decreased overall from 2018-2020 and Owner Relinquishment increased. Adoptions from 2018-2020 increased as a percentage of overall outcomes. There was a small increase in euthanasias as a percentage of total outcomes from 2018 to 2020, a decrease in natural deaths, and a decrease in transfers of custody to other organizations.



## Intakes and Outcomes

n=22	Jan-June 2018	July-Dec 2018	Jan-June 2019	July-Dec 2019	Jan-Jun 2020	Jul-Dec 2020
Stray/At Large	1.1%	8.3%	3.8%	6.0%	4.9%	2.0%
Surrendered	44.0%	43.4%	49.3%	58.7%	48.6%	58.0%
Adoption Return	4.7%	4.7%	5.2%	9.1%	4.4%	7.2%
LE Confisc.	22.7%	7.5%	18.3%	8.7%	12.7%	8.9%
Transferred In	5.7%	6.6%	8.3%	10.0%	5.7%	9.0%
Public Auction	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%	0.9%	2.6%	1.5%
Kill Pen	6.7%	9.0%	9.1%	6.4%	7.1%	10.4%
Born in Shelter	0.7%	2.0%	0.9%	0.3%	3.0%	0.4%
Other	7.6%	2.5%	2.7%	0.0%	6.4%	2.7%

Table 16: Intake Types as Percentage of All Intakes

n=22	Jan-June 2018	July-Dec 2018	Jan-June 2019	July-Dec 2019	Jan-Jun 2020	Jul-Dec 2020
Adoption	69.2%	49.7%	64.8%	65.5%	72.7%	72.0%
Return to Owner	0.5%	0.4%	3.6%	0.9%	0.1%	0.3%
Transferred Out	0.9%	3.1%	4.4%	4.3%	3.1%	3.3%
Euth All	12.9%	20.0%	21.1%	18.1%	14.5%	18.7%
Died in Care	2.7%	3.5%	1.5%	2.2%	0.5%	0.2%
Other Out	9.2%	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.5%

Table 17: Outcome Types as Percentage of All Outcomes





### Intakes and Outcomes from January 2020-December 2020

The EWDC received data for January-June 2020 from 135 organizations and data for July-December 2020 from 124 organizations. 76 organizations submitted data for the entire year of 2020. To fully understand potential impacts of COVID, this report only analyzed data for the full year of 2020 (n=76). All regions are represented, as can be seen in Table 1 in the population report.

The EWDC chose not to analyze breed data in this report, as the preliminary data analysis showed no significant differences in ratios of breeds between 2020 and previous years. Further breed information will be analyzed in later reports as more data is submitted.

It should be noted that some organizations had discrepancies in the number of horses in custody on June 30, 2020 and July 1, 2020. Organizations with discrepancies were contacted, but most were unable to account for the variance.







## 2020 Intakes and Outcomes

National (n=76)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (Jan-June 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2020	35.2	2678	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.2	18	1.4%
B. Relinquished by Owner	11.1	843	64.3%
C. Adoption Return	0.9	71	5.4%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	1.0	77	5.9%
E. Transferred in from another agency	1.2	88	6.7%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.9	71	5.4%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.9	70	5.3%
H. Born in shelter	0.3	22	1.7%
I. Other Intakes	0.7	52	4.0%

Total Intakes:	1312
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (Jan-June 2020)
J. Adoption	10.8	822	83.0%
K. Return to Owner	0.1	6	0.6%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.3	19	1.9%
M. Euthanized	1.6	120	12.1%
N. Died in care	0.2	14	1.4%
O. Other Outcomes	0.1	9	0.9%

Total Outcomes:	990
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Total In Custody June 30, 2020	3000
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	3355
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	89.4%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	24.5%
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## 2020 Intakes and Outcomes

