Effective January 1st, 2025

A Home for Every Horse and United Horse Coalition - Member Expectations Statement

As a member of A Home For Every Horse (AHFEH) and the United Horse Coalition (UHC), organizations and individuals are expected to adhere to the following core principles, ensuring the highest standards of care, ethics, and accountability in the rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming of equines:

1. **Safe and Secure Facilities**
   All member facilities must provide safe, secure, and humane environments for all equines in their care. This includes appropriate shelter, clean water, appropriate nutrition catered to the needs of the individual equine, proper fencing, and adequate space to ensure the physical and psychological well-being of each equine.

2. **Effective Rehabilitation and Refeeding Programs**
   Member organizations must implement and maintain effective rehabilitation and refeeding programs for equines that have been neglected, abused, or abandoned. These programs should be tailored to meet the specific needs of each equine, including specially tailored diets including feed and hay that cater to each equine's nutritional needs, veterinary care, and behavioral support.

3. **Responsible Sourcing**
   Member organizations should prioritize equines in need of assistance due to owner relinquishment or law enforcement cases over those rescued from kill pens or involved in bail-out operations. This approach helps prevent unnecessary equine slaughter, supports individuals in crisis, and ensures that horses transitioning from private ownership receive timely and appropriate care. By focusing on owner relinquishments, we can more effectively intervene before equines become vulnerable to auction houses, kill pens or bail-out operations.

   AHFEH/UHC acknowledges that individuals bailing out equines have good intentions, however those operating kill pen and bail-out operations do not, and this can unintentionally perpetuate harm by addressing only immediate crises without tackling the root causes of equine vulnerability. These operations often lack long-term support, leading to a cycle of at-risk equines. To break this cycle, we advocate for a focus on preventive measures, education, and supporting equine owners, while encouraging industry partners to invest in initiatives that prevent equines from entering these situations. Our goal is to reduce the number of equines facing crisis and ensure they receive the resources and care they need before reaching such points. For more information: https://www.aspcapro.org/why-equine-organizations-should-avoid-kill-pen-bail-outs-and-find-alternative-ways-help-horses-need

4. **Commitment to Ethical Practices**
   All member organizations must maintain transparent, honest, and ethical business practices, finances, fundraising, and operations. This includes full disclosure of financial operations, fundraising efforts, and programmatic activities. AHFEH/UHC advises that organizations maintain accountability and plan for the future with professional support from third party accountants, auditors, attorneys and diligent board education and succession planning for the health and sustainability of it's member organizations. Any allegations of questionable business

practices or misuse of funds will be taken seriously and may result in having membership suspended or rescinded from AHFEH/UHC.

5. **Zero Tolerance for Abuse or Neglect**
   Member organizations must demonstrate a commitment to the highest standards of animal welfare. Any evidence of abuse, neglect, or mistreatment of any animal, either within the organization's care or related to its operations, will result in immediate investigation and the possibility of having membership suspended or rescinded from AHFEH/UHC.

6. **Respectful Collaboration and Positive Culture**

   As members of the United Horse Coalition and A Home For Every Horse, we are united by our shared commitment to equine welfare. While we may differ in our approaches, philosophies, or operations, our collective strength comes from focusing on what we have in common and working together toward solutions that serve horses and their caretakers.

   Members are expected to engage in respectful and professional conduct at all times, both within the coalition and in public forums. Publicly disparaging or criticizing fellow members or their organizations undermines the spirit of collaboration and weakens our shared mission. Differences of opinion should be expressed constructively, with the goal of building understanding and common ground. By fostering a culture of respect, collaboration, and mutual support, we ensure that the coalition remains a trusted and effective resource for the equine welfare community.

7. **Adoption and Rehoming Standards**
   If member organizations are involved in the adoption and rehoming of equines, they must employ adoption policies and procedures that focus on creating a good match between adopter and equine. We encourage members to implement and provide a support system to new adopters/owners to help troubleshoot any issues that arise with a new adoption, which will in turn increase the success rate of adoptions as much as possible, keeping equines out of the pipeline. Wherever possible, members should make every attempt to offer a lifetime safety net for adopted equines and be willing to take adoption returns at any time.

   A Home For Every Horse and the United Horse Coalition strongly advises that organizations, their members, staff, any affiliated businesses, or principle of the organization, refrain from selling equines at public livestock auctions where feedlot buyers may be present or through third parties that may take horses to similar auctions. Equines rescued or taken into an organization's care should be given the time, resources, and support they need to find permanent, responsible homes. Selling these equines at livestock auction undermines the commitment to their welfare and can expose them to further risk. We urge all members and affiliates to prioritize ethical practices that ensure the safety and well-being of rescued equines, and to seek alternative solutions that provide long-term security for these animals. An organization's membership may be suspended or rescinded by AHFEH/UHC if equines are found to be taken to public livestock auction where kill buyers are known to be present, directly or indirectly by an organization, the principle of an organization, or on behalf of the organization.

By maintaining these standards, A Home For Every Horse and the United Horse Coalition ensures a united, ethical, and effective approach to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming equines in need. Members are expected to uphold these principles as part of their commitment to improving the welfare of all equines under their care.

AHFEH/UHC retain the right to suspend or rescind the membership of any individual or organization, at their sole discretion, for any reason deemed appropriate. Decisions regarding membership will be made thoughtfully and in accordance with the member expectations statement, the mission, goals, and best interests of AHFEH/UHC, and the welfare of equines.