

Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary



Foster Home Handbook

A No Kill Equine and Livestock sanctuary

Headquartered in Cottontown, TN

www.safeharborsanctuary.org

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Chapter 1: Introduction: Foster Home Q&A

What is Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary?

Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary was formed by a group of concerned animal advocates in Middle Tennessee to fill a gaping void in the world of large animal rescue. While other equine specific rescues do exist, there is not one single rescue that provides retirement and respite care to animals in need, while also working on rehabilitation, training and adoption to those that are able to have a full life in a new home. Safe Harbor's mission extends beyond horses and includes all Equidae and Livestock animals that we have ability and capacity to aid.

We are currently a foster farm based rescue. We bring equine, livestock and farm animals into our rescue as space and financial constraints allow. We believe that all animals have an equal right to a quality life. Our primary facility is located on 22 acres in Gallatin, TN, but even with this resource, we rely on foster farms to maximize our impact, and provide the high level quality of care that is our hallmark.

The Safe Harbor foster policy follows AAEP Standards. We require a minimum of 2 acres of pasture land per foster animal, and also require our fosters to be in an environment where they are handled daily. We do not have unsocialized animals that spend years in rescue without training or progression. The Safe Harbor Sanctuary rehabilitation process begins the day an animal enters rescue with daily compassion, feed, care, veterinary attention, training and love. We believe there is no such thing as an unwanted horse, there are simply horses that have not yet been matched to their perfect family.

What do Equine foster homes do?

Foster homes allow us to rescue homeless horses from a variety of situations by providing these animals with temporary care and shelter until they are adopted. Foster homes are asked to provide foster animals with plenty of love, adequate food and water, shelter from the elements, and exercise. Administering medication may also be necessary. In addition to

providing the basics, foster homes may also be asked to transport foster horses to veterinary appointments or schedule on site farm calls at their home or facility, and assist with adoption events. Depending on the individual agreement with each foster home, you will likely be reimbursed for supplies, such as food, hay, supplements, barn maintenance costs, and for any veterinary costs incurred in the care of the animal.

Foster homes play a crucial role in rehabilitating rescued animals. They are in a unique position to help abused or neglected animals learn how to love and trust again. Foster homes can help these animals become more “adoptable” by providing socialization and basic to advanced training. By teaching or re-teaching a horse how to trust and behave, foster homes help increase the odds for a smooth and successful transition into a permanent adoptive home.

What do foster homes do?

Any way you look at it, foster homes save lives.

What are the requirements for becoming an Equine foster home?

We are always looking for more foster homes. We follow standard AAEP Guidelines for the space needed per equine for proper exercise, stimulation, and health. A Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary foster facility must have a minimum of 5 acres of land, and can have no more than 1 equine per 2 acres. Additional general requirements are that you love animals and have the time and resources to provide a foster equine with adequate care. We require all equine foster homes that are new to horses to attend a basic horsemanship class, and may set up supplemental training with our rescue trainer so proper handling techniques can be assured. Fencing must be a minimum of 4 feet high, and can not have more than 1 strand of barbed wire. Other requirements will vary depending upon the specific needs of a given foster equine. Some animals, for example, will need a dedicated stall, dry, lot or an extra time commitments (as is the case with an emaciated or sick equine), isolation from other equidae, etc. We make every effort to match foster homes with an appropriate foster animal.

Quick Fostering FAQ

Q. I think my foster horse needs to see a vet, what do I do?

A. *If it is not a life threatening emergency, let your coordinator know, and she will schedule your appointment for you, or advise you if it is determined an appointment is not needed.*

Q. What am I required to provide for my foster?

A. In a nutshell, TLC and emotional support. Many of our foster homes do choose to provide feed for their foster horses, and some even provide hay and farrier care. The rescue is able to provide these items with pre-approval though. The key to having the rescue cover expenses is making sure they are PRE-APPROVED. Except in rare situations where confinement is required, Safe Harbor does not generally reimburse for stall shavings.

Q. Can I have my farrier trim my foster horse?

A. Yes, but we will only reimburse \$35 per trim, as that is what our farrier charges. If you use our farrier we have an account, and you will not have to pay at time of service for your foster horse's trim.

Q. Are there specific feeds I should choose from?

A. We are happy to work with you on your feed choice. We generally work with Nutrena Safe Choice Feeds, Purina Ultium Growth, Triple Crown, and Advantage Feeds. We do have a list of prohibited feeds as well. We do not allow generic sweet feeds to be fed, nor do we permit our foster horses to eat Purina Equine Senior. If a foster horse is eating Purina Equine Senior and chokes, the associated medical bills for that choke incident will be the responsibility of the foster home. We prohibit this feed specifically because of the high choke risk associated with it.

In addition, certain feeding supplements and forages such as beet pulp, alfalfa pellets, and alfalfa cubes if fed must be fed soaked to a mash for safety.

Q. How much support will I receive?

A. You will have a dedicated foster coordinator who will check in with you weekly. They will ask you for your needs in relation to farrier, feed, and anything else you need. You will be asked to provide any needed updates to your foster horse's biography and photos. We do ask that every foster provide an updated photo of each horse at a minimum of once every 2 weeks.

What kinds of animals need foster care?

Animals needing foster care covered by this handbook include horses, mules, donkeys, ponies, and mini horses. Foster homes are needed for adults, babies, moms with newborns, and orphaned newborns. Foster homes are also needed for animals who are ill and/or need medical

care. Many foster homes choose to specialize in fostering a specific kind of animal, while others choose to foster whatever animal is in need.

The majority of animals in need of foster care are rescued from neglect seizures, though Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary may additionally aid owner relinquishment horses, abuse cases, abandonment cases, and horses that come to us through animal control facilities.

Horses usually need help with training and sometimes need a refresher course under saddle. All foster animals will need plenty of love and reassurance that humans are not to be feared.

How long do animals spend in foster care?

The time an animal needs to spend in foster care ranges from one night to several months. Any time commitment a foster home can make is desperately needed and appreciated. At Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary we have various classifications for equine foster homes as follows:

Emergency/Weekend: Will foster an animal for 1 day to a week in order to help in a crisis or save an animal from euthanasia

Vacation: Will visit an existing foster farm daily to care for an animal for 1 week up to a maximum of 3 weeks while a standard foster family is on vacation, travelling, or needs a respite.

Standard: Accepts a foster equine from the time it enters foster till the time it is adopted.

Sanctuary: Accepts a special needs foster equine with the understanding that the foster animal may live in the foster home for the duration of its natural life. Sanctuary foster placement is common for senior animals over the age of 25 or those with health issues such as Navicular disease, heaves, etc.

