



Sixth
REPORT

ANALYSIS OF DATA
REPORTED FOR:

January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022

EQUINE WELFARE DATA COLLECTIVE

Mission Statement

The Equine Welfare Data Collective is a nonprofit organization that works to collect, analyze, and report data on at-risk and transitioning equines in the United States. EWDC reports are impartial and provide anonymous aggregate data to inform the industry on the issue of at-risk horses.



Our data analysis is verified by
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A Letter from the United Horse Coalition

The United Horse Coalition is pleased to share with you the 6th Equine Welfare Data Collective Report. This report marks four years since the Equine Welfare Data Collective's inaugural report was released in September of 2019 - and what a productive four years it has been!

I am reminded about how critical the data contained in these reports continues to be in shaping and changing what the conversation looks like when we talk about how to best help this population of at-risk horses and those in

transition. In November 2023, the UHC and EWDC presented during the ASPCA-AAWA Research Forum, exploring the data contained in the EWDC reports, including the interplay between the national capacity of equine rescue and transition centers and, length of stay, as well as how the data may be able to guide future programming at both the national and local levels. We also demonstrated national programs that rescues, sanctuaries, and animal control officers can access to support equines in need anywhere in the country, all possible because of the data contributed.

We continue to be proud of the ongoing efforts and role the Equine Welfare Data Collective plays in furthering our collective mission of helping at-risk horses and those in transition. Since its inception, the EWDC serves as a neutral entity where all rescues and sanctuaries can submit their vital data to this effort on an equal playing field. Every organization that participates helps us to better understand the true nature of what is really happening out there, and not just anecdotally, but real, meaningful, and factual data. This is no small achievement, and it's the very reason why the equine industry has come to know and trust the data supplied in these reports.

The data in these pages will help us to shape and change the future of horses at-risk and in transition by allowing us to recognize our shortcomings as well replicate where we are making true and meaningful progress. It is important that all organizations contribute to this data whenever applicable so that we all can better recognize and shape programs for the horses and owners who need us the most.

On behalf of UHC and the equines who rely on us, thank you.

Ashley Harkins
UHC Program Director
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A Letter from The Equine Welfare Data Collective

The equine Welfare Data Collective began collecting data on at-risk and transitioning horses in November of 2018. Five years later we are proud to publish our 6th report detailing the services organizations provided to at-risk horses and their owners in 2022. Five years of data collection and reporting have allowed us to provide the industry with a snapshot of the hard work and dedication shown

every day by the people who are boots on the ground with horses in the rescue pipeline. Our goal is always to provide unbiased information to the industry so that those in a position to help can allocate resources in ways that will best benefit the horse.

We are already looking ahead and are currently collecting data for 2023. New concerns like social license to operate and the impact of COVID on the equine industry have driven the need for accurate data on our horse populations and what happens to horses when they move from one stage of life to the next. Additional information on the trends that can be seen from 5 years of data and the impact COVID has had on the industry will be published in an additional report.

Moving forward, the EWDC is working to increase participation in future surveys and find more ways to use this data to aid horses. COVID had an understandably detrimental effect on our sample sizes as organizations, reeling from the impact of a global pandemic, struggled to meet the needs of horses in their care with fewer hands and less resources. 2022 showed a promising increase in organization participation and we plan to continue that trend into 2024 by making data collection as straight-forward as possible and by working to help organizations develop more tools for accurate record keeping.

I'd like to extend a huge thank you to the organizations who submitted their data for this report while still working tirelessly to serve horses in need. Interacting with these organizations personally has given life to this data- these numbers represent thousands of equines, each with a story, and the people who are working to help them. It has been an honor to work closely with these organizations and to show the industry how they are changing the lives of animals across the country. We know the data collected can leverage positive change for horses and the organizations that serve them, and we are always looking at ways to improve our collection methods and reporting. Your data and feedback are invaluable assets and we look forward to continuing to serve your organizations in the future.

Bailey McCallum
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If you or someone you know needs assistance,
visit our resource database to find help:
UnitedHorseCoalition.org/equine-resource-database/

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INTRODUCTION

The Equine Welfare Data Collective (EWDC) was created by the United Horse Coalition (UHC), a program of the American Horse Council Foundation (AHCF), and is funded by grants and in-kind donations from industry organizations including the ASPCA Right Horse Program, and the Foundation for the Horse.

The EWDC was developed in 2018 and works to collect data on at-risk and transitioning equines in the United States and the demographics of the organizations that assist them. The EWDC analyzes aggregate data and provides impartial reports to the public. Information collected by the EWDC offers accurate and credible data which is used to inform the industry on the issue of at-risk and transitioning equines and provide the evidence needed to drive positive change.

The data collected includes baseline trends such as capacity, current population descriptions, intakes, and outcomes.

Definitions of terms used in this report can be found in Appendix A. More information on the organizations contributing to this report and the services they offer can be found at :

www.unitedhorsecoalition.org/equine-resource-database/.

All previous reports can be viewed at:

<https://unitedhorsecoalition.org/ewdc/#ewdc-reports>



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Report 6 analyzes and reports the findings on data collected from registered 501c32, nonprofit, and municipal organizations within the United States and Puerto Rico that offer custodial and non-custodial services to horses that are considered at-risk or in transition.

Reports generated by the EWDC serve to fill a need for information on this growing industry issue. Data collected can be used to ensure the industry is allocating resources in a way that can best assist horses in the rescue pipeline.

In 2018, industry leaders recognized a need for credible data regarding horses in the United States that are considered at-risk or in transition. In response, the EWDC launched its first survey in November of 2018. The EWDC's first report included data from 253 individual organizations. To date, the EWDC has received data from 377 organizations, representing 35% of national rescue organizations.

Reports published by the EWDC:

- *Inform the industry on the issue of horses in transition*
- *Provided the United Horse Coalition with necessary data to continue development of the UHC Equine Resource Database*
- *Give insight how at-risk and transitioning horses impact the equine community and industry*



KEY FINDINGS



KEY FINDINGS



Report 6 shows similar intake and outcomes findings to Report 5 with most equine intakes due to owner relinquishments and the majority of outcomes due to adoptions. National intakes show an increase in law enforcement confiscations (16% in 2022 compared to 8.9% in 2021), fewer equines transferred into custody from another agency (5% in 2022 compared to 11.7% in 2021) and a slight decrease in intakes due to owner relinquishments (60% in 2022 compared to 62.7% in 2021). National outcomes show a decrease in adoptions (66% in 2022 compared to 75.9% in 2021), a decrease in equines euthanized due to health reasons (12% in 2022 compared to 15% in 2021) and a notable increase in outcomes due to equines transferred to another agency (12% in 2022 compared to 3.5% in 2021). Notably, many changes in intake and outcome numbers seem to be a result of a return to pre-COVID numbers. First hand accounts gathered by EWDC representatives from rescues and Animal Control Officers recounted staffing shortages during COVID, posing a challenge for these organizations in data reporting.

Most regions reported more than 50% of their intakes were due to owner relinquishments. Region 6 reported 38% intakes due to owner relinquishments, 24% due to law enforcement confiscations, and 22% reported as "Other" include retiring equines, equines brought into the custody of the organization through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), equines donated to an organization, and pending court cases. Region 8 reported 48% of intakes due to law enforcement confiscations and 28% due to owner relinquishments. Most regions reported high percentages of outcomes as adoptions. Region 8 reported lower adoption rates at 45% with 27% of outcomes due to the equine being returned to the owner and 23% of outcomes due to euthanasia of the animal for health. Region 3 reported 44% of outcomes as transferred to another agency and 38% due to adoption. All but two regions (Regions 2 and 4) saw more intakes than outcomes in 2022.

In 2022, organizations that provided direct placement services reported accommodating 65% of requests. The majority (89%) of requests accommodated were requests to rehome an equine.

Feed assistance and veterinary care assistance continue to be the most common requests for aid made to organizations that provide assistance services. Organizations also fulfilled a similar number of veterinary care requests to numbers reported in 2021 but were only able to fulfill 44% of feed assistance requests in 2022 compared to 94% of requests in 2021. It was unclear whether this decrease is due to more requests or fewer resources available.