National (n=76)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (July-Dec 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's custody on July 1, 2020	33.7	2559	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.4	34	2.5%
B. Relinquished by Owner	11.9	905	66.5%
C. Adoption Return	1.1	81	6.0%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	1.3	97	7.1%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.9	67	4.9%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.5	40	2.9%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	1.3	97	7.1%
H. Born in shelter	0.1	4	0.3%
I. Other Intakes	0.5	36	2.6%

Total Intakes:	1361
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (July-Dec 2020)
J. Adoption	13.4	1019	82.2%
K. Return to Owner	0.1	5	0.4%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.5	35	2.8%
M. Euthanized	1.7	129	10.4%
N. Died in care	0.1	10	0.8%
O. Other Outcomes	0.5	41	3.3%

Total Outcomes:	1239
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Total In Custody December 31 2020	2681
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	3386
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	79.2%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	9.0%
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## 2020 Intakes and Outcomes

Region 1 (n=4)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (Jan-June 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2020	12	48	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.3	1	2.4%
B. Relinquished by Owner	3.3	13	31.7%
C. Adoption Return	0.0	0	0.0%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.0	0	0.0%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.3	1	2.4%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.8	3	7.3%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	4.8	19	46.3%
H. Born in shelter	0.5	2	4.9%
I. Other Intakes	0.5	2	4.9%

Total Intakes:	41
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (Jan-June 2020)
J. Adoption	3	12	57.1%
K. Return to Owner	0	0	0.0%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.5	2	9.5%
M. Euthanized	1.75	7	33.3%
N. Died in care	0	0	0.0%
O. Other Outcomes	0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	21
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Total In Custody June 30, 2020	68
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	140
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	48.6%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	48.8%
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## 2020 Intakes and Outcomes

Region 1 (n=4)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (July-Dec 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's custody on July 1, 2020	11.8	47	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
B. Relinquished by Owner	3.3	13	29.5%
C. Adoption Return	0.8	3	6.8%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.0	0	0.0%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.0	0	0.0%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.3	1	2.3%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	6.3	25	56.8%
H. Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
I. Other Intakes	0.5	2	4.5%

Total Intakes:	44
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (July-Dec 2020)
J. Adoption	5	20	90.9%
K. Return to Owner	0	0	0.0%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0	0	0.0%
M. Euthanized	0.5	2	9.1%
N. Died in care	0	0	0.0%
O. Other Outcomes	0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	22
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Total In Custody December 31 2020	69
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	150
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	46.0%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	50.0%
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## 2020 Intakes and Outcomes

Region 2 (n=3)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (Jan-June 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2020	27.7	83	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
B. Relinquished by Owner	17.7	53	82.8%
C. Adoption Return	2.3	7	10.9%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.0	0	0.0%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.7	2	3.1%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.7	2	3.1%
H. Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
I. Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	64
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (Jan-June 2020)
J. Adoption	21.0	63	94.0%
K. Return to Owner	0.3	1	1.5%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.7	2	3.0%
M. Euthanized	0.3	1	1.5%
N. Died in care	0.0	0	0.0%
O. Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	67
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Total In Custody June 30, 2020	80
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	118
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	67.8%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	-4.7%
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## 2020 Intakes and Outcomes

Region 2 (n=3)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (July-Dec 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's custody on July 1, 2020	23.0	69	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
B. Relinquished by Owner	17.7	53	96.4%
C. Adoption Return	0.7	2	3.6%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.0	0	0.0%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.0	0	0.0%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.0	0	0.0%
H. Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
I. Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	55
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (July-Dec 2020)
J. Adoption	16.0	48	80.0%
K. Return to Owner	0.0	0	0.0%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.3	1	1.7%
M. Euthanized	3.7	11	18.3%
N. Died in care	0.0	0	0.0%
O. Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	60
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Total In Custody December 31 2020	64
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	118
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	54.2%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	-9.1%
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Region 3 (n=10)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (Jan-June 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2020	36.5	365	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.2	2	1.1%
B. Relinquished by Owner	12.2	122	65.2%
C. Adoption Return	1.1	11	5.9%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	1.5	15	8.0%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.1	1	0.5%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.3	3	1.6%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	2.9	29	15.5%
H. Born in shelter	0.3	3	1.6%
I. Other Intakes	0.1	1	0.5%

