

Equine Welfare and You

Emily Weiss, Ph.D. CAAB
Vice President of Equine Welfare



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What are the challenges for equines in your community?



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A Safe Place to Go...

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Rehoming and
Transitioning
Equines



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Safety
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Options




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Effective
Law
Enforcement
Response to
Cruelty and
Neglect




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Let's dig into the details

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Rehoming and Transitioning Equines



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animals 

Article
Estimating the Availability of Potential Homes for Unwanted Horses in the United States

Emily Weiss*, Emily D. Dolan, Heather Mohan-Gibbons, Shannon Gramann and Margaret R. Slater

Research and Development, Community Outreach, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), New York, NY 10128, USA; emily.dolan@aspcanyc.org (E.D.D.); heather.mohan-gibbons@aspcanyc.org (H.M.-G.); shannon.gramann@aspcanyc.org (S.G.); margaret.slater@aspcanyc.org (M.R.S.)

* Correspondence: Emily.weiss@aspcanyc.org; Tel.: +1-212-574-7333


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2.3 million people (1.2 million households) have space, resources and a strong interest in adopting





Help a Horse 2018 Contest

Re-aiming the contest to help achieve our goals – hard shift toward increasing adoptions



Results

- Collectively the groups raised over \$2.2 Million in donations
- Over 1,000 adoptions in a 2-month period!
- More than 75% of the applicants increased their adoptions over the same time period as the last year
- Collectively applicants more than **doubled** their adoptions
- The middle division **tripled** their adoptions




2019

Help a Horse Home
CHALLENGE



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13

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14

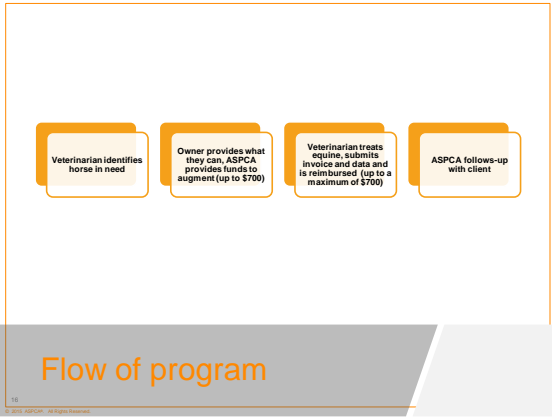
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PILOT



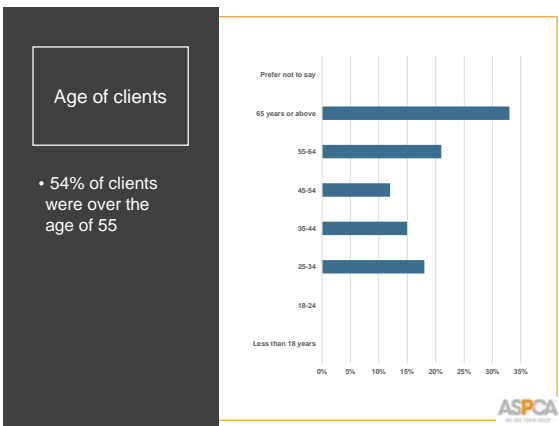
Can we increase retention and improve welfare by finding those at risk and providing access to the veterinary care needed?

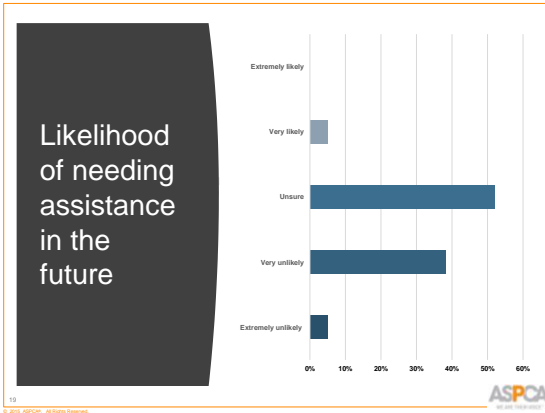
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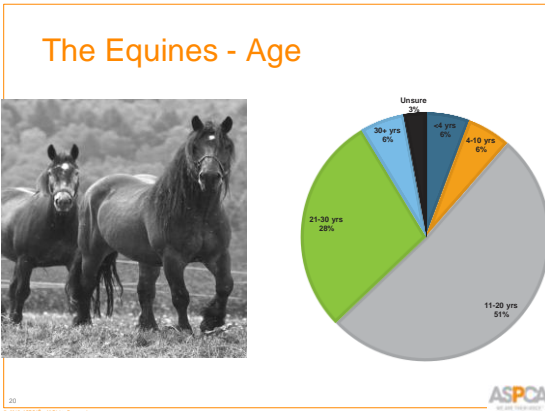


