

# EQUINE WELFARE FACTS



## 85% OF HORSES DUMPED

85% of new horse owners dump their horse within 5 years.

The romantic notion of owning a horse quickly wears off as the reality of the responsibility and the cost for upkeep sets in.



Tag 1522, Goose, joined our herd rescued from the kill pen, bruised, broken and starving.

## \$8,000 EXPENSE PER YEAR

A horse costs an average of \$2,419 per year without boarding and \$8- \$12,000 with boarding expenses.

Only 15 percent of first-time owners keep their horse for more than 5 years because horses are time consuming and expensive.

## 100,000 UNWANTED HORSES

In the U.S. 100,000 horses become unwanted every year. Unwanted horses are equine that are no longer useful to their owners due to illness, injury, age, misbehavior, unmarketable qualities, or financial hardship. About one-half of unwanted horses become neglected or discarded often sold at auction entering the slaughter pipeline.



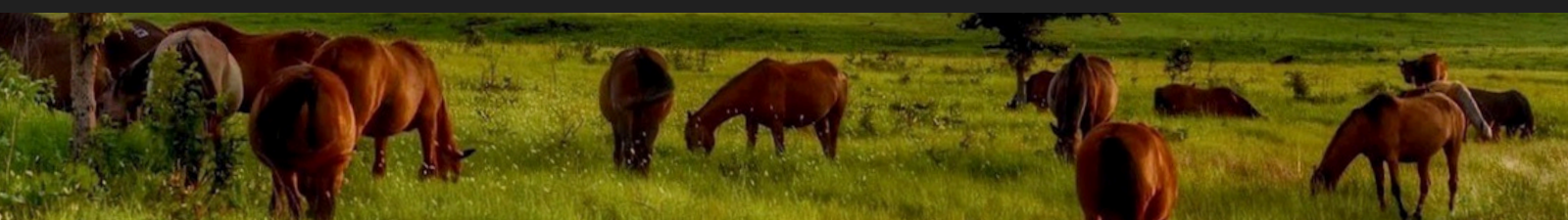
Tag 802 joined Winsome suffering severe arthritis, no longer useful to his owner at only age 8, he entered the slaughter pipeline. We call him Thunder.



Tag 140, her ribs jutted through dull, patchy fur, her head hung low, her eyes, dull and sunken, told a story of suffering.

## 20,000 HORSES SLAUGHTERED

Every year, approximately 20,000 horses are transported across U.S. borders to be slaughtered for human consumption.





## WHAT IS HORSE SLAUGHTER?

The term 'horse slaughter' specifically refers to the killing of horses for human consumption, a practice far removed from humane euthanasia. While euthanasia is a gentle, painless death meant to prevent suffering, slaughter is a violent and distressing process for horses.

Horses bound for slaughter, including pregnant mares, foals, and those that are injured or blind, often endure harsh transport conditions



## 92.3% OF HORSES SENT TO SLAUGHTER ARE HEALTHY

The misconception that horses bound for slaughter are old, ill, or neglected is a myth perpetuated to justify this cycle. USDA data shows that 92.3% of horses sent to slaughter are healthy and capable of leading productive lives. These horses could be sold, donated, or rehomed, but kill buyers outbid legitimate horse owners and rescues, denying them a second chance at life.

THE AVERAGE AGE OF A HORSE SENT TO SLAUGHTER IS ONLY 12 YEARS OLD

## WHY CAN'T ALL HORSES BE HOMED AT RESCUES?

There aren't enough rescues to accommodate all the unwanted horses. The estimated maximum capacity of nearly 375 registered non-profit equine rescue facilities in the United States is 13,400 horses—far below the widely cited estimate of 100,000 horses becoming unwanted each year. Nonprofit equine rescue and sanctuary facilities have historically played a crucial role in safeguarding the welfare of horses, yet funding and capacity limitations hinder our ability to expand and continue caring for the growing population of unwanted and neglected horses across the country.



## OUR MISSION

Winsome Acres Horse Sanctuary is a 501(c)3 public charity. Our mission is to rehabilitate, rehome and offer permanent sanctuary for abandoned, neglected, or abused horses. Priority is given to starved, injured and senior equines in kill pens to prevent slaughter.

Our sanctuary provides a safe environment, medical attention, and rehabilitation services to ensure each horse's journey from rescue to recovery is a tale of compassion and renewal. We believe every horse deserves a loving and purposeful life.