Reporting has increased over the population sample size used in Report 5 but organizations continue to report difficulties in maintaining data and staffing shortages. Anecdotally, new methods of record keeping in the form of database software and easily accessible applications have shown promise in assisting organizations in their record keeping.



How do we collect, analyze and report data?

Organization Identification

Initial identification of 501c3, nonprofit, and municipal organizations within the United States and Puerto Rico consisted of using publicly available information within the IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search[1], individual state tax exempt databases[2], nonprofit auditing companies such as Charity Navigator, web searches for publicly available lists of “equine/horse/pony rescues”, “equine/horse/pony sanctuaries”, “equine/horse/pony shelters”, social media groups, and direct leads from partner organizations. The EWDC’s database of organizations is continually updated and audited to add new organizations and remove organizations that are defunct. Organizations are verified as a 501c3, nonprofit, or maintaining municipal status using Forms 990, EIN numbers, and Letters of Determination.



Data Collection

To collect the data for this report, the EWDC launched monthly surveys to collect information for January 1st, 2022, through December 31st, 2022, as well as two biannual and one aggregate survey. Surveys were designed to collect information on custodial services, direct placement services, and assistance services specific to equines and are continually updated in response to respondent feedback and improve data collection. Surveys were sent to organizations via email and posted on the United Horse Coalition website. Monthly data was accumulated and organized according to each organization’s Employer Identification Number (EIN). Organizations that submitted partial data, incomplete data, duplicate submissions, or outlier data were contacted via email and phone to verify their submissions and gather complete datasets. Duplicate submissions were identified by the organization’s EIN number and removed. This report analyzes data from organizations that submitted data for the entire year of 2022.

Organizations also submitted an Organization Profile. Data from these profiles is used to identify firmographic information specific to each organization including organization type, how they maintain their records, organization size, their use of a foster system, and the average length of stay for an equine.

Organization and population data on non-custodial services was also gathered from organizations reporting services to the United Horse Coalition Equine Resource Database at www.unitedhorsecoalition.org/equine-resource-database/

Data Analysis

Once complete datasets were identified, all identifying information such as organization name and contact information was removed from the datasets before analysis. Analyses were completed to determine national and regional statistics. The EWDC’s data analysis was verified by a third party to ensure accuracy.



POPULATION



POPULATION

1063

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

408

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

The EWDC and UHC completed an annual audit of 501c3 organizations that focus on supporting at-risk equines and owners in need. The audit completed in 2022 showed 1,063 organizations offering custodial services, 408 organizations offering non-custodial services, and 365 organizations offering both custodial and non-custodial services. Non-custodial services include feed banks, veterinary assistance, castration assistance, direct placement services, euthanasia services, and other programming to support the at-risk and transitioning equine population.

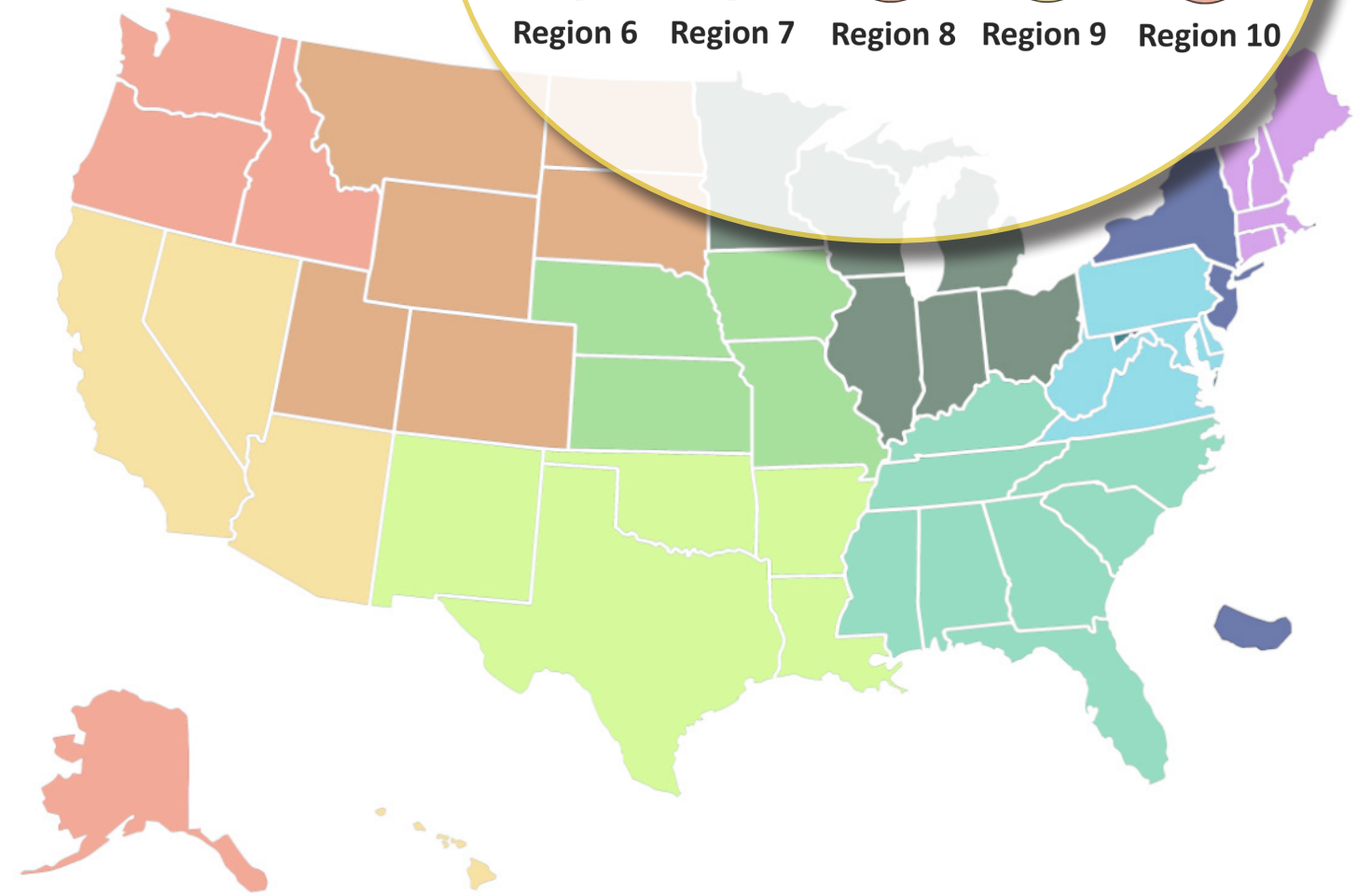
Since the EWDC's initial audit in 2018, 85 organizations have been recorded as ceasing operations for various reasons, including the loss of nonprofit status. 146 organizations have been added to the organization database, showing an increase in 501c3 organizations working to assist at-risk and transitioning horses and their owners over the last 5 years.

Since its inception, the EWDC has received data from 377 organizations total over the years, representing 35% of the entire equine welfare organization population. 14 organizations have submitted complete data every year since the EWDC's first report and will be used to generate trends on data reporting from 2018 to 2022 in a separate breakout report.

Additional information on population can be found by searching the [United Horse Coalition Equine Resource Database](#).

What's your region?

-  Region 1
-  Region 2
-  Region 3
-  Region 4
-  Region 5
-  Region 6
-  Region 7
-  Region 8
-  Region 9
-  Region 10





POPULATION

Sample Numbers and Population Demographics- Report 6

This report covers one full year of data. The analysis in this report only includes data submitted by organizations that covers the entire year of 2022. 154 organizations submitted partial or full data for the year of 2022. This report analyzes data submitted by 98 organizations that submitted datasets for the full year. Region designations were assigned based on the Federal Census Regions (Appendix B)

The population demographics from previous reports can be obtained at <https://UnitedHorseCoalition.org/ewdc/#ewdc-reports>.

Organization Type

Organizations are categorized by organization type based on what services they offer. Adoption/Rescue/Transition Centers are organizations that facilitate placements of equines in adoptive homes and new vocations. Sanctuary organizations provide lifetime care for equines and do not focus on rehoming the equines in their care. Municipal/Government facilities are owned, operated, or otherwise contracted by a government (taxpayer funded) entity and provide a combination of animal related services to the community. Organizations that offer direct placement services facilitate transitioning equines from one home to another without taking legal custody of the animal. Combination organizations offer a combination of one or more of the organization types. Organizations that listed "other" as their organization type could not categorize the services they offered into the provided organization types.

