

Equine Welfare Data Collective



Data Snapshot

About



The Equine Welfare Data Collective (EWDC) analyzes information on at-risk equines and those in transition from 501c3 nonprofit equine welfare groups that take custody of equines and those that provide "safety net" services including but not limited to assistance with veterinary care, euthanasia, feed banks, rehoming, and behavioral needs.

The data in this snapshot is a summary of all reported analysis since our inception in 2018. We've chosen data points for this snapshot from different reporting periods based on the sample size for each question.

To view more detailed reports, visit us at:
unitedhorsecoalition.org/ewdc/ewdc-reports/

2022 Funding Partners

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), The Foundation for the Horse, and US Equestrian Trust



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Contents

1

Key Points

3

Intakes
and Outcomes

5

Direct
Placement

2

Breeds

4

Safety Net
Services

6

Glossary

Key Points



The data in this summary covers information across multiple years since our inception in 2018.

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.)

47,194 Daily maximum capacity of organizations in 2019

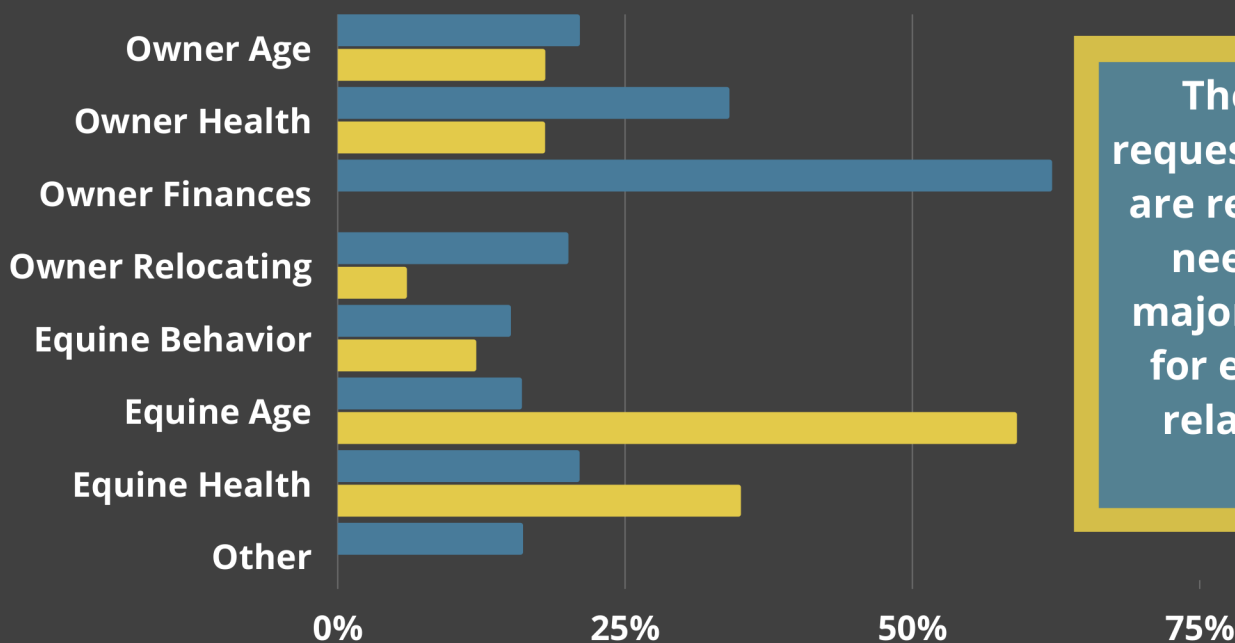
359 organizations that have submitted data to EWDC at least once.

210 days, the average length of stay of an equine in a shelter.

38 average number of rehoming requests per organization in 2020

Jan - June 2020

■ Rehoming Requests ■ Euthanasia Requests



The majority of requests for rehoming are related to owner needs, while the majority of requests for euthanasia are related to equine needs.