Maternity: Foster home for a pregnant animal. This type of foster home assists with foaling under the direction of a rescue veterinarian, and fosters mom and foal until the baby is weaned and adopted. Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary does not believe in early weaning, and feels that under normal circumstances, foals should wean naturally at 4 to 6 months of age.

Orphan: An orphan foster home accepts orphaned infants and will bottle feed and provide all care until the babies are mature enough to go to new homes. We acknowledge that with equidae this is a phenomenal task that requires unique and special dedication.

Stallion: Many times the equidae we receive through neglect cases are still intact studs. It is our policy to geld stallions and jacks as soon as they are healthy enough. A stallion foster home is able to accept these intact males, keep them separated from females, and each other if needed until they can be gelded, and pastured long enough for their fertility to be gone.

Any foster home can be a mix of the classifications listed above. In all cases, foster homes are never stuck with an animal that is not a good fit. We will find an alternative foster placement.

How do foster animals find permanent adoptive homes?

We take full responsibility for finding permanent adoptive homes for foster animals. Foster homes are encouraged to let people know that their foster animals are available for adoption, but any person interested in adopting an animal needs to contact Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary in order to proceed with completing the adoption application procedure.

Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary shows off our non-equine animals at offsite adoption venues around the areas where foster animals are clustered, usually on weekends, at least once a month. We bring flyers to advertise the equidae in our care to these events. Occasionally we have an adoption event where our foster equidae are able to attend as well. Foster homes are encouraged to come to our adoption events in order to provide information to potential adopters. Adoptions are handled on a case-by-case basis and every effort is made to match animals with homes that meet their specific needs. Foster homes can help immensely in this process by providing information regarding an animal's personality, training, time requirements and other needs. Any input given by a foster home is appreciated and taken into consideration during the adoption process.

Foster homes have first right of refusal on adoption. This means that if you fall in love with your foster equine, you can adopt. You are not required to allow another adopter to take your foster animal.

Adoption Policies

Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary has the following guidelines for placing a horse into a responsible home:

- 1.) Only horses that are not in need of extensive medical attention will be released for adoption.

- 2.) Horses will only be adopted to, or with the written consent of, adults of legal age to be used as pleasure horses. No horse will be used on the rodeo circuit or for horse racing, or for breeding.
- 3.) Because a commitment to responsible horse ownership is a decision no one can make for another, no horse will be released for adoption as a gift for another person (with exception of a parent adopting a horse for a child in which the parent shall remain the responsible party).
- 4.) Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary will inspect the new owner's home and facilities before the final adoption takes place. This is to insure adequate housing is available. Adequate housing must consist of a barn, run-in, lean to etc., that will provide for protection from the elements, and a place the horse can be kept up to allow them to become accustomed to other horses or for medical treatment. Also inspection of surroundings will also be noted to ensure there is no danger from injury due to foreign objects or inadequate fencing.
- 5.) All male horses must be gelded by a licensed veterinarian before placement or within a time frame made by attending veterinarian. Mares will not be allowed to be bred to further the over population of unwanted horses. If mares come to Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary already pregnant, the off-spring will become the property of Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary, with adopter having first option to adopt.
- 6.) A Horse will not be adopted without a current Coggins test, shots and health inspection from a certified veterinarian. It will be de-wormed and started on a de-worming program. A trained farrier will inspect its hooves and proper attention will be given as needed.
- 7.) Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary will track all adopted animals. We will inspect the care and up keep of each horse through out the year with out prior notice. If at such a time a Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary agent feels this animal is not receiving proper care or treatment the adopter will have the option to fix the problem or this horse will be pulled and put back up for adoption.
- 8.) No horse will be allowed to be sold, traded, or disposed of in any fashion after adoption without written consent from Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary. Horses must remain within the continental United States and SHELS must be notified of any change of address for more then 30 days.
- 9.) Adopters are not allowed to breed, dispose of any animal through public auction, to a known horse trader or for slaughter.
- 10.) Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary will charge a minimum fee of \$100.00, and a maximum \$2,500 adoption fee for all horses. Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary has the right to waive or lower this fee at its discretion. There will be no fee to foster a horse until placement.

11.) If space is available Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary may take in horses from owners who relinquish ownership, but they must show a current (within 6 months) Coggins test, have an up to date shot history and the horse must be in good health. A \$200 donation will also be requested to help care for the animal while an adopter is found.

12.) Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary reserves the right to refuse adoption to any person unable or unwilling to comply with these guidelines.

13.) No mares adopted through Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary are allowed to be housed at any facility that also houses a stallion to prevent accidental breeding.

14.) No horse adopted through Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary is allowed at anytime to be "Padded", and owners, trainers, exhibitors of "Padded" horses are not allowed to adopt or foster through our organization.

Social Media Policy

As a caretaker for Safe Harbor animals you will no doubt take photos for yourself and to share on your social media pages. We DO allow this, and in fact encourage it. As a foster home though, you do waive your intellectual property ownership rights to any photos that do show your Safe Harbor Animal. These photos are the property of Safe Harbor and may be used in marketing materials, social media, our website and any other way that we see fit.

In some situations animals that come to us MAY have legal reasons why photos cannot be posted. We will notify you as a foster farm if this is the case for your foster, and in such cases we ask that you send photo updates as described in your foster agreement by email to Safe Harbor. These updates should not be posted on any social media sites.

Our Stand On Equine Issues

The mission of Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary includes advocacy for animal welfare. For this reason, we feel our stand on Equine issues is an important consideration for our foster families. It is important to us that our foster families are communicating the same

message on equine welfare that we are. Together, we can be a unified front to advocate for all animals, as well as the ones in our care. For more information on the issues below, please see the advocacy pages on our website.

Horse Slaughter

It is the policy of Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary to be opposed to the slaughter of horses for human consumption. We believe that every living creature is entitled to living their life with dignity and respect. Equine slaughter is an unacceptable practice in our culture.

Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary does not agree with the senseless and cruel act of killing horses by inhumane means that will then be packaged and sent overseas for human consumption.

Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary feels the slaughter method of killing a horse with a nail gun, shackling a chain around one or both of its hind legs and hoisting the horse from the floor, head down and by power machinery, dislocates leg joints, tears tendons and muscles, ruptures blood vessels, and causes great agony to the horse that is not "always" dead yet, is not an acceptable practice. In an effort to raise awareness of this senseless act, Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary will continue to educate the public of this cruel and inhumane practice.