Total Intakes:	187
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (Jan-June 2020)
J. Adoption	7.3	73	76.8%
K. Return to Owner	0	0	0.0%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0	0	0.0%
M. Euthanized	2.1	21	22.1%
N. Died in care	0.1	1	1.1%
O. Other Outcomes	0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	95
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Total In Custody June 30, 2020	457
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	418
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	109.3%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	49.2%
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Region 3 (n=10)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (July-Dec 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's custody on July 1, 2020	33.8	338	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
B. Relinquished by Owner	16.4	164	64.1%
C. Adoption Return	1.1	11	4.3%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	3.5	35	13.7%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.3	3	1.2%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	4.0	40	15.6%
H. Born in shelter	0.1	1	0.4%
I. Other Intakes	0.2	2	0.8%

Total Intakes:	256
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (July-Dec 2020)
J. Adoption	11.7	117	83.6%
K. Return to Owner	0.0	0	0.0%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.9	9	6.4%
M. Euthanized	1.3	13	9.3%
N. Died in care	0.1	1	0.7%
O. Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	140
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Total In Custody December 31 2020	454
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	418
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	108.6%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	45.3%
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Region 4 (n=15)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (Jan-June 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2020	32.1	481	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.4	6	2.7%
B. Relinquished by Owner	10.3	154	68.1%
C. Adoption Return	1.0	15	6.6%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.8	12	5.3%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.6	9	4.0%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.8	12	5.3%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.7	11	4.9%
H. Born in shelter	0.1	2	0.9%
I. Other Intakes	0.3	5	2.2%

Total Intakes:	226
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (Jan-June 2020)
J. Adoption	12.3	184	86.4%
K. Return to Owner	0.0	0	0.0%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.2	3	1.4%
M. Euthanized	1.5	23	10.8%
N. Died in care	0.1	1	0.5%
O. Other Outcomes	0.1	2	0.9%

Total Outcomes:	213
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Total In Custody June 30, 2020	494
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	567
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	87.1%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	5.8%
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Region 4 (n=15)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (July-Dec 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's custody on July 1, 2020	34.5	517	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
B. Relinquished by Owner	8.1	122	70.1%
C. Adoption Return	1.0	15	8.6%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.7	10	5.7%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.2	3	1.7%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.5	8	4.6%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.9	13	7.5%
H. Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
I. Other Intakes	0.2	3	1.7%

Total Intakes:	174
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (July-Dec 2020)
J. Adoption	12.0	180	82.9%
K. Return to Owner	0.1	2	0.9%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.9	13	6.0%
M. Euthanized	1.1	17	7.8%
N. Died in care	0.2	3	1.4%
O. Other Outcomes	0.1	2	0.9%

Total Outcomes:	217
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Total In Custody December 31 2020	474
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	570
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	83.2%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	-24.7%
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Region 5 (n=10)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (Jan-June 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2020	22.9	229	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
B. Relinquished by Owner	7.2	72	73.5%
C. Adoption Return	0.1	1	1.0%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.6	6	6.1%
E. Transferred in from another agency	1.3	13	13.3%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.4	4	4.1%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.2	2	2.0%
H. Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
I. Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	98
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (Jan-June 2020)
J. Adoption	8.6	86	90.5%
K. Return to Owner	0.2	2	2.1%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.0	0	0.0%
M. Euthanized	0.6	6	6.3%
N. Died in care	0.1	1	1.1%
O. Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	95
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Total In Custody June 30, 2020	232
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	527
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	44.0%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	3.1%
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Region 5 (n=10)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (July-Dec 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's custody on July 1, 2020	42.5	425	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
B. Relinquished by Owner	12.4	124	72.9%
C. Adoption Return	0.5	5	2.9%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.2	2	1.2%
E. Transferred in from another agency	3.2	32	18.8%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.1	1	0.6%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.6	6	3.5%
H. Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
I. Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	170
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (July-Dec 2020)
J. Adoption	15.4	154	91.1%
K. Return to Owner	0.0	0	0.0%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.1	1	0.6%
M. Euthanized	1.3	13	7.7%
N. Died in care	0.1	1	0.6%
O. Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	169
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Total In Custody December 31 2020	426
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	537
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	79.3%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	0.6%
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Region 6 (n=6)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (Jan-June 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2020	48.8	293	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.5	3	2.5%
B. Relinquished by Owner	8.3	50	41.3%
C. Adoption Return	3.0	18	14.9%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	4.0	24	19.8%
E. Transferred in from another agency	1.7	10	8.3%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.0	0	0.0%
H. Born in shelter	1.0	6	5.0%
I. Other Intakes	1.7	10	8.3%