Average Length of Stay by Organization Type (Jan -Dec 2019)

Adoption/Rescue/
Transition Center
(n=64)

210
days

Rescue/Municipal
Combo
(n=3)

344
days

Rescue/Sanctuary
Combo
(n=50)

399
days

Sanctuary
(n=27)

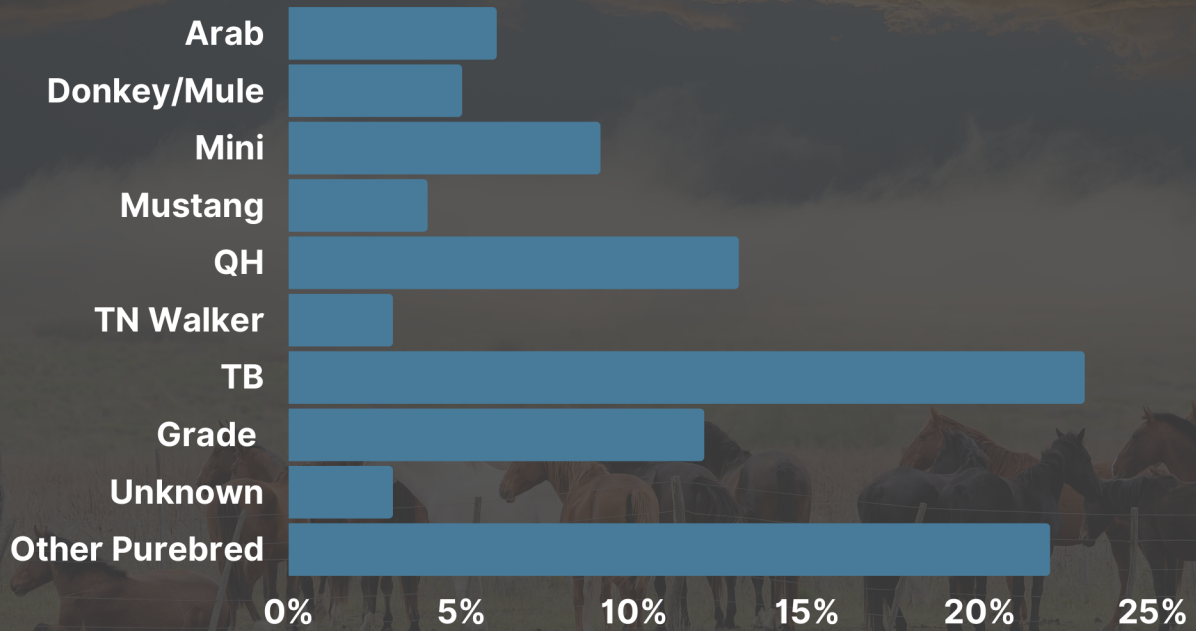
3041
days

Breeds



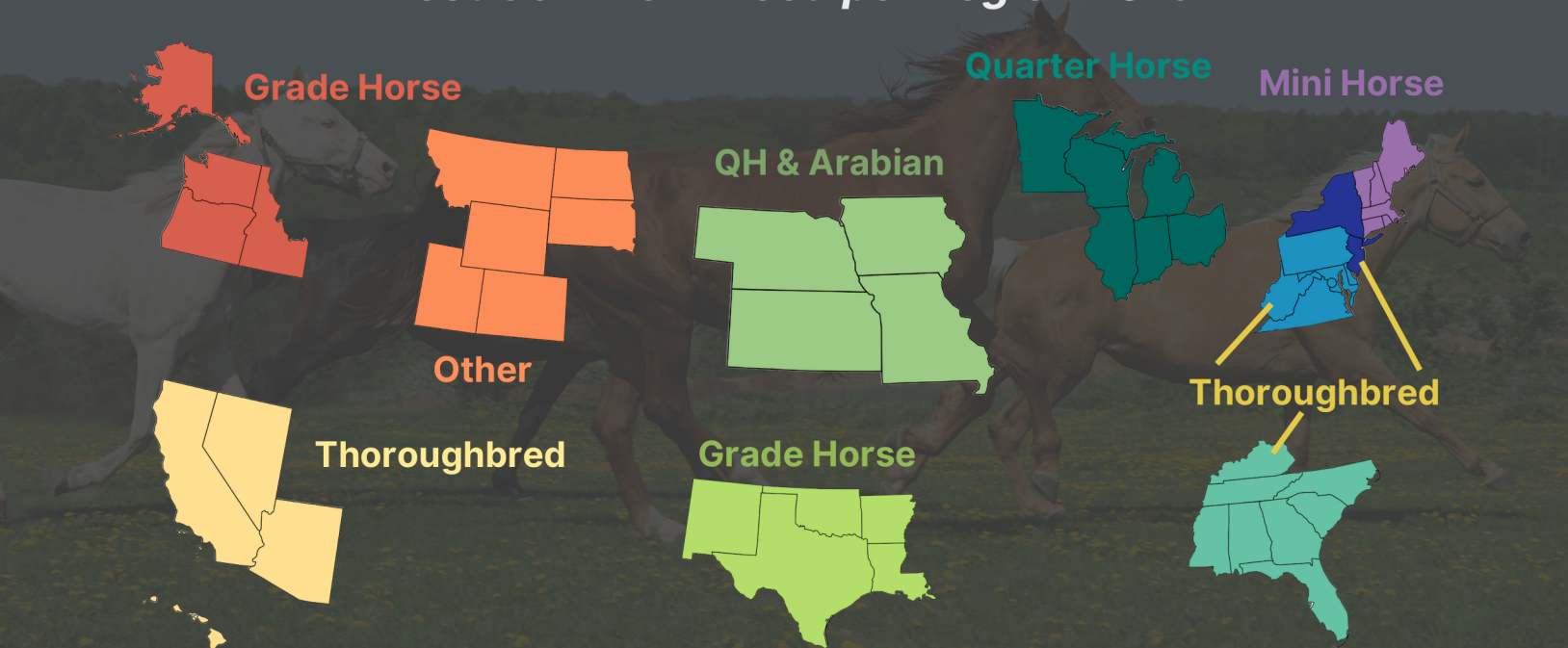
The listed breeds within this dataset may simply mean there was a high ratio of “breed specific” organizations that responded, and/or that safety net programs have been successful in assisting these animals, and not necessarily that any one particular breed is more “at-risk”.

Jan - Dec 2019



Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. "Other Purebred" breeds represent less than 2% each and include Appaloosa, Connemara, Drafts, Morgans, Paints, Paso Finos, Pony of the Americas (POA), Saddlebreds, Standardbreds, Shetland, Warmbloods, and Welsh Ponies.