Organizations in 40 states provided full datasets for Report 6. A table of state respondents can be found in Appendix C.



POPULATION

View and search the database in entirety at UnitedHorseCoalition.org/equine-resource-database/

The screenshot shows the website for the United Horse Coalition Equine Resource Database. At the top is the United Horse Coalition logo with the tagline 'EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. COLLABORATE.' and social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. A navigation menu includes links for 'EQUINE RESOURCE DATABASE', 'NEW', 'ABOUT', 'EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE', 'MEMBER ORGANIZATION', 'JOIN THE CAUSE', 'EQUINE WELFARE DATA COLLECTIVE', 'DONATE', and 'UHC MEMBER PORTAL'. The main heading is 'United Horse Coalition Equine Resource Database'. Below this are search options: 'Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'All Categories'. A dark blue banner contains the text: 'WELCOME TO THE UNITED HORSE COALITION EQUINE RESOURCE DATABASE'. Below the banner, there is a message encouraging users to become UHC members or make a donation. Further down, there are instructions on how to use the database and a link to add an organization. At the bottom, there is a search section with a 'Search by Keyword' input field and a 'Search' button. Below the search field is a 'State/Province' section with checkboxes for 40 states: AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, WV, WY. Below the state list is a section titled 'UHC Equine Resource Database Affiliations' with checkboxes for 'A Home For Every Horse Member', 'ASPCA Right Horse Partner', 'ASPCA Right Horse Warm Up Ringer', and 'EQUUS 2022 EQUUS Guardian 2022'.



*Table 1
Participation for all data submitted in 2022 by Region*

Region	Adoption/Rescue/ Transition Center	Combination	Direct Placement	Municipal	Sanctuary	Other	Total
1	5	3	1	0	3	1	13
2	4	2	0	1	3	0	10
3	9	2	1	0	2	1	15
4	16	8	2	0	8	1	35
5	5	2	0	0	1	0	8
6	8	2	1	0	3	0	14
7	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
8	12	4	0	0	6	0	22
9	6	3	0	0	5	0	14
10	5	2	0	0	4	0	11
Total	72	30	5	1	37	3	148



Service Type

Organizations are also categorized by service type. Each organization reports whether they offer custodial services, direct placement services, safety net services, or a combination of these services.



*Table 2
Participation for Service Type 2022 by Region*

Region	Custodial Services	Direct Placement Services	Safety Net Services
1	7	4	3
2	8	1	4
3	9	5	4
4	16	2	3
5	8	1	2
6	9	2	2
7	5	1	4
8	15	3	4
9	6	4	3
10	9	2	2
Total	92	25	31



Figure 1

Organization type 2022 by Region

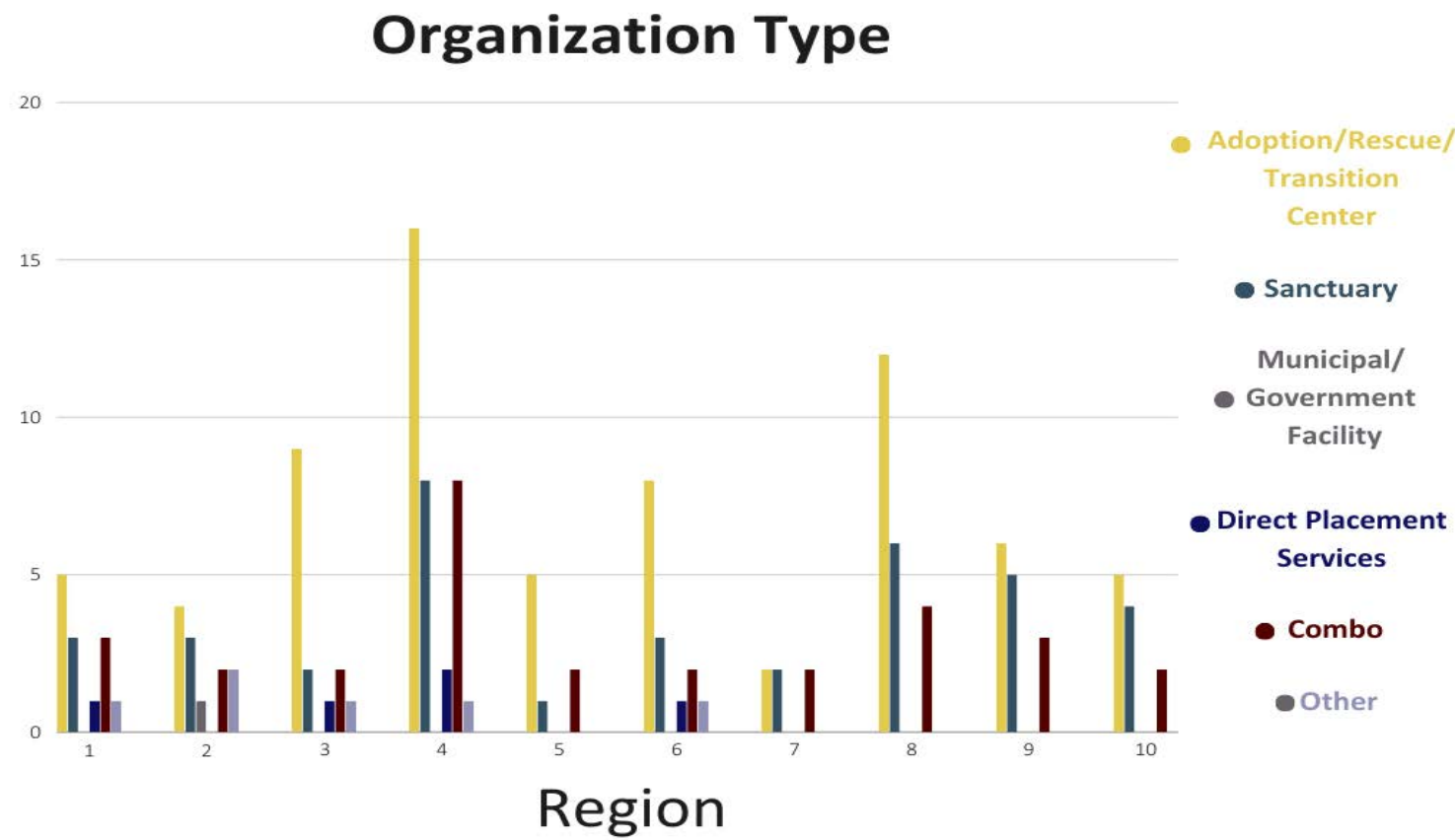


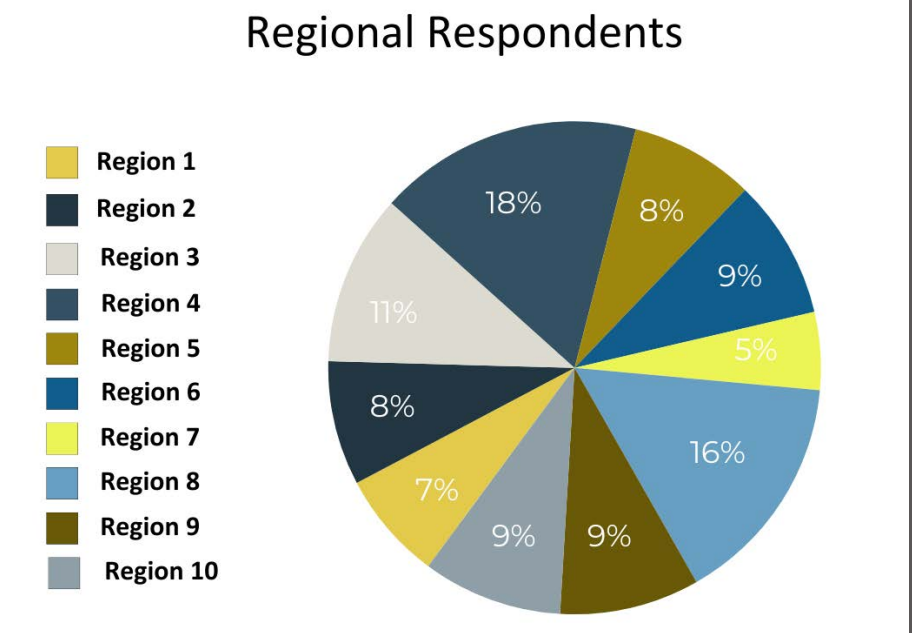
Table 3

Number Respondents 2022 by Region

Region	# of Respondents
1	7
2	8
3	11
4	17
5	8
6	9
7	5
8	15
9	9
10	9
Total	98

Figure 2

Percentage of Respondents 2022 by Region





Direct Placement Programs

Programs that offer direct placement assistance (DPA) facilitate transitioning equines from one home to another without taking legal custody of the equine. Reporting on direct placement programs in 2022 saw a promising rise in reporting with 25 organizations providing direct placement data. Organizations were asked how many direct placement requests they received and how many of those requests they were able to accommodate. In 2022, organizations that provided direct placement services reported accommodating 65% of requests.