Racing and Rodeos

Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary does not approve or disapprove of sports where horses are being used for competition. We do, however, oppose any activity where the horse receives any type of torment, harassment, pain, injury, undue stress or death. We denounce the use of any device such as electric prods, sharpened sticks, spurs, flank straps and other tack, which would cause a horse to react violently. We find these abuses cannot be justified.

Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary feels it is, therefore, our policy to educate the public about humane treatment of all horses.

“Padded” Horse Shows

The Tennessee Walking Horse is the official State horse of Tennessee. Instead of trying to protect this magnificent animal from undue torture and pain, the public applauds the squatting, high stepping techniques inflicted on these horses in the show ring. The Tennessee Walking Horse is a naturally smooth gaited ride. Some trainers use all sorts of artificial means to reach that ultimate gait. Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary educates the public on the cruel training practice called "soring". Even with the federal laws that have outlawed these practices, they still exist today. Because of our stand against unnatural gait training such as padding (even though it is not illegal), Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary can not

approve any adopters, fosters, or volunteers who either own, show or ride horses with such devices.

Premarin

Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary feels the need for hormone replacement therapy by the use of Premarin is uncalled for in today's society. With the advancements in medical science and the making of synthetic drugs, there is no longer a need for this practice. Mares are inhumanly treated and their offspring are also made to suffer. It is, therefore the policy of Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary to educate when possible, and arouse public awareness to the plight of these mares.

Chapter 2: Healthy Adults

Introduction

For many people, adult mares and geldings are the easiest kinds of animals to foster. They don't require a lot of time and yet they give plenty of love in return. Many foster homes find that they are even comfortable fostering several equidae at a time. Whether you are interested in fostering one or many equidae over time, the information in this chapter will help you to familiarize yourself with some of the common needs, behavioral issues and health concerns that are associated with fostering adult equidae.

Supplies Needed

The following is a checklist of items that you will need to foster a mare or gelding. ***Please check with the foster coordinator to see what supplies or reimbursements can be provided for you.***

Checklist:

- Separate paddock, field or stall to keep foster horse separated as needed following rescue

- Flat bottom feeder bowl
- Water Trough
- Grooming supplies such as curry comb, hoof pick, etc
- Halter
- Lead Rope
- Quality Feed (our rescue preference is Nutrena Safe Choice or Thrive Feed)
- Hay
- Mineral Block
- Fly Prevention (our rescue preference is feeding 2 tbsp of granulated garlic daily)
- First aid kit

Basic Handling Guidance

It is common for an equine to experience some behavioral problems and need a period of adjustment when placed into a new environment. The following guidance will help you in handling your foster equine, and maintaining a safe and productive relationship:

TIEING:

- ALWAYS tie up a horse using a quick or fast release knot.
- ALWAYS stay close to the rump of a horse when you are walking behind it. Put your hand on its rump area and keep it there as you walk around the horse. The closer you are to the rump of the horse, the less chance you have of getting kicked. Talk to the horse as you move around it so that it can know where you are.
- NEVER walk under the horse's neck and lead-rope to get on the other side of it.
- NEVER tie a horse to a fence board or a panel. ALWAYS tie a horse to a post or pole.
- ALWAYS tie within two feet above a horse's withers; the length of lead from the knot to the halter should be no more than an arm's length.
- NEVER leave a tied horse unattended.

STALL:

- When getting a horse from the stall, go inside with the horse and close the door behind you. This will keep a horse from rushing the door to get out. If the horse seems distressed, leave the stall IMMEDIATELY. Otherwise, put on the halter and lead the horse out.
- Make sure the stall door is fully open when leaving or entering the stall with the horse.
- When returning a horse to the stall, allow the horse to go in and turn to face the door which has been closed behind you. Remove the halter and lead rope. (It's always nice to

praise your horse at this time.) You leave the stall by opening the door just wide enough for you to slip through. Close and latch the door securely.

APPROACHING:

- When approaching a horse, speak in a low, calm voice and walk slowly toward its shoulder. Do not make eye-contact with the horse at this time. Doing so can be threatening to the horse. Never approach from behind or directly in front of the horse; these are two of its blind spots and your actions can startle the animal.
- Either carry the halter and lead rope in your left hand or over your shoulder. Make sure you have the halter and lead rope ready to put on the horse. When you have approached the horse and are at its shoulder, place the lead rope over the horse's neck and put on the halter.
- NEVER go into a pasture with a herd of horses while carrying a feed bucket.

GROOMING:

- Tie all horses while grooming.
- When grooming, be very gentle around the horse's flank area. This is where the hind leg joins the body). Some horses can be ticklish and prone to kick.
- Make sure a horse is standing square before attempting to pick up a hoof. Keep the hoof pick in your hand that is next to the horse and pick up its foot with the other one. This will enable you to gently lean into the horse to distribute its weight onto the other three feet. Put the hind leg onto your leg for stability and safety. Always pick away from yourself.
- We believe that too many toxins are bad for horses, and recommend using garlic as fly preventative, added to your horse's feed. If you do, however, choose to use fly spray during fly season, spray the horse before brushing the mane and tail or picking the hooves. DO NOT spray the face; use a sponge or rag to gently apply repellent around the eyes and in the ears.
- If you need a horse to move over, use little pokes on the horse's side and say "over". Shoving or leaning on a horse does not make a horse move. All this does is teach it to push back and resist moving over when asked.

LEADING:

- NEVER wrap a lead rope around you hand, wrist or body. Hold the rope six to 10 inches from the snap in the right hand, leaving the rope droop between you and the horse. Fold the remaining rope into a "figure 8" and hold it with your left hand. Keep both hands on the lead rope.
- DO NOT let the lead rope drag on the ground. You or the horse you are leading could trip, causing injury to yourself or the horse.
- Ask the horse to walk with you by saying "WALK". You should walk next to it by staying near its shoulder. Never walk in front of the horse or pull it.