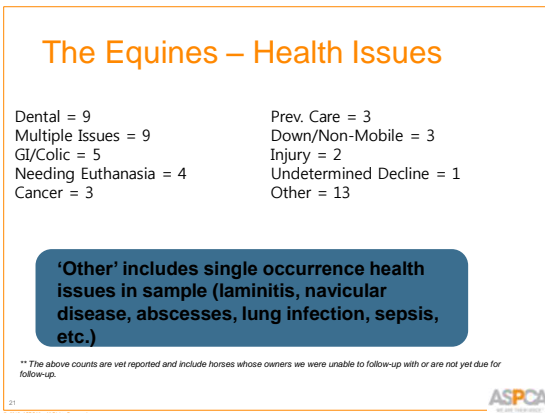
The Clients

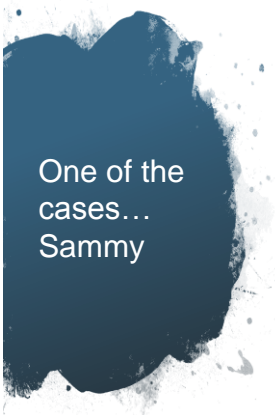
- Followed-up with clients of 37 cases (a couple clients had multiple horses helped) = 79% response rate
- Most heard about financial help directly through their participating vet
- None of the clients reported knowing or hearing of other financial help available to them
- **60% of clients still have their horse, while 40% euthanized.**
- **No clients re-homed their horse**











- Diagnosis:** Colic – treated medically
- Cost:** \$288.75

What we learned at follow-up:

- Multiple, immediate family members were being treated for serious health issues limiting funds available for horse
- Owner feels that family will be able to fund future care of horse when she is employed again and family health issues are resolved/better managed
- Sammy is recovered




- Diagnosis:** Chronic Navicular Disease - Euthanasia
- Cost:** \$465

What we learned at follow-up:

- Family had extremely high medical bills due to immediate family member in hospice care
- Without financial help for euthanasia, owner reported she would have trailered Dusty three hours so that husband could drug and put the horse down
- Owner reported that the financial support for humane euthanasia greatly assisted the family while caring and paying for dying family member

A Safe Place to Go...

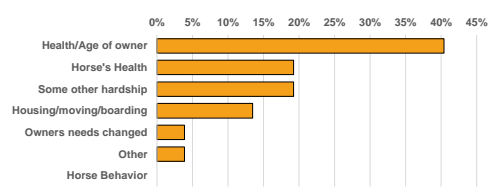


First Pilot Regional Support Center

- Launched in July 2018 ended December 2018
- Partnered with a vet clinic and 2 rehoming partners
- Outreach included fliers (churches, feed stores, social services etc), word of mouth from rescues, organic social media and a social media campaign

Here is some of what we learned...



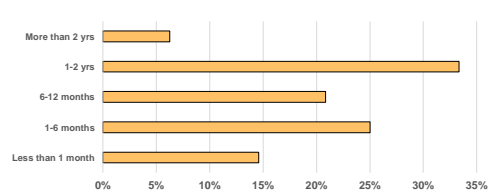


Reason	Percentage
Health/Age of owner	42%
Horse's Health	18%
Some other hardship	18%
Housing/moving/boardship	14%
Owners needs changed	6%
Other	6%
Horse Behavior	0%

Reasons for Relinquishment

Of the horses that came for relinquishment (not euthanasia requests), the top three reasons were human health problems, horse's health issues, and hardship.

The human health issues weighted heavily toward individuals who had grown older and were no longer able to care for the horse



Duration	Percentage
More than 2 yrs	6%
1-2 yrs	34%
6-12 months	21%
1-6 months	25%
Less than 1 month	14%

How long was the owner looking to relinquish?

The vast majority of clients had been looking to relinquish their horse for months, with 40% of people looking for more than one year.

Many of the equines we received needed medical care and training, and a significant number were suffering with medical issues that were now beyond the point where medical care could save them.

What happened to the equines that were relinquished?

The majority of the horses were candidates to be retrained and rehomed

However, 20% did require euthanasia once at the rehoming facility, and 25% took significant rehab and/or retraining prior to being made available for adoption



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Many owners we are impacting are afraid of slaughter. Almost 80% of those that relinquished told us they were fearful of their horse going to slaughter and were therefore holding on to their horses waiting for another option.

Many of these horses were in very poor welfare and had been suffering for months because of that fear.

Buddy had the painful condition of penile prolapse along with a poor ability to absorb calories. His owners held onto him for over a year as they were concerned about where he would land.

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Effective Law Enforcement Response to Cruelty and Neglect



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Barriers to successful prosecution of equine cruelty

What are the top barriers in your community?





Opportunities for partnership and support to eliminate barriers

Our Philosophy and Goal

The vast majority of those involved in equines are in it because they love and respect horses and want good welfare for all equines. Starting with this baseline we believe we can best achieve our objectives

Good Welfare for all Equines