Organizations that provide direct placement services reported that 225 equines listed by their owner or trainer found new homes through a direct placement program. 20 equines were voluntarily removed from a direct placement program by their owner or trainer.

Table 4

Direct Placement Assistance Request for 2022 by Region

Region	Requests Received	Requests Fulfilled	Number of Equines that found new homes through DPA	Number of Equines Voluntarily withdrawn from DPA Program
1	149	84	76	4
2	5	6	0	0
3	100	100	65	13
4	3	3	68	0
5	0	0	0	0
6	12	6	5	0
7	9	6	0	3
8	32	2	2	0
9	12	3	9	0
10	3	2	0	0
Total	325	212	225	20



Assistance Services

Assistance Services include non-custodial services that are offered by an organization. These services include hay banks, veterinary assistance, husbandry assistance, euthanasia and disposal services, and more. The ultimate goal of assistance services is to support an owner in the care of their equine without the organization needing to take custody of the equine. These are intended to be short term assistance solutions to facilitate owners maintaining custody of their equines during times of financial or logistical need.

31 organizations reported providing assistance services making up 31% of the total respondents in 2022, a decrease from the 40% of the total respondents who reported providing assistance services in 2021.

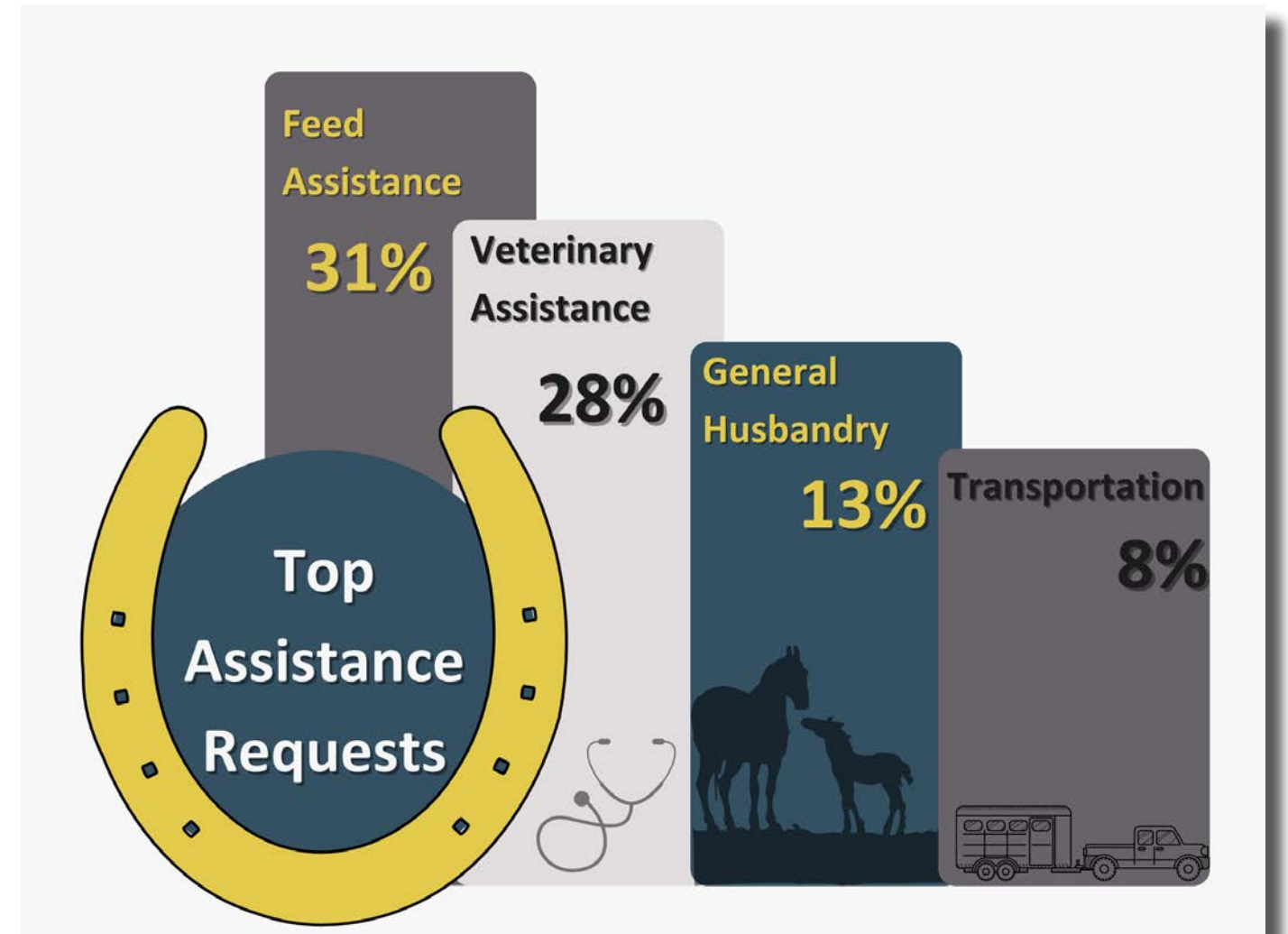
Assistance Requests

Organizations were asked to report how many total requests were received in 10 categories and how many requests were fulfilled. Feed assistance was most requested (31%) followed by requests for veterinary care (28%).

Notably, organizations that received general husbandry and castration assistance requests were able to fulfill 100% of requests, similar to numbers reported in 2021. Organizations also fulfilled a similar number (57%) of veterinary care requests to numbers reported in 2021 but were only able to fulfill 44% of feed assistance requests in 2022 compared to 94% in 2021.



*Figure 3
Top Assistance Requests for 2022*





NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES



NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

*Table 5
Safety Net Fulfillments by Service*

Service	Percent of Requests Fulfilled
Euthanasia	100%
Husbandry	100%
Castration	100%
Disposal	78%
Veterinary	57%
Boarding	50%
Feed	44%
Transport	44%
Disaster	40%
Behavior	38%
Total % Fulfilled	59.61%

*Table 6
Safety Net Services, Percentage of Total Requests*

Service	Percent of Total Requests
Feed	30.66%
Veterinary	27.98%
Husbandry	12.65%
Transport	8.27%
Behavior	5.11%
Euthanasia	4.62%
Boarding	3.89%
Castration	3.41%
Disposal	2.19%
Disaster	1.22%