- When asking a horse to stop, use the “WHOA” word in a firm voice. The most important command you can give a horse is “WHOA”. Make sure you make the horse obey when you ask it to “whoa”.
- Always use a lead rope when leading a horse. NEVER lead by holding onto the halter alone because the horse could pull away, causing you to lose control of it and possibly injuring yourself.
- If a horse is being pushy and invading your space, push against its shoulder. It should be an arm’s length away from you.
- If a horse is nippy while being led, step further back by its shoulder and keep you hand away from its muzzle.
- We do not condone loud, rough discipline of our horses. It could frighten the horse or the other horses and endanger you. We do recommend a firm voice when disciplining.
- If a horse steps on your toes, count to five while pushing your weight into its shoulder. It should step off. The horse does not step on toes purposely so there is no need to yell at, hit or otherwise scare the horse. This is a very good reason for wearing protective shoes.
- Watch the horse’s basic attitude when you get it from its stall or pasture. Just like people, it can sometimes have a grumpy day (mares especially).
- ALWAYS lead a horse about 20 feet away from obstacles or other horses.
- ALWAYS take off the halter when turning a horse out to pasture or putting it back in the stall. A horse can get its foot stuck in the halter or get the halter stuck on the fence, causing injury or damage.
- When bringing a horse in, do not lead it through a group of horses, especially by the gate. Horses have their own pecking order and you do not want to bring a lower ranked horse near higher ranking horses.
- Never lead more than one horse at a time.

EQUIPMENT AND TACK:

- Always use the correct size halter for the horse.
- Always tighten the halter to ensure it fits correctly.
- Make sure all tack is in good repair before using.
- Wipe off bits with a clean rag after use. Warm them up before using them in cold weather.
- Clean grooming supplies weekly with bleach, or after grooming a horse with rain rot or lice.
- When girthing/cinching a horse, always do it slowly. Once the cinch or girth is attached loosely, pick up both front knees to eliminate the possibility of pinching the skin. Walk the horse a short distance before tightening the girth/cinch completely.
- Use the proper fitting bridle and do not attempt to bridle or unbridle a horse if you have not had experience doing it.

OTHER:

- Kissing a horse on the nose can be DANGEROUS, believe it or not! It would be best to kiss the horse, on the side of its face. Remember that horses have blind spots and right

in front of a horse's face is the biggest one. It really can't see you when you are trying to kiss it and boom....there goes your nose.

- Use caution when hand feeding treats. It can teach a horse to be nippy. If your foster horse becomes pushy or nippy then only feed treats in their feed bowl, and not by hand.

Natural Horsemanship

We have no way of knowing exactly what our rescue horses have endured prior to rescue. We believe that natural horsemanship techniques are the best way to train a horse, and in the case of our rescue horses, this becomes even more important. We do not want to push our animals past their limit and trigger a negative reaction.

There are several different theories of natural horsemanship, and we do not subscribe to the philosophy of any one clinician. Natural horsemanship is simply the language of the horse. This foster handbook is in no way intended to be a training manual or lesson book on how to train a horse. If you feel confident in training or working with your horse in a humane and gentle way, following natural horsemanship principles we welcome your time, patience, and experience with your foster horse.

Health Issues

Because most foster equidae are rescued from neglect environments, it is very difficult for us to ensure that they will always be healthy. All equidae brought in to rescue initially visit our rescue veterinarian for vaccinations, a wellness exam, deworming, and any other needed medical attention. An equine that appears healthy at the time of rescue, however, could easily begin to show signs of illness several days later. For this reason, it is very important that foster homes keep their own equidae up to date on vaccinations. Because equidae are relatively easy to keep separate, we encourage foster homes to isolate foster equidae in a separate field, stall or paddock for a period of at least one week following rescue. Most illnesses should be apparent within that week.

Common Illnesses in Horses

The following information is intended to help you better understand and recognize some of the more common illnesses in horses.

Tetanus (lockjaw)

Tetanus is caused by a bacterial toxin normally found in the soil and in the feces of horses. The bacteria that produce the tetanus toxin need a decreased oxygen supply to multiply, so any area where there is a deep puncture wound or where a wound has healed over (such as the navel stump of a newborn foal) is an area where tetanus can thrive. Symptoms of tetanus include a protrusion of the third eyelid and stiff neck, progressing to overall muscle stiffness causing a 'sawhorse' stance. Tetanus is often fatal, but a yearly vaccine can prevent it, and the vaccine is a good idea because small cuts can go unnoticed and become infected.

Equine Encephalomyelitis (sleeping sickness)

This is a disease that affects the nervous system, and can be caused by equine encephalomyelitis viruses (Eastern, Western, and Venezuelan), which are carried by mosquitoes. Signs include depression and a high fever, followed by a period when the horse appears blind, nervous and uncoordinated, with muscle tremors, and eventually, complete paralysis. Proper vaccination and good mosquito control are important to help prevent this disease.

Equine Influenza

This viral disease is spread by inhalation of drops of infective material. Signs include a dry, hacking cough, sudden onset of fever, watery nasal discharge, weakness, loss of appetite and depression. Infection with equine influenza is rarely fatal but can cause problems such as emphysema, pneumonia or bronchitis.

Equine Herpesvirus (rhinopneumonitis, rhino, viral abortion)

There are 2 types of equine herpesvirus: EHV-1, which causes respiratory disease (fever, cough, nasal discharge), reproductive problems (abortion, stillbirth), and neurological problems (hindlimb weakness, difficulty walking, sometimes paralysis); and EHV-4, which is usually limited to respiratory problems. Once a horse has been infected with EHV-1 or EHV-4, he will always be a carrier, and may shed the virus during times of stress.

West Nile Virus

Horses get WNV by being bitten by an infected mosquito; some horses do not show any signs and recover on their own, but in some horses the infection affects the central nervous system and causes signs including fever, weakness or paralysis of the hind limbs, impaired vision, lack of coordination, head pressing, convulsions, inability to swallow, and coma.

Rabies

This is a viral infection of the central nervous system, and although it is not common in horses, rabies can be transmitted to horses by the bite of an infected animal such as a skunk, raccoon, fox, dog or bat. Rabies can be transmitted to people. Equine rabies has recently been seen in our area, so we highly recommend vaccination of your horses against this virus.

Strangles

This contagious respiratory disease is caused by a bacterial infection. Signs include a fever, thick, yellow, nasal discharge and swollen, abscessed lymph nodes under the jaws. The infection is spread by infected material from nasal discharge or abscesses contaminating stalls, feed troughs, pastures, etc. Young horses are the most susceptible to strangles.

Potomac Horse Fever

This disease is a bacterial infection of the blood and tissues. It is much more common in spring, summer and early fall and is only found in certain areas of the country. Signs include a fever, depression, decreased gut sounds, and a profuse, watery diarrhea that can lead to laminitis, colic, dehydration, shock, and death.

COPD

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in horses (also known as Heeves) is a lung disease that is like asthma in humans. It is more common in colder climates where horses are stalled most of the time in the winter months. It is usually found in horses 7 years and older. It is rare in warmer climates where horses are pastured most of the time.