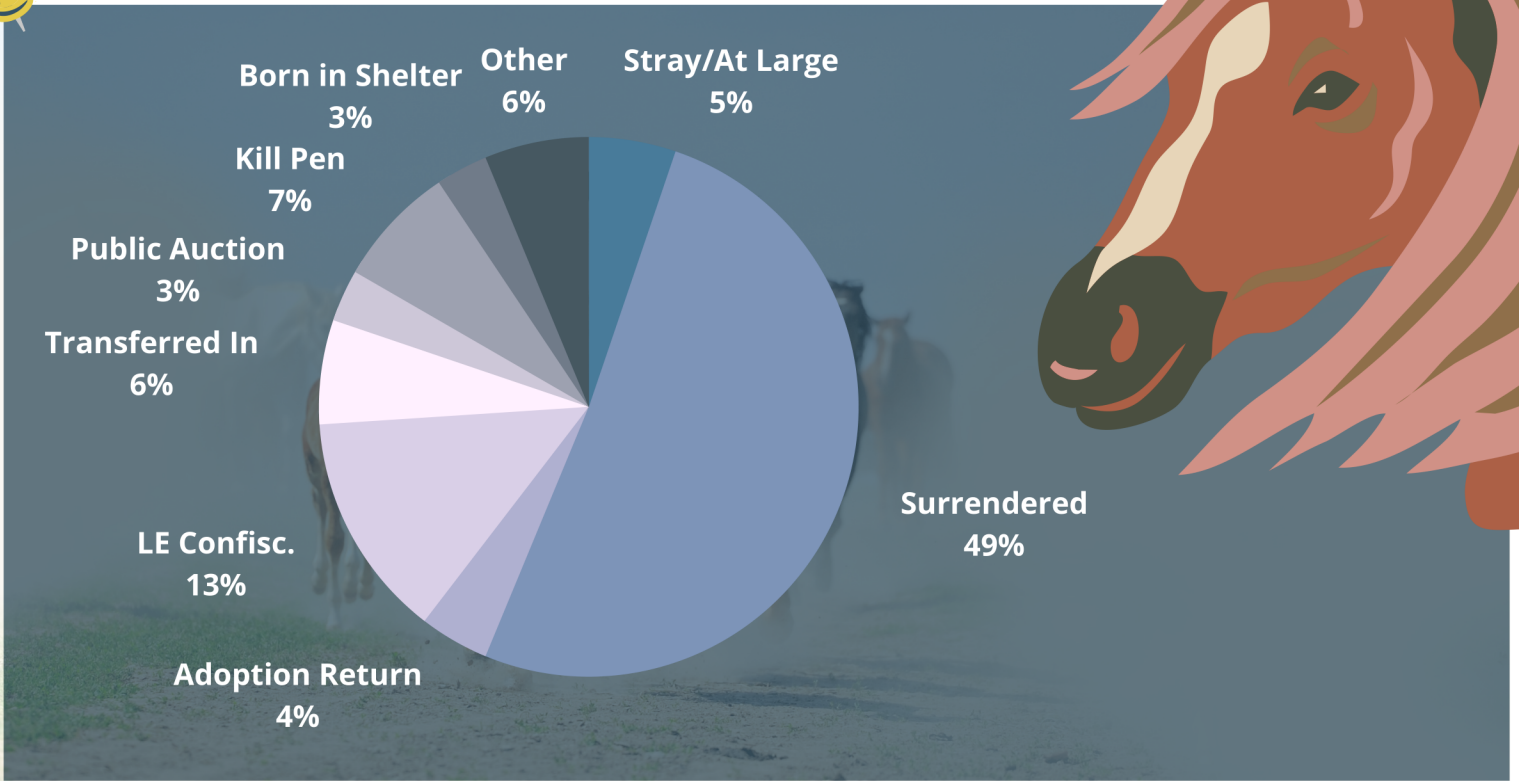
Most Common Breed per Region 2019



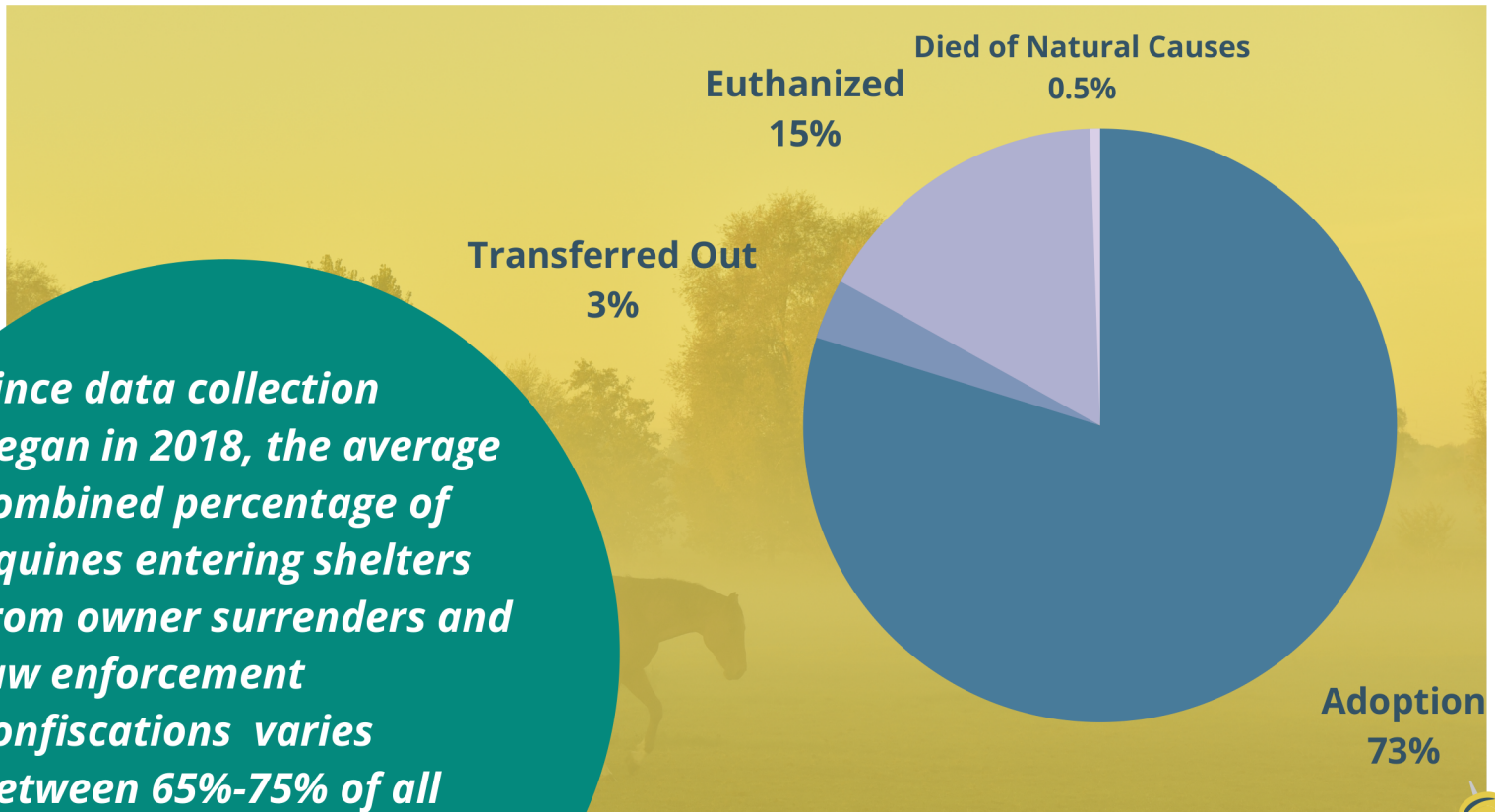
Intakes & Outcomes



Intake Types (Jan - Jun 2020)



Outcome Types (Jan - Jun 2020)



Since data collection began in 2018, the average combined percentage of equines entering shelters from owner surrenders and law enforcement confiscations varies between 65%-75% of all intakes.



Safety Net Services




Safety net services help owners keep their horse during short term difficulties. These services include feed banks, veterinary care, behavior training, castration, husbandry assistance, disaster relief, and more.

59% of organizations that submitted data to the EWDC for the full year of 2020 reported providing safety net services.

92% Average fulfillment rate nationally

20% of all reporting organizations also provide community euthanasia services for owners in need.

