

## Coalition Membership

Funding is necessary to ensure the Unwanted Horse Coalition's mission is accomplished. Membership in the UHC is available at several levels. If you wish to help fund this important effort, please contact the American Horse Council:



Unwanted Horse Coalition  
1616 H Street, NW  
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Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 296-4031  
(202) 296-1970 (fax)  
[unwantedhorsecoalition.org](http://unwantedhorsecoalition.org)

- American Association of Equine Practitioners
- American Paint Horse Association
- American Quarter Horse Association
- American Veterinary Medical Association
- California Thoroughbred Breeders Association
- The Jockey Club
- Maryland Horse Breeders Association
- Masters of Foxhounds Association of America
- Minnesota Horse Council
- Mustang Heritage Foundation
- National Horsemen's Benevolent Protective Association
- National Thoroughbred Racing Association
- Primedia Equine Network
- Professional Rodeo Stock Contractors
- Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association
- AHC State Horse Council Committee
- Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association
- United States Dressage Federation
- United States Equestrian Federation
- United States Polo Association
- U.S. Trotting Association

For a current list of Unwanted Horse Coalition member organizations, please visit the UHC website.

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## The Problem of the Unwanted Horse

### Own Responsibly

## The Problem of the Unwanted Horse

U.S. horse organizations and individual horse owners and breeders are mindful of their responsibilities to breed, use and care for their horses, whether involved in racing, showing or recreation.

Nonetheless, some in the horse industry may be unaware that tens of thousands of horses end their days unwanted, unneeded or unusable. These are so-called "unwanted horses."

Unwanted horses may be sick, injured or old. They may be unmanageable or dangerous. They may be horses that an owner is no longer economically able to care for. They may no longer be wanted because they do not meet an owner's expectations and have become more of a burden than a joy. Or, they may simply be horses that an owner does not know what to do with.

Regardless of how horses reached this state, every owner — and the industry at large — has a responsibility to ensure that everything possible is done so that no horse becomes unwanted.

## Own Responsibly

The mission of the Unwanted Horse Coalition is to reduce the number of unwanted horses and to improve their welfare through education and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety and responsible care and disposition of these horses.

## Unwanted Horse Coalition: An Alliance of National Equine Organizations

The Unwanted Horse Coalition represents a broad alliance of equine organizations that have joined together under the American Horse Council to educate the horse industry about the unwanted horse issue.

By educating existing and potential owners, breeders, sellers and horse organizations about the long-term responsibilities of owning and caring for horses, and focusing on opportunities available for these horses, the coalition hopes to help horses before they become unwanted. The UHC hopes to utilize industry resources to put owners of these horses in touch with individuals and facilities that will welcome them.

The UHC grew out of the Unwanted Horse Summit, which was organized by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and held in conjunction with the American Horse Council's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in April 2005. The summit was held to bring key stakeholders together to start a dialogue on the plight of the unwanted horse in America. Its purpose was to develop consensus on the most effective way to work together to address this issue.

In June 2006, the Unwanted Horse Coalition was folded into the American Horse Council and now operates under its auspices.





## Goals of the Unwanted Horse Coalition

The Unwanted Horse Coalition is committed to helping unwanted horses by:

- Educating current and future horse owners on how to own responsibly, proper care and breeding, and options available before a horse becomes unwanted
- Raising awareness of the issue and its consequences to horses and the horse industry
- Reducing the number of unwanted horses and working toward eliminating the problem
- Ensuring that horses are treated humanely and with dignity
- Facilitating the exchange of information on adoption, care and alternative careers
- Providing information on end-of-life decisions, including veterinary decisions, euthanasia and disposal
- Explaining the issue through presentations at industry gatherings, such as symposiums and horse fairs



## Own Responsibly

Who is responsible for these unwanted horses?  
*WE ARE.*

Every individual and organization involved in the industry. We all must learn to own responsibly. What does that mean? It means many things, but fundamentally it means that before you buy or breed a horse, you understand how it affects you and the horse, both before your stewardship and past your care. It means that you understand and consider all options available to your horse before it becomes unwanted, including retirement, adoption, donation and alternative programs and uses. It means that you consider end-of-life decisions, including veterinary decisions, euthanasia and disposal, before that time comes. It means that the industry must continue to work together to make progress on this problem.

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## Help Us Help the Unwanted Horse

This is an ambitious undertaking and the UHC is funded by its member organizations and donations from caring individuals and groups. If you'd like to help decrease the number of unwanted horses, please make a donation through the American Horse Council, a non-profit Section 501(c)(6) organization. Contributions to the American Horse Council are not deductible as charitable contributions but may be deductible for federal income tax purposes as an ordinary and necessary business expense under Section 162 of the Internal Revenue Code.



## Materials Available

The coalition has prepared a handbook for horse owners and those thinking about becoming horse owners. It summarizes the responsibilities that accompany the joys of horse ownership, such as providing food, veterinary care, and training, and alternatives available to bring that ownership to an end when the time comes. That handbook is available on the UHC website.

The website also lists various facilities that owners may consider when trying to place horses.

Owners have many options to ensure the appropriate care of their horse, including alternative uses and careers; donation to therapeutic riding programs, schools, charitable organizations, veterinary schools, retirement facilities, retraining facilities, correctional facilities, and federal, state, or police organizations; and humane euthanasia and disposal.

To help industry organizations spread the word about the unwanted horse issue, the UHC created this brochure and a flyer about responsible ownership. They are available for your use.