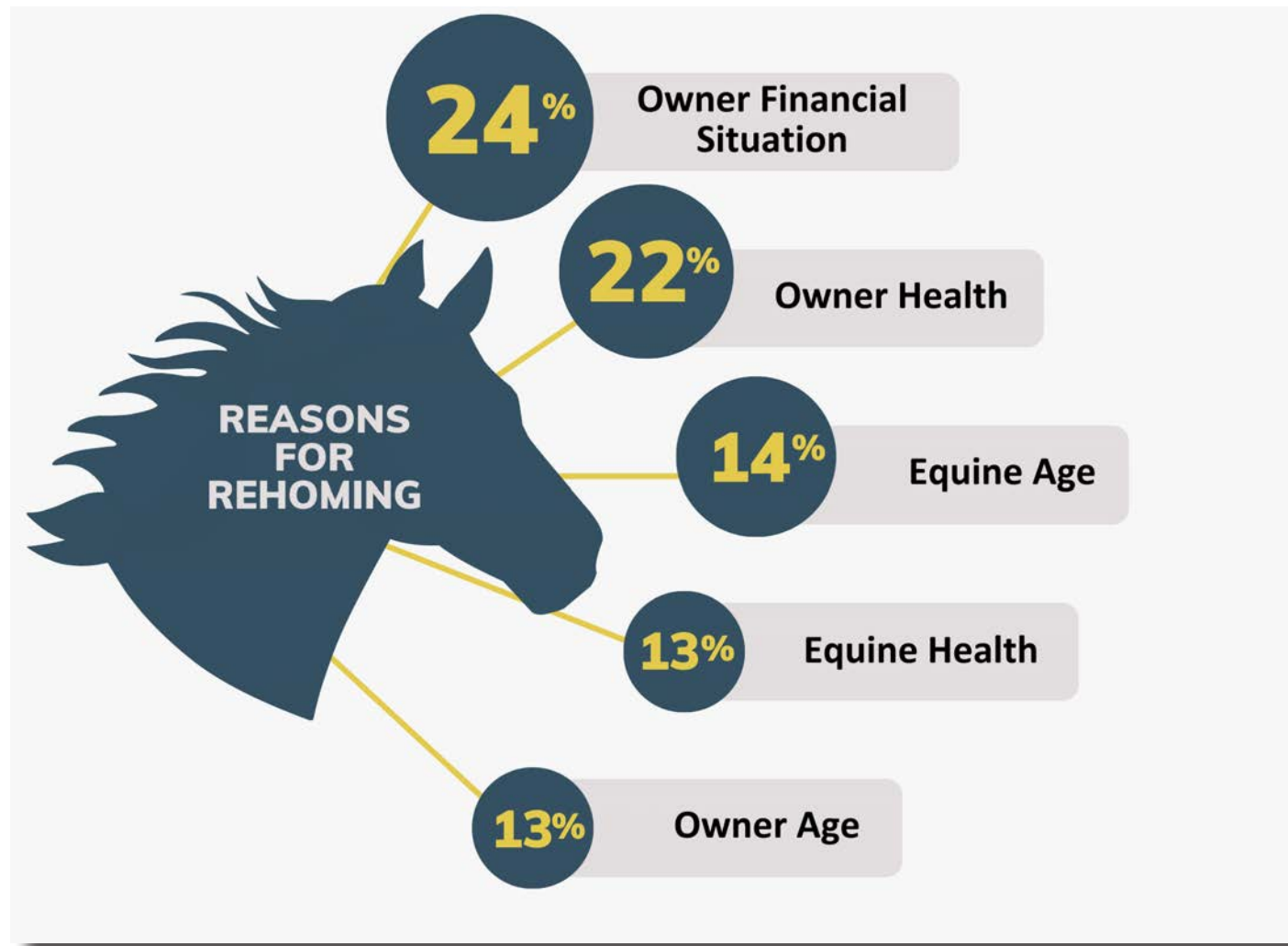


NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Reasons for Rehoming

Organizations offering assistance services reported 98 requests from owners for aid in rehoming their equine. The most common reasons to rehome included the owner's financial situation (23%), the owner's health (21%), the equine's age (14%), the owner's age and the equine's health (each 13%). Other reasons to rehome include the owner relocating, and the equine's behavior.

Figure 4
Top Reasons for Rehoming

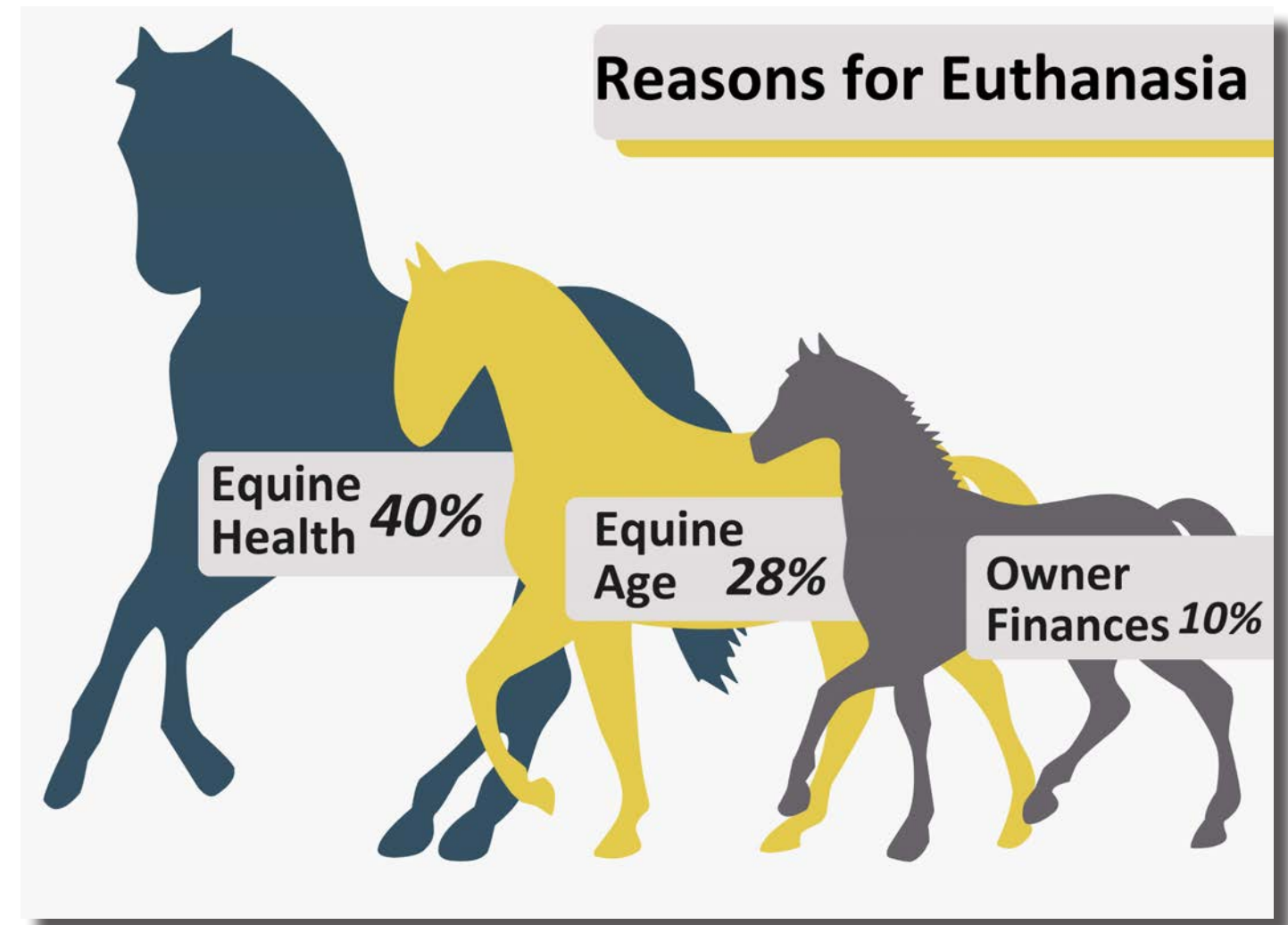


NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Reasons for Euthanasia

Organizations offering assistance services reported 50 requests from owners for euthanasia assistance. The most common reasons for euthanasia were the equine's health (40%), the equine's age (28%), and the owner's financial situation (10%). Other reasons to euthanize reported included the owner's health, the owner's age, the owner relocating, and the equine's behavior. Data on the health status of these equines was not collected for this report.