Rain Rot

Rain Rot is a skin bacteria that is very prevalent in rescue horses. It is hallmarked by matted fur that is often nitted at the skin, yellow scabs, and a discharge that can make the fur appear sticky. Treatment can be done with products such as MTG or holistically with a tea tree oil spray, and Echinacea poultice. In severe cases of rain rot, the horse may have to have all of the affected fur removed to heal and re-grow. At Safe Harbor we use veterinary approved methods to treat rain rot. If you suspect your horse to have rain rot, please notify your foster coordinator to receive an approved rain rot treatment. We **do not** utilize Lysol, WD-40, Listerine or any other "old wives tale" methods to treat rain rot. We **do** recommend utilizing MTG or a mix of Iodine and Chlorhexadine. Adding the herb Echinacea to your horse's feed will also help their body combat the rain rot internally. Be sure to wash blankets and brushes thoroughly if they have been in contact with a horse with rain rot.

Equine Lice

Lice are common in Spring among rescue horses. It should be noted that equine lice are not contagious or transmissible to humans. Treatment can be done with equine de-louser or diotemaceous earth.

Cleaning Procedures

It is important that all items and areas used by a sick foster animal be cleaned thoroughly. You can use a 10% bleach solution to reliably kill most viruses and bacteria. Items to be cleaned should be thoroughly wetted with the bleach solution and allowed to stand for several minutes before rinsing.

Routine Veterinary Care

Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary provides foster equidae with routine veterinary care prior to and during placement in foster homes and permanent adoptive homes. The following schedule outlines the various types of routine care provided. Your foster coordinator will coordinate and confirm all routine vetting, and send you preventatives. Foster families are not to schedule any routine vetting for their foster equine without pre-approval.

Procedure	Schedule
5 Way Combo Vaccine	Initial dose given shortly after rescue
Rabies Vaccines	Initial dose given shortly after Rescue.
De-Worm	Initial dose given shortly after Rescue. De-wormer rotation maintained by foster coordinator, with dose sent to foster approx. every 12 weeks.
Castration	Done shortly after rescue for intact males
Strangles Vaccine	Initial dose given shortly after rescue for horses aged 2 years to 19 years.
Hoof Trim	Maintenance treatment begins shortly after rescue. Additional trims provided every 6-8 weeks based on need of equine.
Dental Float	As needed

Emergency Veterinary Care

In the case of a life threatening emergency – please immediately call your approved veterinarian and place calls to your emergency call list.

A life threatening emergency shall be defined as any health issue that puts the life of your foster equine in dire and immediate risk. Please use your judgment to determine if your situation is a true emergency. If your foster is simply ill, and can have an appointment scheduled then contact your foster coordinator to have a routine appointment scheduled.

Non Emergency Veterinary Care

Though all Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary cats are “fully vetted” before entering foster, occasionally injuries or accidents do happen. Don’t panic. Simply follow our non-emergency veterinary procedures, and Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary will cover the cost of veterinary care while your foster equine is in your care.

1. Call or email your foster coordinator and describe the nature of the accident or illness
2. Wait for a response from your foster coordinator. You will always be responded to within 24 hours, and most times much faster.
3. Your foster coordinator will call in an authorization to an approved Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary Veterinary clinic to allow you to schedule an appointment on the Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary account.
4. Once you have received confirmation that your appointment has been pre-approved, call the designated veterinary clinic and schedule an appointment for your foster equine.
5. If you are unable to take your foster equine to the clinic yourself, notify your foster coordinator that you need transport assistance or a farm call and arrangements will be made to assist you.

Be Prepared

Foster facility owners should be observant and aware in order to recognize serious problems, respond promptly, and take appropriate action while awaiting the arrival of the veterinarian.

The links and referrals page on our website has a complete list of approved veterinarians, and all foster homes are also provided a “call down” list of key rescue contacts and approved veterinarians for their location. Contact your foster coordinator for information on protocols for fire, theft and natural disaster.

All foster facilities should prepare a first aid kit and store it in a clean, dry and readily accessible place. While a first aid kit can be simple or elaborate, the following items are highly recommended:

- Cotton roll

- Contact bandage
- Gauze or cotton secondary dressing
- Gauze pads, assorted sizes
- Gauze wrap
- Adhesive wrap and adhesive tape
- Leg wraps
- Bandage scissors
- Hemostats
- Steel cup or container
- Rectal thermometer
- Surgical scrub and antiseptic solution
- Latex gloves
- Flashlight and spare batteries

We also recommend having common medications such as benamine and bute on hand in case of emergency.

Horses unable to rise need immediate veterinary attention. Veterinary consultation must be sought prior to any attempt to move a downed horse.

Feeding Your Foster

At this time, we do have a specific list of approved feeds and dis-allowed feeds. If your feed is not on either list, please email your foster coordinator so we can determine if changing your foster to this feed is acceptable. We also have some “do not feed” requests, and some basic feeding guidelines.

- This should go without saying, but please do not feed your foster equine any type of meat, or meat containing product (such as dog food). Equidae are herbivores, and this can make them very sick.
- Please feed all treats in moderation, and monitor the behavior of your foster to make sure they aren't developing bad habits in regard to treats.
- Cereal grains such as oats, corn and barley should be rarely needed for most horses. If you determine to feed a cereal grain, we recommend that you choose crimped oats due to digestability, and higher fat and fiber content. Be aware of risk of spoilage when feeding whole cereal grains.

- Please soak pelleted feeds to minimize the risk of choke
- ALWAYS attend your horse during horse feed meal times to make sure that they do not choke while eating.
- ALWAYS make available a supply of clean, fresh water.

General Feed Requirements

A horse's daily diet should be adequate to maintain health and normal body functions, and should be fed on a regular daily schedule. In its natural state, the horse eats a variety of forages (mainly grasses) to meet its nutritional needs. Due to the small size of its stomach, the horse will normally consume its daily intake over 16 to 20 hours. When confined, horses should be fed at least twice daily; however, there appears to be no nutritional benefit when horses are fed more than three times daily. Horses should be fed a forage-based diet (hay or pasture). For most mature horses that are not competing or exercising, a forage-based diet is usually adequate to meet caloric needs. Grain supplementation should be rarely needed. Fresh forage (pasture) can seasonally provide most of the horse's needs, but should be supplemented with dry forage (hay) to provide adequate dietary fiber.

Pasture provides additional health benefits to horses, allowing them to move and exercise as they normally do, and regular pasture turnout should be part of a horse's daily routine, unless otherwise directed by our rescue veterinarian. In our area, certain minerals require supplementation, so we ask that all pastures include a mineral block that fosters can enjoy free choice.

