



Unwanted Horse Project

Action Plan
2010 - 2011

Unwanted Horse Project: Purpose

- Gather information about the nature and extent of unwanted horses in Maryland
- Provide information and recommendations to MHC
- Assist MHC with developing policies and positions regarding horse welfare and unwanted horses
- Provide information to MHIB, welfare organizations , other jurisdictions as needed
- Help MHC respond to calls for information from AHC and GAO, where appropriate

Unwanted Horses: Key Issues

A stylized, semi-circular graphic of a horse's head in profile, facing right. The head is composed of various colored segments: a grey snout and muzzle, a white blaze on the forehead, and a body of pink and yellow. The entire graphic is enclosed within a light grey semi-circular border.

- Data & Information
- Education
- Economy
- Programs
- Funding
- Welfare
- Over-breeding
- Re-Training
- Re-Homing
- Euthanasia

Education Action Recommendations

Primary Focus = Responsible Horse Ownership

- Maryland Responsible Horse Ownership Week – May, 2011
 - Governor’s Proclamation
 - Week-long series of programs in conjunction with Preakness week involving farms, riding and lesson stables, public libraries, equine businesses, MHC, rescues and sanctuaries, 4-H, Pony Clubs
- MHC Website for Unwanted Horse Project as a central online “hub” for publicizing existing educational opportunities and resources (more on this below)
 - Downloadable brochures, documents, videos
 - Links to recommended resources
- Distribute educational materials through lesson barns
- Booths and free seminars at State/County Fairs, Horse Expo, etc.

Data & Information Action Recommendations

- State-wide Clearinghouse
 - “Connections” for existing Unwanted Horse programs and potential solutions – adopters, trainers, other interested parties
 - Adoptable horse listings*
 - Emergency foster network*
 - Resource wish lists/sharing among rescues*
 - Links to participating licensed rescues and sanctuaries
 - Publicize horse industry resources and educational materials
 - Public seminars
 - Educational materials & events
 - Links to Support Resources
 - Hay Bank
 - Euthanasia Clinics
 - Disposal Options
 - Gelding Clinics
 - Programs sponsored by MHC and other horse welfare programs
 - Communications Calendar

*Updated by member organizations

Data & Information Action Recommendations (Cont'd)

- Recurring Maryland Unwanted Horse Survey
 - Trend analysis – where are the unwanted horses located? Are their numbers increasing/decreasing?
 - Projections; feedback
- Information Measured (recommend semi-annual):
 - Number of unwanted horses
 - Causes
 - Efforts to-date
 - Awareness of Options
 - Suggestions for New Approaches
- Sources:

SPCA & Humane Societies; Rescues; Sanctuaries; Dept. of Agriculture; Extension Agents; Vets; Sheriffs/Animal Control; Renderers, Auctions

Horse Welfare Action Recommendations

- Strengthen Regulations
 - MDA/MHIB regulations pertaining to licensed rescues
- Monitor and provide input to USDA initiative for National Animal Identification System

Welfare/Overbreeding Action Recommendations

- Participate in Unwanted Horse Coalition/AAEP “Operation Gelding” Clinic Program
 - ✓ Venue selected
 - ✓ Legal review of documents complete
 - ✓ Insurance issues addressed
 - ✓ Veterinarians recruited (ongoing)
- Raise Funding for Independent Needs-Based Gelding Voucher Program
 - ✓ UHC requested to consider future voucher program

Euthanasia/Disposal Action Recommendations

- Education
 - Research and publicize methods of disposal on MHC UHP website
 - ✓ Work with counties to allow needs-based use of landfills
 - ✓ Investigate and promote environmentally friendly disposal (e.g., composting)
 - ✓ Work with renderers to improve disposal rates
- Programs
 - Obtain funding to promote research to develop humane, environmentally “green” and economically reasonable options for euthanasia and disposal
 - Explore conducting humane euthanasia clinics
 - Study: State Humane Facility – model facility to assist with intake, evaluation, placement and solutions for unwanted horses

Other Projects

- Use Technology to further communications
 - Videoconferencing and teleconferencing for meetings.
 - Time and money savings after initial investment
 - Increase meeting participation; include interested parties from Eastern Shore and Western MD
 - Include video capabilities on Unwanted Horse website
 - Use social networking and other online tools to increase publicity
- Two venues for semi-monthly UHP meetings – 2011 calendar to be announced by mid-December

Fundraising Recommendations (MHC-wide recommendation)

- 2011 – Form Non-Profit Charitable Organization to Raise Funds for MHC Programs
 - Include a fund for various Unwanted Horse Initiatives
- Recruit private group of private contributors to assist with funding larger projects
- Increase public awareness of tax-deductibility of donations and how funds are used.
- Identify new funding sources in conjunction with MHC board and membership.

Short-Term Funding Needs

• “Virtual” meeting capability initial investment	\$400
• “Virtual meeting ongoing expense	\$600/yr
• Maryland Responsible Horse Ownership Week Materials and Programs (est.)	\$600
• Unwanted Horse “Connections” Website initial investment	\$3,500
• Unwanted Horse “Connections” Website ongoing cost	\$1,200/yr
• Operation Gelding clinics (2)	\$2,600
• Needs-based Gelding Voucher program	\$5,000
• Unwanted Horse Survey (est.)	\$2,500

	\$16,400
• Research projects	TBD