Safety Net Service Requests and Fulfillments (Jan - Dec 2020)

	Feed	Vet Care	Behv.	Disaster	Hsbndry	Castr.	Other	Total
Total Requests	240	177	44	108	41	19	115	532
% Fulfilled of all requests	46%	128%	105%	30%	68%	105%	22%	92%

Some organizations have a greater than 100% fulfillment rate. Several organizations document requests by one owner for multiple equines as a single instance, but the services provided are recorded as multiple fulfillments.

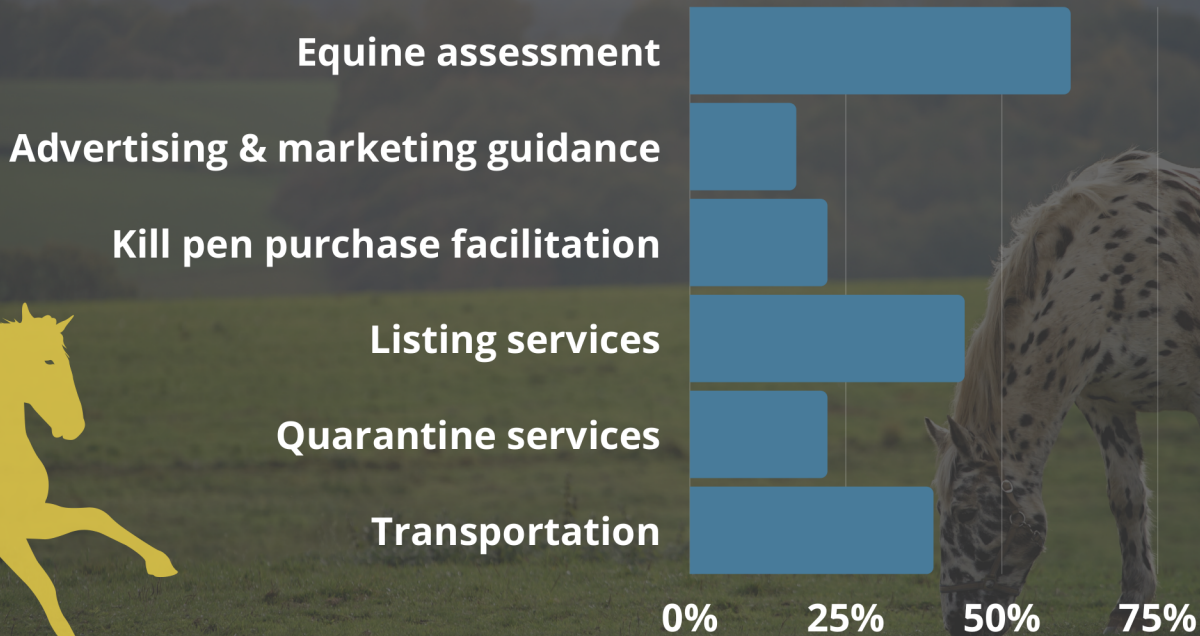
Behv = behavior; hsbndry = husbandry; castr. = castration

Direct Placements



Direct placement programs help owners find new homes for their equines without taking legal custody of the equine. This data represents 18 organizations nationwide that responded to questions about specific program details (2020). Direct Placement Programs are growing across the United States and this should be considered preliminary data as they continue to develop.

Direct Placement Services Offered by Organizations* (Jan - Dec 2020)



*% of organizations offering the specific services listed

Direct Placement Criteria Required by Organizations to Receive Services (Jan - Dec 2020)

Owner Situation	Breed	None	Location	Max Price	Other
39%	28%	17%	11%	6%	6%

Direct Placement Follow-Up Procedures Required by Organizations (Jan - Dec 2020)

Owner Updates	Follow-Up Visits	Proof of Vet Care	No Criteria
67%	61%	39%	6%



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.

Daily Maximum Capacity: The total maximum number of equines an organization can safely care for on any given day.

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.

Grade: An equine of unknown mixed breeding.

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.

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

Length of Stay: How long an equine resides in the legal custody of an equine welfare organization.

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).

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.

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.