When horses are fed in groups, some horses may "bully" others, and prevent other horses from eating. This may lead to some horses' overeating and becoming obese, while others may become thin and malnourished, even if adequate feed is being supplied. To prevent such problems, we recommend feeding in stall or separate feeding areas should be available to minimize competition for feed. All horses should have simultaneous access to feeders so that all can eat at one time. Horses that "bully" others should be separated from less dominant horses to ensure that the less dominant horses receive adequate feed.

Feeds designed for other species, particularly medicated feeds and those containing urea, are unsuitable for horses. Feed troughs and buckets should be cleaned regularly.

Expected Total Ration Consumption

Class	Total Consumption By Bodyweight %
Maintenance	1.5 - 2.0

Late Gestation	1.5 - 2.0
Lactation	2.0 – 3.0
Working	1.5 – 3.0
Weanling	2.0 – 3.0
Yearling	2.0 – 3.0
Two-Year Old	1.8 – 2.5

Other General Guidelines

To help ensure the health and safety of your foster equine, we ask that you adhere to the guidelines set forth, including the following:

1. Always keep your gates securely latched, and chained.
2. Unless specifically required, do not leave a halter on your foster equine in the field.
3. Please provide us two weeks notice if you need pre-scheduled vacation coverage for your foster equine, so we can make vacation foster or boarding arrangements during your absence.
4. Let us know if you are no longer able to care for your foster equine. Do not give your foster equine to another person or agency without first receiving permission from Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary
5. If you have a friend or associate interested in adopting your foster equine, please direct them to fill out the adoption application on our website at www.safeharborsanctuary.org and ask them to provide your name as a reference or in the comments section. Do NOT give your foster equine to your friend or associate until you have received notice from an adoption coordinator that they are approved to adopt. Everyone, including our own family members, must go through the standard adoption process to keep us compliant with our bylaws.
6. If you fall in love with your foster equine, and decide you want to adopt, simply let your foster coordinator know, and they will provide you with the adoption contract.

Chapter 3: Special Needs Equidae

Types of Special Needs

In a rescue setting many types of special needs cases may occur. The most common special needs which we encounter are pregnancy, emaciation, and geriatric situations. These needs are discussed in more detail, as a supplement to the adult guidance covered in Chapter 2. This is not all-encompassing, and if you are caring for a special needs horse with needs not covered in this chapter, Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary and an approved rescue veterinarian will work together with the foster farm owner for an approved treatment and rehabilitation plan.

Starvation

What Happens During Starvation

During starvation, the horse initially uses any fat and carbohydrate stores in his body to supply energy for metabolism and normal body functions. This is the normal process for any healthy horse: fat and carbohydrates are used for energy, exercise, brain function, circulation, etc., and are then replaced with nutrients from food. The cycle is constant and never-ending, even during sleep.

In a starved animal, once this source of fat and carbohydrate is gone, energy is derived from the breakdown of protein. While protein is a component of every tissue, excesses of protein are not stored in the body, as is the case for fat and carbohydrates. Consequently, the starved body uses protein not only from muscles, but also from vital tissues such as the heart and even gastrointestinal tissues – tissues that are necessary for life – for energy. As time goes by and starvation continues, the horse's survival becomes precarious. When a horse loses more than 50% of its body weight, the prognosis for survival is extremely poor.

Refeeding the Starved Horse

Unfortunately, some horses that arrive at Safe Harbor Equine and Livestock Sanctuary have been subjected to long-term neglect and may suffer from starvation. Rehabilitating a starved horse presents many challenges for caregivers. The abrupt refeeding of a starved horse can cause dysfunction of the body's

metabolic system, which can lead to failure of the heart and lungs and ultimately death.

A veterinarian is vital to the recovery of these animals and we seek veterinary guidance on intake for all starved horses.

Even under the best of care, horses subjected to prolonged malnutrition may die, even after having been placed with a responsible caregiver and having been provided an appropriate diet. Foster facility owners who are working with starved horses must go into the rehabilitation process knowing that they are doing everything possible, but it will not be possible to save every animal. The financial costs of stabilizing malnourished horses significantly exceed their adoption fee. We do not stop treatment and stop rehabilitating because of this fact---we simply fundraise to cover the excess cost. However, when it is the humane and responsible choice we acknowledge that responsible management of chronically starved horses does include the option of euthanasia. We are a no kill organization, however we will never allow an animal that does not have quality of life to suffer.

Refeeding starved animals, including humans, is not an easy process. In humans suffering from starvation caused by illnesses such as anorexia, cancer or gastrointestinal obstruction, patients can develop “refeeding” syndrome when they are given concentrated calories, and this in turn can lead to heart, respiratory and kidney failure, usually three to five days after the initial meal. This same syndrome has been reported in the literature for horses.

We follow the AAEP Guidelines for re-feeding starved horses. It is imperative that all foster homes that are working on rehabilitating starved animals have stall space and a dry lot to follow these guidelines.

Days 1-3 Feed one pound (approximately 1/6 flake) of leafy alfalfa every four hours (total of six pounds per day in six feedings)

Days 4-10 Slowly increase the amount of alfalfa and decrease the number of feedings so that by day six, you are feeding just over four pounds of hay every eight hours (total of 13 pounds per day in three feedings.)

Day 10 + Feed as much alfalfa as the horse will eat and decrease feeding to twice a day. Provide access to a salt block. Do not feed grain or supplemental feed until the horse is well along in its recovery; early feeding of grain and supplemental feed complicates the return of normal metabolic function and can result in death.

Provide clean, fresh water at all times.

Dewormers will be provided by your foster coordinator on a vet recommended schedule, and the veterinarian will also evaluate and determine the timing and need for a dental float.

The Geriatric Horse

Health Of the Geriatric Horse

Older horses are more likely to experience colic, dental disease, parasitism, tumors, lameness and metabolic disease than younger horses. They tend to have lower body condition scores on the Henneke system than younger horses and may have greater difficulty recovering from injury, starvation or disease.

Dental problems, such as the wearing down of tooth grinding surfaces, may cause a decreased ability to crush whole grains and forage. This may predispose the geriatric horse to colic or choke (intestinal or esophageal or obstructions), or reduced intestinal absorption of nutrients. We provide an annual dental examination for all sanctuary horses in rescue over the age of 25.

An increased prevalence of metabolic and endocrine disease in geriatrics, including Equine Cushing's Disease (ECD), place them at higher risk for chronic infections, eye problems and laminitis or founder. Musculoskeletal problems are also common in the older horse and are many times an accumulation of past injuries and wear and tear.