Total Intakes:	121
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (Jan-June 2020)
J. Adoption	20.0	120	85.1%
K. Return to Owner	0.2	1	0.7%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	1.0	6	4.3%
M. Euthanized	2.0	12	8.5%
N. Died in care	0.3	2	1.4%
O. Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	141
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Total In Custody June 30, 2020	273
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	368
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	74.2%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	-16.5%
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Region 6 (n=6)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (July-Dec 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's custody on July 1, 2020	40.5	243	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.8	5	5.2%
B. Relinquished by Owner	8.7	52	54.2%
C. Adoption Return	3.8	23	24.0%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	2.2	13	13.5%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.3	2	2.1%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.0	0	0.0%
H. Born in shelter	0.2	1	1.0%
I. Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	96
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (July-Dec 2020)
J. Adoption	19.3	116	89.9%
K. Return to Owner	0.2	1	0.8%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.0	0	0.0%
M. Euthanized	1.7	10	7.8%
N. Died in care	0.3	2	1.6%
O. Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	129
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Total In Custody December 31 2020	210
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	368
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	57.1%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	-34.4%
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Region 7 (n=4)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (Jan-June 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2020	49.3	197	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
B. Relinquished by Owner	7.0	28	63.6%
C. Adoption Return	2.3	9	20.5%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	1.3	5	11.4%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.5	2	4.5%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.0	0	0.0%
H. Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
I. Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	44
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (Jan-June 2020)
J. Adoption	9.0	36	85.7%
K. Return to Owner	0.0	0	0.0%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.0	0	0.0%
M. Euthanized	1.0	4	9.5%
N. Died in care	0.5	2	4.8%
O. Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	42
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Total In Custody June 30, 2020	199
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	237
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	84.0%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	4.5%
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Region 7 (n=4)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (July-Dec 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's custody on July 1, 2020	41.3	165	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
B. Relinquished by Owner	8.5	34	46.6%
C. Adoption Return	1.0	4	5.5%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	7.3	29	39.7%
E. Transferred in from another agency	1.5	6	8.2%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.0	0	0.0%
H. Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
I. Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	73
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (July-Dec 2020)
J. Adoption	11.3	45	57.7%
K. Return to Owner	0.0	0	0.0%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.8	3	3.8%
M. Euthanized	2.5	10	12.8%
N. Died in care	0.3	1	1.3%
O. Other Outcomes	4.8	19	24.4%

Total Outcomes:	78
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Total In Custody December 31 2020	160
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	232
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	69.0%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	-6.8%
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Region 8 (n=11)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (Jan-June 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2020	24.5	270	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.4	4	1.1%
B. Relinquished by Owner	20.8	229	64.9%
C. Adoption Return	0.5	5	1.4%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.5	6	1.7%
E. Transferred in from another agency	2.7	30	8.5%
F. Purchased at public auction	3.9	43	12.2%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.0	0	0.0%
H. Born in shelter	0.4	4	1.1%
I. Other Intakes	2.9	32	9.1%