Figure 5
Top Reasons for Euthanasia



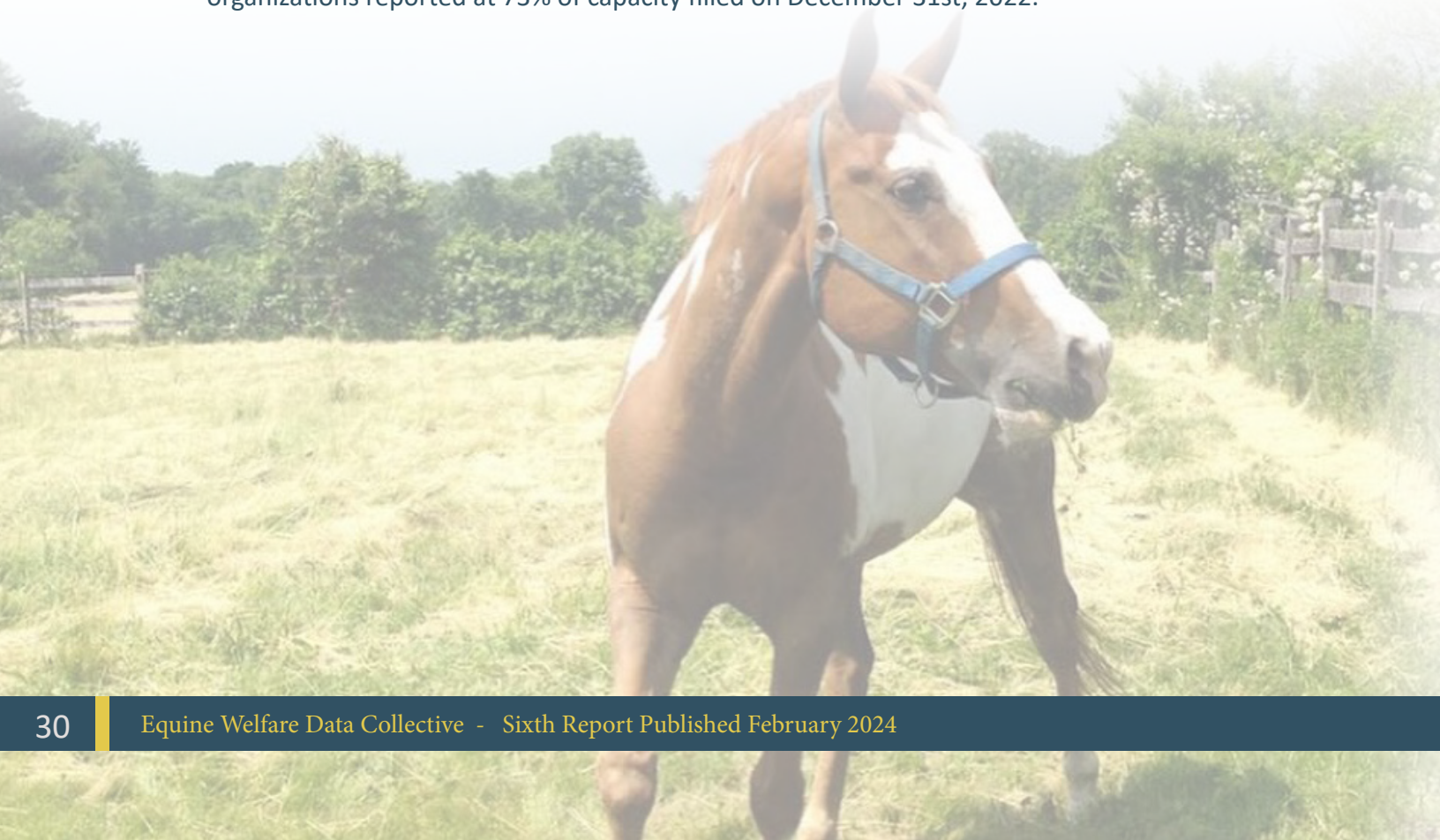


Custodial Services

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. Data on custodial services shows how organizations report equines are coming into their care (intakes) and how equines are leaving their care (outcomes). This data helps to determine trends in the industry, how horses are making their way into the rescue pipeline, and what outcomes are likely for those equines. Nationally, owner relinquishments were the leading cause of an organization taking custody of an equine at 60%, followed by law enforcement confiscation at 16%. 66% of reported outcomes were adoptions.

Reasons for intakes listed under “Other” include equines involved in pending court cases, horses brought into the organization from the Bureau for Land Management (BLM), and horses donated to an organization. Organizations that listed outcomes as “Other” did not provide reasons in their data submissions.

92 of the 98 total respondents in 2022 reported offering custodial services. Nationally, organizations reported at 73% of capacity filled on December 31st, 2022.



*Table 7
Participants by state that submitted full year 2022 Custodial Services*

State	Participants	State	Participants	State	Participants	State	Participants
AL	1	KY	2	NM	3	TX	5
CA	5	MA	2	NV	1	UT	1
CO	11	MD	1	NY	6	VA	3
CT	1	ME	2	OH	2	VT	1
FL	7	MI	3	OK	1	WA	3
GA	1	MO	3	OR	4	WI	1
IA	1	MT	1	PA	2	WV	1
ID	2	NC	4	PR	1	WY	1
IL	2	NH	1	SC	1		
KS	1	NJ	1	SD	1		



Custodial Services

How do we define size?

Maximum Daily Capacity	Category
0-10	Small
11-50	Medium
51-100	Large
>100	Extra Large

Table 8

Participants by Size and Type that submitted full year 2022 Custodial Services

Size	Reporting	% of Population
Small	11	16%
Medium	48	68%
Large	9	13%
Extra Large	3	4%



Custodial Services

Table 9

Participants by Size and Region that submitted full year 2022 Custodial Services

Region	Extra Large	Large	Medium	Small	Total
1	0	0	4	0	4
2	0	0	5	0	5
3	2	1	3	3	9
4	1	2	8	2	13
5	0	1	4	0	5
6	0	2	4	3	9
7	0	1	2	0	3
8	0	1	11	0	12
9	0	1	4	0	5
10	0	0	3	3	6
Total	3	9	48	11	71



Length of Stay, Presence of Foster Programs, and Capacity

EWDC reports have focused on three major factors that affect equines at-risk and in transition as they move through the rescue pipeline: capacity of individual organizations, the average length of stay (LOS) before horses see an outcome, and the use of a foster network.

Data on the average capacity of an organization can help the industry understand how many equines can be housed by organizations nationwide as well as what percentage of that total capacity is currently filled. Of the 98 respondents who provided a full year of data, 71 respondents provided a maximum number of equines in their legal custody the organization can care for at one time; the average capacity of an organization was 38 equines.

Data showing the average LOS for equines in the custody of an organization is vital to understanding how much of the industry’s resources are used to maintain horses at risk or in transition. From the sample collected, 33% of organizations who answered questions about LOS did not know or were unable to track the average LOS for the horses in their care. For all organizations that reported LOS data (including sanctuary organizations), the average LOS for an equine in custody was 302.8636 days. The average LOS for an equine in custody for adoption/rescue/transition centers was 266.703 days.

51% of organizations (n=75) reported using a foster network. 189 equines were reported to be in foster care as of December 31st, 2022 and were not included in custodial outcome data. 40 organizations provided data on the capacity of their foster network. The total sum of the additional equines that can be housed foster through networks came to 1,459.

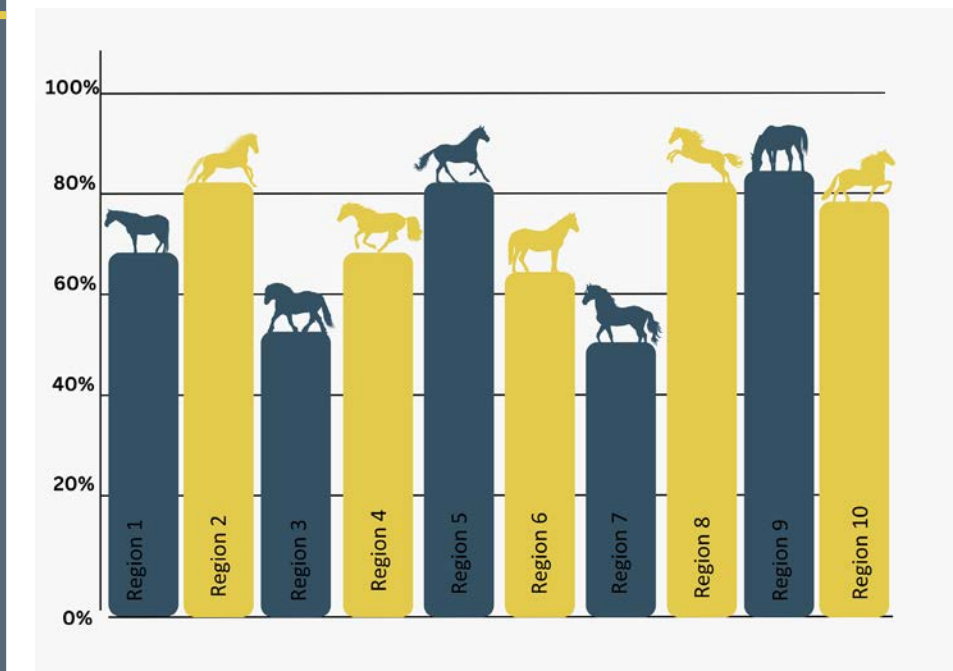


It is important to note that data on capacity, LOS, and foster networks is limited by a common industry issue: organizations often lack the resources to track vital information on equines in their custody. The EWDC is tracking the use of different methods and software available to assist organizations in maintaining their vital data. Plans for the future of the EWDC include finding ways to help organizations develop their data resources to ensure more accurate reporting.