Management of arthritis through regular exercise, nutritional supplements and medications can significantly improve comfort for the geriatric horse. Your foster coordinator can provide approved supplements for your senior foster horse as needed.

Simply put, in making considerations for our senior equidae we look at recommendations for older people: regular exercise and resistance training improve muscle tone and mobility. Conversely, confinement and lack of movement weaken muscles and bones. Even in the oldest group of horses, movement in a pasture is generally preferred to stall confinement.

Senior Shelter

It is essential to protect older horses from heat and/or humidity by providing shade and ventilation. Pastures and paddocks should include natural shade or properly constructed well-ventilated shelters. Stables may require fans. Body clipping may be necessary to promote dissipation of heat from the body. Likewise, protection of older horses from extremes of cold through the appropriate combination of shelter, wind breaks and blanketing is essential. Pastures and paddocks should include natural or constructed shelter to provide a dry

environment and protection from wind. Soft footing and deep bedding (but not too deep, as it's harder to move around in) should be considered for older horses with arthritic conditions and other lameness.

A pasture environment is an excellent option for older horses, as turnout promotes beneficial activity. Consistent light exercise regimens are recommended and may improve range of motion and muscle strength. Pasture turnout is preferred over stall rest, because stall rest generally results in increased stiffness and pain. Stall rest should be used only during periods of acute pain or joint instability, as directed by a veterinarian. Body weight should be reduced to normal or slightly lighter levels to minimize mechanical stress on the limbs.

Feeding the Senior Horse

The body condition and/or actual body weight of older horses should be monitored carefully, because loss of condition is the most common problem in older horses. Loss of body condition, which is harder to regain in older horses than in younger horses, can indicate abnormal and often treatable conditions such as parasitism, dental disease or other underlying illnesses.

Protein requirements are higher in older horses than in younger adult horses, as the ability to digest crude protein is less in geriatric horses. Subsequently, it is suggested that geriatric horses are fed diets containing 14% to 16% crude protein. Loss of muscle mass is a common characteristic of geriatric horses. Although this has been attributed to decreased levels of activity, nutrition has also been implicated.

Leucine, which may stimulate protein synthesis and is relatively high in alfalfa hay, may be useful in preventing loss of muscle mass in geriatric horses. Fat is an excellent source of calories for older horses and is well utilized with almost no increase of digestive upset compared to energy.

To simplify, we recommend feeding a senior feed supplemented with up to 2 cups of a high quality oil per day (olive, coconut, rice bran, etc) for the senior equine. Roughage such as Chaf Hay Alfalfa or any other 60% legume blend hay is highly recommended in the daily diet.

The Pregnant Mare

Nutritional Requirements in Pregnancy

The pregnant mare does not have any special requirements during the first 8 months of pregnancy. Beginning in month 9, however, in our area it is essential the mare be removed from pasture containing fescue. The energy requirement to produce milk also increases, so feed should be increased to about 2.2% of bodyweight.

In the final month before birth, the mare will “bag up” where her production of milk becomes visible. If you can safely do so, routinely handle the mares teets, and wash them with a soft cloth. This will help her when the foal begins to nurse to accept the foal.

24 to 48 hours before delivery the nipples may get a waxy look. Other things to look for are signs of the rump and tailhead muscles softening. This helps to prepare the pelvic area to stretch during labor and foaling. The vulva may also become swollen and elongated. Be aware of changes in the mare’s behavior. This may indicate that foaling is imminent. Mares who behave more or less affectionately than usual, try to separate themselves from other horses, seem more nervous, may be nearing the start of labor. Also, loss of appetite is an indicator of approaching foaling. Foaling generally occurs between 10pm and 4am, so if a mare that normally eats well is uninterested in her dinner, she may be close to delivery. The mare should be put in a foaling stall with paddock to prepare for delivery, and if it can be done safely, the tail should be wrapped.

Labor and Delivery

Mares should foal on straw rather than bedding shavings. This is because the shavings can stick to the mare’s vulva, and can be drawn in as the mare struggles to push the foal out. They can also adhere to the wet newborn foal and permit bacteria to enter the umbilicus more easily. Dry, clean straw is preferred, and the mare and foal can be switched to shavings a few days after birth.

Most foals are born naturally, without human intervention. If at all possible, allow this process to happen naturally without attempting to help. The mare can usually deliver her foal, clean it, and begin the bonding process without assistance

Foaling begins when the placental sac breaks, releasing a gush of amniotic fluid. This is called “breaking water.” The mare may lie down before this happens, and you will sometimes see a smooth sac protrude between the mare’s vulva. The pressure of the mare lying down usually ruptures the sac. The fluid released when the mare’s water breaks will lubricate the birth canal and the foal. The mare will then lie on her side and begin to push.

Horses experience powerful contractions and will often groan or vocalize as they push to expel the seventy to ninety pounds of foal through the birth canal. As the mare pushes, you will see another sac appear. This smooth, thin, clear or white sac covers the foal, and you can see the foal within it.

Normally, the foal's front hooves are delivered first, usually with one slightly ahead of the other. The hooves are covered by a rubbery protective coating. The nose and head should appear once the front legs are out to around the knees.

This point is the first one where problems can occur. Help should be sought if the mare strains for more than twenty minutes without the feet appearing, if only one foot appears, or if two feet appear but the head does not follow.

If the veterinarian is not far away and these conditions occur, make the mare stand and walk. This will help the foal to slide back into the mare's womb and make repositioning attempts easier. If the veterinarian cannot aid your mare quickly, you may have to help her with directions over the phone. You may need to wash and lubricate your arm to gently slide it inside the mare's birth canal. Generally, you will follow the protruding leg until you find the foal's chest, and then you will be able to find the other leg, nose, or head.

However, it is unusual that you will need to actually attempt to reposition the foal. Most of the time, the only help that is needed is to help to gently pull the foal out. **(Do NOT attempt to help with the birth unless you are actively being guided by your approved veterinarian to do so!)**

Normally, the most difficult part of the delivery is the head and shoulders. The mare may rest briefly after the shoulders are expelled. If she seems to be having trouble getting the head, shoulders, or chest out, she may need you to help her by gently pulling on the foal's front feet.

You should use a dry towel to grasp the foal's feet, as it will be wet and slick. If the sac covering the foal has not already broken, you should carefully break it at this time with sharp scissors. Gently pull the foal's front feet down toward the mare's hind hooves, not out—this helps to rotate the foal's head through the birth canal. Once the head and shoulders have passed through the birth canal, pull straight out along the line of the mare's spine.