Total Intakes:	353
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (Jan-June 2020)
J. Adoption	18.1	199	82.9%
K. Return to Owner	0.1	1	0.4%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.6	6	2.5%
M. Euthanized	3.0	33	13.8%
N. Died in care	0.1	1	0.4%
O. Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	240
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Total In Custody June 30, 2020	383
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	443
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	86.46%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	32.01%
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Region 8 (n=11)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (July-Dec 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's custody on July 1, 2020	30.6	337	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.4	4	1.1%
B. Relinquished by Owner	26.8	295	77.6%
C. Adoption Return	1.3	14	3.7%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.5	6	1.6%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.2	2	0.5%
F. Purchased at public auction	2.7	30	7.9%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.1	1	0.3%
H. Born in shelter	0.1	1	0.3%
I. Other Intakes	2.5	27	7.1%

Total Intakes:	380
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (July-Dec 2020)
J. Adoption	24.0	264	81.5%
K. Return to Owner	0.2	2	0.6%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.7	8	2.5%
M. Euthanized	3.2	35	10.8%
N. Died in care	0.2	2	0.6%
O. Other Outcomes	1.2	13	4.0%

Total Outcomes:	324
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Total In Custody December 31 2020	393
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	446
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	88.1%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	14.7%
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Region 9 (n=7)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (Jan-June 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2020	48.1	337	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.3	2	1.4%
B. Relinquished by Owner	16.6	116	78.4%
C. Adoption Return	0.3	2	1.4%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.0	0	0.0%
E. Transferred in from another agency	2.1	15	10.1%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	1.0	7	4.7%
H. Born in shelter	0.7	5	3.4%
I. Other Intakes	0.1	1	0.7%

Total Intakes:	148
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (Jan-June 2020)
J. Adoption	4.6	32	68.1%
K. Return to Owner	0.0	0	0.0%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.0	0	0.0%
M. Euthanized	0.9	6	12.8%
N. Died in care	0.3	2	4.3%
O. Other Outcomes	1.0	7	14.9%

Total Outcomes:	47
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Total In Custody June 30, 2020	438
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	370
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	118.4%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	68.2%
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Region 9 (n=7)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (July-Dec 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's custody on July 1, 2020	47.0	329	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	3.6	25	28.7%
B. Relinquished by Owner	4.7	33	37.9%
C. Adoption Return	0.6	4	4.6%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.0	0	0.0%
E. Transferred in from another agency	2.4	17	19.5%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	1.0	7	8.0%
H. Born in shelter	0.1	1	1.1%
I. Other Intakes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Intakes:	87
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (July-Dec 2020)
J. Adoption	7.3	51	75.0%
K. Return to Owner	0.0	0	0.0%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.0	0	0.0%
M. Euthanized	1.4	10	14.7%
N. Died in care	0.0	0	0.0%
O. Other Outcomes	1.0	7	10.3%

Total Outcomes:	68
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Total In Custody December 31 2020	348
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	380
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	91.6%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	21.8%
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Region 10 (n=6)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (Jan-June 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's care on January 1, 2020	17.5	105	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
B. Relinquished by Owner	1.0	6	20.0%
C. Adoption Return	0.5	3	10.0%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	1.5	9	30.0%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.8	5	16.7%
F. Purchased at public auction	1.0	6	20.0%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.0	0	0.0%
H. Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
I. Other Intakes	0.2	1	3.3%

Total Intakes:	30
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (Jan-June 2020)
J. Adoption	2.8	17	58.6%
K. Return to Owner	0.2	1	3.4%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.0	0	0.0%
M. Euthanized	1.2	7	24.1%
N. Died in care	0.7	4	13.8%
O. Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	29
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Total In Custody June 30, 2020	106
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	167
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	63.5%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	3.3%
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Region 10 (n=6)	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Intakes (July-Dec 2020)
Number of equines in your organization's custody on July 1, 2020	14.8	89	
<b>INTAKES</b>			
A. Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0.0%
B. Relinquished by Owner	2.5	15	57.7%
C. Adoption Return	0.0	0	0.0%
D. Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.3	2	7.7%
E. Transferred in from another agency	0.3	2	7.7%
F. Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0.0%
G. Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.8	5	19.2%
H. Born in shelter	0.0	0	0.0%
I. Other Intakes	0.3	2	7.7%