Table 10
Capacity Filled by Region

Region	% Capacity Filled
1	73%
2	81%
3	54%
4	69%
5	82%
6	63%
7	50%
8	82%
9	83%
10	77%

Figure 6
Capacity Filled by Region





Intakes and Outcomes from January 2022-December 2022

Nationally, (n=98) contributing organizations saw 3,506 intakes throughout 2022 with 60% of intakes caused by owner relinquishment. These organizations saw 3,244 total outcomes with 66% of outcomes due to adoptions. 2,661 equines remained in custody on December 31st, 2022.



Need a refresher on intake and outcome definitions?
Check out the glossary in Appendix B!

The intake and outcomes percentages in this report follow similar trends in our previous reports. These trends will be explored on a regional and national level in a separate summary report later this year.

Visit us at www.unitedhorsecoalition.org/ewdc to make sure you're on our mailing list to be notified about our upcoming summary reports!



2022 Intakes and Outcomes - National



National (n=98)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.2	22	1%
Relinquished by Owner	22.8	2100	60%
Adoption Return	3.2	296	8%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	6.2	569	16%
Transferred in from another agency	1.8	167	5%
Purchased at public auction	0.6	58	2%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	1.0	97	3%
Born in shelter	0.3	26	1%
Other Intakes	1.8	171	5%

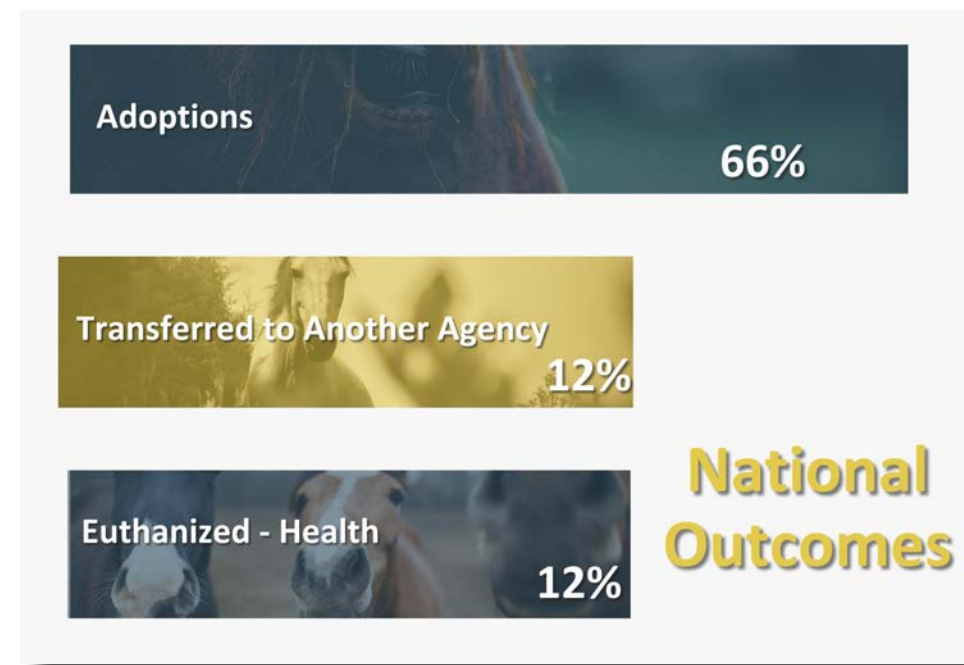
Total Intakes: 3506

OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	21.9	2015	66%
Return to Owner	1.8	165	5%
Transferred to Another Agency	3.9	359	12%
Euthanized Health	3.9	361	12%
Euthanized Behavior	0.1	7	0%
Euthanized Other	0.8	70	2%
Died in care	0.4	32	1%
Other Outcomes	0.5	46	2%

Total Outcomes: 3055

Total In Custody December 31, 2021: 2661

% of Equines without an Outcome: 50.5%





2022 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 1

Region 1 (n=7)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0	0	0%
Relinquished by Owner	22.5	158	62%
Adoption Return	2.7	19	8%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.5	4	2%
Transferred in from another agency	1.3	9	4%
Purchased at public auction	1.1	8	3%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	5.4	38	15%
Born in shelter	0.1	1	0%
Other Intakes	2.2	16	0.6%

Total Intakes: 253

OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	29.7	208	86%
Return to Owner	0.1	1	0%
Transferred to Another Agency	1.3	9	4%
Euthanized Health	3.4	24	10%
Euthanized Behavior	0	0	0%
Euthanized Other	0	0	0%
Died in care	0	0	0%
Other Outcomes	0	0	0%

Total Outcomes: 242

Total In Custody December 31, 2021 222

% of Equines without an Outcome 49.0%



2022 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 2

Region 2 (n=8)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.2	2	1%
Relinquished by Owner	14.1	113	72%
Adoption Return	1.2	10	6%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	0.0	0	0%
Transferred in from another agency	2.3	19	12%
Purchased at public auction	0.7	6	4%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.6	5	3%
Born in shelter	0.0	0	0%
Other Intakes	0.4	3	2%

Total Intakes:	158
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	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
OUTCOMES			
Adoption	13.4	107	63%
Return to Owner	0.0	0	0%
Transferred to Another Agency	6.0	48	28%
Euthanized Health	1.25	10	6%
Euthanized Behavior	0.0	0	0%
Euthanized Other	0.2	2	1%
Died in care	0.2	2	1%
Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0%

Total Outcomes:	169
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	182
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% of Equines without an Outcome	50.29%
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2022 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 3

Region 3 (n=9)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.9	8	1%
Relinquished by Owner	55.0	495	77%
Adoption Return	3.3	30	5%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	6.2	56	9%
Transferred in from another agency	2.2	20	3%
Purchased at public auction	0.4	4	1%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.2	2	0%
Born in shelter	.5	5	1%
Other Intakes	2.8	25	4%

Total Intakes:	645
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	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
OUTCOMES			
Adoption	24.4	220	38%
Return to Owner	0.1	1	0%
Transferred to Another Agency	28.9	260	44%
Euthanized Health	3.4	31	5%
Euthanized Behavior	0.0	2	0%
Euthanized Other	6.3	57	10%
Died in care	0.7	6	1%
Other Outcomes	1.2	11	2%

Total Outcomes:	586
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Total In Custody December 31, 2022	316
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% of Equines without an Outcome	37.98%
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2022 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 4

Region 4 (n=16)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.1	1	0
Relinquished by Owner	37.2	595	77%
Adoption Return	5.0	80	10%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	2.25	36	5%
Transferred in from another agency	1.5	24	3%
Purchased at public auction	0.7	11	1%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.7	12	2%
Born in shelter	0.2	3	0%
Other Intakes	0.8	13	2%

Total Intakes:	775
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	41.0	656	84%
Return to Owner	1.0	16	2%
Transferred to Another Agency	0.8	13	2%
Euthanized Health	2.5	41	5%
Euthanized Behavior	0.2	4	1%
Euthanized Other	0.1	2	0%
Died in care	0.7	12	2%
Other Outcomes	2.1	34	4%

Total Outcomes:	778
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Total In Custody December 31, 2022	442
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% of Equines without an Outcome	36.07%
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2022 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 5

Region 5 (n=8)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.1	1	0%
Relinquished by Owner	27.5	220	63%
Adoption Return	8.0	64	18%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	2.5	20	6%
Transferred in from another agency	2.6	21	6%
Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	1.8	15	4%
Born in shelter	0.5	4	1%
Other Intakes	0.7	6	2%