Total Intakes:	26
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	Percent of Total Outcomes (July-Dec 2020)
J. Adoption	4.0	24	75.0%
K. Return to Owner	0.0	0	0.0%
L. Transferred to Another Agency	0.0	0	0.0%
M. Euthanized	1.3	8	25.0%
N. Died in care	0.0	0	0.0%
O. Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0.0%

Total Outcomes:	32
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Total In Custody December 31 2020	83
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Maximum Capacity of Sample	167
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% Maximum Capacity Filled of Sample	49.7%
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% of Equines without an Outcome	-23.1%
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## Conclusions and Future Survey Considerations

This is the first EWDC report where trends have been tracked across multiple years. While the data analysis represents a fairly small group of organizations who have been participating in data collection across multiple years, we hope to expand the number of respondents and increase our capacity to better make long-term projections.

Nevertheless, the data presented in this report provides valuable insights for the equine industry. The EWDC continues to educate equine welfare organizations on the importance of record keeping. As the ongoing stresses of living in a pandemic radiates through our communities, it is essential to identify services that meet the needs of owners and equines at risk.

Collecting and reporting accurate data is critical for individual organizations and necessary to understand our larger industry.

We encourage you to share the questions you feel are important for us to ask. Please contact us with your comments and feedback at [EWDC@HorseCouncil.org](mailto:EWDC@HorseCouncil.org).

**If you would like to learn more about the Equine Welfare Data Collective, view the survey in its entirety, or submit data, check us out at:**

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



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US Federal Census Region Designation

State	Region	State	Region
AK	10	NC	4
AL	4	ND	8
AR	6	NE	7
AZ	9	NH	1
CA	9	NJ	2
CO	8	NM	6
CT	1	NV	9
DE	3	NY	2
FL	4	OH	5
GA	4	OK	6
HI	9	OR	10
IA	7	PA	3
ID	10	PR	2
IL	5	RI	1
IN	5	SC	4
KS	7	SD	8
KY	4	TN	4
LA	6	TX	6
MA	1	UT	8
MD	3	VA	3
ME	1	VT	1
MI	5	WA	10
MN	5	WI	5
MO	7	WV	3
MS	4	WY	8
MT	8		



Glossary of Terms:

- Adoption:**  
Transferring a horse into a new home or vocation, most often involving the transfer of legal custody from the current caretaker to the new caretaker.
- Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center:**  
An organization that facilitates placements of equines in adoptive homes and new vocations through traditional and non-traditional approaches to finding the right matches and opportunities for the equines in their care.
- Adoption Return:**  
An equine that was placed into a new home but was later returned to the Adoption/Rescue/Transition Center.
- At-Risk:**  
An equine that has an increased possibility of experiencing a situation of neglect, abuse, or general poor welfare.
- Born in Shelter:**  
An equine that was born while the mare was in the legal custody of an organization.
- Custodial Services:** Services provided while in the legal custody and care of an organization.
- Died in Care:**  
An equine that perished while in the care and legal custody of an organization that was not the result of humane euthanasia.
- Equine:**  
Any animal within the horse family including but not limited to donkeys, mules, horses, ponies, zebras, and miniature horses.
- Humane euthanasia:**  
Termination of life in an animal for medical, behavioral, or otherwise humane reasons.
- In-Transition:**  
An equine that is currently in need of a new home or vocation.
- Kill Pen/Kill Buyer:**  
A third party or “middle man” that holds equines on feedlots or otherwise enables the sale of equines to slaughter facilities.