Total Intakes:	351
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	28.7	230	78%
Return to Owner	0.0	0	0%
Transferred to Another Agency	0.2	2	1%
Euthanized Health	7.7	62	21%
Euthanized Behavior	0.1	1	0%
Euthanized Other	0.0	0	0%
Died in care	0.1	1	0%
Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0%

Total Outcomes:	296
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	270
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% of Equines without an Outcome	52.33%
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2022 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 6

Region 6 (n=9)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0%
Relinquished by Owner	10.2	92	38%
Adoption Return	1.2	11	4%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	6.4	58	24%
Transferred in from another agency	1.5	14	6%
Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.1	1	0%
Born in shelter	0.0	0	0%
Other Intakes	7.6	69	28%

Total Intakes:	245
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	18.2	164	85%
Return to Owner	0.0	0	0%
Transferred to Another Agency	0.0	0	0%
Euthanized Health	3.1	28	15%
Euthanized Behavior	0.0	0	0%
Euthanized Other	0.0	0	0%
Died in care	0.0	0	0%
Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0%

Total Outcomes:	192
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	167
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% of Equines without an Outcome	53.39%
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2022 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 7

Region 7 (n=5)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0%
Relinquished by Owner	9.8	49	62%
Adoption Return	1.2	6	8%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	1.6	8	10%
Transferred in from another agency	0.8	4	5%
Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.0	0	0%
Born in shelter	0.2	1	1%
Other Intakes	2.2	11	14%

Total Intakes:	79
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	6.6	33	69%
Return to Owner	0.6	3	6%
Transferred to Another Agency	0.0	0	0%
Euthanized Health	2.0	10	21%
Euthanized Behavior	0	0	0%
Euthanized Other	0	0	0%
Died in care	0.4	2	4%
Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0%

Total Outcomes:	48
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	144
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% of Equines without an Outcome	78.47%
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2022 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 8

Region 8 (n=15)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.3	5	1%
Relinquished by Owner	11.8	177	28%
Adoption Return	3.3	50	8%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	20.6	310	48%
Transferred in from another agency	1.5	22	3%
Purchased at public auction	1.7	26	4%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	1.1	17	3%
Born in shelter	0.6	9	1%
Other Intakes	1.8	27	4%

Total Intakes:	643
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	16.1	242	45%
Return to Owner	9.5	143	27%
Transferred to Another Agency	1.3	20	4%
Euthanized Health	8.1	122	23%
Euthanized Behavior	0.1	2	0%
Euthanized Other	0.1	1	0%
Died in care	0.4	6	1%
Other Outcomes	0.1	1	0%

Total Outcomes:	537
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	513
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% of Equines without an Outcome	53.54%
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2022 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 9

Region 9 (n=6)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.8	5	4%
Relinquished by Owner	10.6	64	52%
Adoption Return	2.0	12	10%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	2.0	12	10%
Transferred in from another agency	4.5	27	22%
Purchased at public auction	0.0	0	0%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.0	0	0%
Born in shelter	0.1	1	1%
Other Intakes	0.1	1	1%

Total Intakes:	122
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	15.0	90	80%
Return to Owner	0.1	1	1%
Transferred to Another Agency	0.8	5	4%
Euthanized Health	2.8	17	15%
Euthanized Behavior	0.0	0	0%
Euthanized Other	0.0	0	0%
Died in care	0.0	0	0%
Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0%

Total Outcomes:	113
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	187
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% of Equines without an Outcome	63.43%
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2022 Intakes and Outcomes - Region 10

Region 10 (n=9)	Mean	Sum	% of Total Intakes
INTAKES			
Stray/At Large	0.0	0	0%
Relinquished by Owner	15.2	137	58%
Adoption Return	1.5	14	6%
Law Enforcement Confiscation	7.2	65	28%
Transferred in from another agency	0.8	7	3%
Purchased at public auction	0.3	3	1%
Purchased from kill pen/kill buyer	0.8	7	3%
Born in shelter	0.2	2	1%
Other Intakes	0.0	0	0%

Total Intakes:	235
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OUTCOMES	Mean	Sum	% of Total Outcomes
Adoption	7.2	65	56%
Return to Owner	0.0	0	0%
Transferred to Another Agency	0.2	2	2%
Euthanized Health	1.7	16	14%
Euthanized Behavior	0.0	0	0%
Euthanized Other	0.9	8	7%
Died in care	0.3	3	3%
Other Outcomes	0.0	0	0%

Total Outcomes:	94
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Total In Custody December 31, 2021	218
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% of Equines without an Outcome	79.25%
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Conclusions and Future Survey Considerations

The EWDC is proud to publish its sixth report, representing our fifth year of data collection and reporting. A report detailing the trends shown by the data collected over the last four years will be published and can allow us to better understand how the global pandemic COVID 19 affected at-risk and transitioning horses and the organizations offering custodial and non-custodial services.

From Report 6 we can conclude that most horses are entering the rescue pipeline through owner relinquishment and the majority of outcomes are due to adoptions. These results are similar to the data reported in past years. Foster programs continue to offer an option for organizations close to max capacity to temporarily move horses and allow for more intakes.

United Horse Coalition's ultimate goal is to reduce the number of intakes nationwide and to work to keep horses with their owners and prevent these horses from entering the rescue pipeline at all. Data showing assistance services merits a closer inspection as assistance service can act as a lifeline for owners on the brink of relinquishment. A concerning decrease in the number of feed assistance requests fulfilled is notable, but it is not yet known if this decrease is a result of increased requests or decreased supplies.

We understand from outreach and communications with previously reporting organizations, that global pandemic impacted submissions, but data submissions are on the rise including a promising increase in reporting on direct placement services. The EWDC plans to continue to work to increase reporting to ensure accurate and unbiased reporting in the future.

We're always open to feedback and encourage everyone to share with us the questions they feel are important for us to explore. Please send any comments or feedback to 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



1. United States Treasury Department. (n.d.-b). Tax Exempt Organization Search | Internal Revenue Service. Retrieved August 7, 2019, from <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search>
2. United States Treasury Department. (n.d.-a). State Links | Internal Revenue Service. Retrieved August 7, 2019, from <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/state-links>

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		





APPENDIX B

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 within a 6 month time frame.

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.



APPENDIX B

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.



APPENDIX C

State Population of All Known Organizations and Response Rates since EWDC Inception 2018

State	State Pop.	Partic. Rate (%)	State	State Pop.	Partic. Rate (%)
AK	2	0.0%	NC	33	45%
AL	7	29%	ND	2	50%
AR	8	0.0%	NE	5	80%
AZ	41	27%	NH	8	75%
CA	109	26%	NJ	15	27%
CO	56	61%	NM	11	73%
CT	11	45%	NV	7	71%
DE	4	50%	NY	46	46%
FL	73	34%	OH	30	20%
GA	25	24%	OK	15	33%
HI	3	33%	OR	25	52%
IA	8	50%	PA	43	35%
ID	6	67%	PR	3	33%
IL	24	38%	RI	3	0%
IN	15	13%	SC	20	20%
KS	6	50%	SD	5	40%
KY	22	41%	TN	24	33%
LA	9	11%	TX	61	38%
MA	12	42%	UT	9	44%
MD	29	48%	VA	30	53%
ME	9	56%	VT	4	50%
MI	21	48%	WA	26	27%
MN	14	29%	WI	17	24%
MO	17	65%	WV	3	67%
MS	7	14%	WY	3	100%
MT	8	25%			

APPENDIX D

State Respondents

State	Respondents	State	Region
AK	0	NC	5
AL	1	ND	0
AR	0	NE	0
AZ	3	NH	1
CA	5	NJ	1
CO	11	NM	3
CT	1	NV	1
DE	1	NY	6
FL	7	OH	2
GA	1	OK	1
HI	0	OR	4
IA	1	PA	3
ID	2	PR	1
IL	2	RI	0
IN	0	SC	1
KS	1	SD	1
KY	2	TN	0
LA	0	TX	5
MA	2	UT	1
MD	1	VA	5
ME	2	VT	1
MI	3	WA	3
MN	0	WI	1
MO	3	WV	1
MS	0	WY	1
MT	1	GRAND TOTAL	98

EQUINE WELFARE DATA COLLECTIVE © 2023