Glossary of Terms Continued:

**Law Enforcement Confiscation:**  
Equines that have been forcibly removed from the custody of their current owner by law enforcement.

**Municipal Facility:**  
An organization owned, operated, or otherwise contracted by a government (taxpayer funded) entity that provides a combination of animal related services to the community.

**Non-Custodial Services:** Services provided to an owner by an organization, while the owner maintains legal custody and care of the equine in need. Including but not limited to feed banks, veterinary assistance, euthanasia and disposal assistance, direct placement programs, and behavioral assistance.

**Public Auction:**  
A sale that is able to be attended by users of the general public.

**Relinquished by Owner:**  
Equines that have been voluntarily transferred to the custody of an organization by their current owner (this does not include animals that were previously adopted from the organization, see Adoption Return above).

**Return to Owner:**  
Equines that have been returned to the legal custody of the caretaker that originally transferred them to the custody of the organization (this does not include transfer of ownership from another agency, see Transfer to/From Agency below).

**Sanctuary:**  
Equine facilities that provide lifetime care for equines. Unlike adoption organizations, sanctuaries typically do not focus on rehoming the equines in their care.

**Stray/At-Large:**  
Equines that have been found loose or otherwise outside of containment.

**Transfer in/out from Another Agency:**  
An equine that has been transferred from the legal custody of one 501(c)(3), nonprofit, or municipal organization to the custody of another 501(c)(3) or municipal organization.



State Population and Response Rates  
Since EWDC Inception 2018

State	State Pop.	Partic. Rate (%)	State	State Pop.	Partic. Rate (%)
AK	0	0.0%	NC	33	36.4%
AL	7	28.6%	ND	2	0.0%
AR	8	0.0%	NE	5	80.0%
AZ	41	26.8%	NH	8	75.0%
CA	109	26.6%	NJ	15	26.7%
CO	56	57.1%	NM	11	63.6%
CT	11	45.5%	NV	7	42.9%
DE	4	50.0%	NY	46	45.7%
FL	73	31.5%	OH	30	20.0%
GA	25	24.0%	OK	15	33.3%
HI	3	33.3%	OR	25	52.0%
IA	8	50.0%	PA	43	34.9%
ID	6	50.0%	PR	3	33.3%
IL	24	41.7%	RI	3	33.3%
IN	15	13.3%	SC	20	20.0%
KS	6	33.3%	SD	5	40.0%
KY	22	36.4%	TN	24	25.0%
LA	9	11.1%	TX	61	36.1%
MA	12	33.3%	UT	9	44.4%
MD	29	48.3%	VA	30	46.7%
ME	9	55.6%	VT	4	50.0%
MI	21	42.9%	WA	26	26.9%
MN	14	35.7%	WI	17	23.5%
MO	17	58.8%	WV	3	66.7%
MS	7	14.3%	WY	3	100.0%
MT	8	37.5%			





State Population and Response Rates  
Full Year 2020 Submissions

State	State Pop.	Partic. Pop.	State	State Pop.	Partic. Pop.
AK	0	0	NC	33	2
AL	7	0	ND	2	0
AR	8	0	NE	5	0
AZ	41	0	NH	8	1
CA	109	6	NJ	15	0
CO	56	10	NM	11	2
CT	11	0	NV	7	1
DE	4	1	NY	46	3
FL	73	7	OH	30	1
GA	25	1	OK	15	0
HI	3	0	OR	25	4
IA	8	1	PA	43	1
ID	6	0	PR	3	0
IL	24	4	RI	3	0
IN	15	0	SC	20	2
KS	6	0	SD	5	1
KY	22	1	TN	24	2
LA	9	0	TX	61	4
MA	12	2	UT	9	0
MD	29	3	VA	30	4
ME	9	1	VT	4	0
MI	21	3	WA	26	2
MN	14	2	WI	17	0
MO	17	3	WV	3	1
MS	7	0	WY	3	0
MT	8	0			





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