Again, if the mare seems to be struggling when the foal's hips are in the birth canal, the foal's feet should again be pulled gently down toward the mare's hooves. This helps to rotate the foal's hips so they can pass through the birth canal.

Whether the mare delivers naturally or you help by pulling, the foal's rear feet will often remain in the birth canal as the mare and the newborn foal rest. If you remove the foal's feet from the mare, make sure to leave the foal close beside its mother. While the mare and foal rest, the umbilical cord is still attached and transferring a large, vital amount of blood from mare to foal. This five to fifteen minute rest period is crucial.

After this rest period, the mare will stand and break the umbilical cord. There is very little bleeding at this point. Sometimes, the foal will stand too. If either stand or pull away too early, the umbilical cord can snap prematurely. This results in bleeding from both horses that must be quickly controlled. Clamps, sutures, sterilized fishing line, or even boiled shoelaces can be used

to tie the ends and stop the bleeding.

You should dip the foal's navel in an iodine solution, coating the umbilicus and sealing the tissue to prevent infection.

Foals can also be born in the breech position—hind-feet first. This is not the normal foaling position, but it can occur without complications. Breech births are more difficult for the mare and it is more likely that help will be needed than with a normal birth. You should call your veterinarian as soon as you determine the foal is in the breech position. You will likely not need to help your mare, but it is better to notify the veterinarian and be aware of what to do just in case.

In a breech delivery, you will see the hocks after the hooves are delivered. You can also tell that the foal is breech by the flexion of the foal's hind feet. A foal's front feet will flex down toward the mare's hooves, but in a breech delivery, the hooves flex upward toward the mare's tail.

After the hocks are delivered, the foal's hips and tail follow. This is usually the hardest part of the delivery because the hips are the foal's widest portion when delivered this way. Again, the owner may need to grasp the foal's feet and pull gently down toward the mare's hooves to rotate the foal's pelvis so it can pass through the birth canal.

Whether normal or breech, after the foal's birth, the next steps are the delivery of the placenta and the foal's first attempts to nurse.

Your first glimpse of the placenta will be a large mass of red and white tissue protruding from the mare's vulva. The placenta should be delivered within two to four hours after the foal is born. If it is retained much longer than that, it can increase the risk of infection. Even if the rest of the foaling proceeded normally, a retained placenta requires veterinary help.

The foal should stand and begin to nurse within four to six hours after birth. Most foals will accomplish this within one hour. A newborn foal can be somewhat weak or have difficulty standing—after all, they've never had to bear their own weight before—and can also have a little trouble latching on to the teat.

- DO call your foster coordinator as soon as you realize your foster mare is in labor
- If there are labor complications, or you wake up in the morning to a new foal, DO follow the emergency veterinary protocol of calling the vet for a farm call followed by calling the people on your call down list.
- DO retain the placenta for the vet to examine.
- DO NOT assist your foster mare with delivery unless you are being specifically guided by your approved veterinarian.

Identifying Abnormal Mothering Behavior

Overall, mares have excellent maternal skills. Inadequate mothering behavior is uncommon, and estimated to occur in less than five percent of the parturitions. It occurs especially in first-time mothers, and it often becomes apparent soon after birth, however the abnormal behavior may take a few days to be manifested. It is thought that true “poor mothering” behavior may have a genetic predisposition.

The five most common abnormal mothering behaviors are:

- Absence of bonding
- Fear of the newborn foal
- Overprotection
- Reluctance of nursing
- True foal rejection.

Absence of bonding and lack of protective behavior is generally seen when either the mare or the foal is sick or is receiving medication.

It is also relatively common if the foal delivery involved a lot of manipulation such as in difficult births (called dystocias) or after cesarian section. Fear of the newborn foal occurs when the mare does not recognize the foal as her own baby. Instead of the normal bonding behavior, the mare tries to get away from her own foal, as if it is an intruder. The mare will eventually acclimate to her foal, but may not bond very well to this foal. This behavior occurs more commonly in the first time mothers, and it is unlikely to be repeated in subsequent pregnancies.

Overprotection is defined as aggressively protecting the foal, to the point of being a dangerous not only to the people handling the mare but also to the foal. While rushing to get herself in front of her foal to protect it from a perceived threat, the mare may injure the baby by stepping on or crushing her own foal. Although the mare may appear to injure the foal, overprotection is quite distinct from deliberate attacks on the foal that occur with true rejection.

The reluctance of nursing is probably the most common problem, and it should also be differentiated from deliberate attacks on the foal. It is possible that the discomfort associated with “milk letdown” causes the mare to overreact. Alternatively, the mare may be reluctant to have the foal nurse because she is “touchy” about her udder, especially if there is edema. If a mare is “touchy”, her udder should be handled regularly prior and throughout the following pregnancies.

True foal rejection is a very serious inadequate mothering behavior, and fortunately it is the least common. The reason why some mares truly reject their foals remains unknown. It is thought that this behavior is more likely to reoccur again in subsequent pregnancies than the other abnormal maternal behaviors. The mare becomes aggressive toward her baby and often savagely attacks the foal. The mare may bite, lift and toss the foal, or corner and stomp on it. Once you have confirmed that the mare is truly rejecting and attacking her foal, they need to be separated permanently.

Raising Your Foster Foal

For the most part, your momma foster will do what is needed to raise the foster foal, and you will simply be able to enjoy the fun of having a baby foster.

DO feed a quality mare and foal feed, such as Omolene 300 or Ultium.

Healthy foals grow quickly and can put on up to three pounds or over a kilo a day. A sound diet improves growth and leads to a healthier adult animal, although genetics also plays a part. In the first weeks of life the foal gets everything it needs from the mare's milk. Like a human infant, it receives nourishment and antibodies from the colostrum in milk that is produced within the first few hours or days following parturition. The mare needs additional water to help her produce milk for the foal and may benefit from supplementary nutrition.

It is typical for foals under human management to be weaned between four and six months of age, though under natural conditions, they may nurse for longer, occasionally until the following year. Typically foals in rescue are adopted out at 4 to 6 months of age. We do wait for foals to wean naturally, and will not adopt out a foal under 6 months of age that is still nursing, unless the mare and foal are adopted to the same home.

Mare's milk is not a significant source of nutrients for the foal after about four months, though it does no harm to a healthy mare for a foal to nurse a month or two longer and may be of some psychological benefit to the foal.

We do not have any philosophy on imprinting, but do feel it is valuable for a foal to become familiar with handling as young as possible. Basic training on leading can begin as early as the first week, and hoof trim rotations can begin at 6 weeks old.

Chapter 4: Henneke Body Condition Scoring

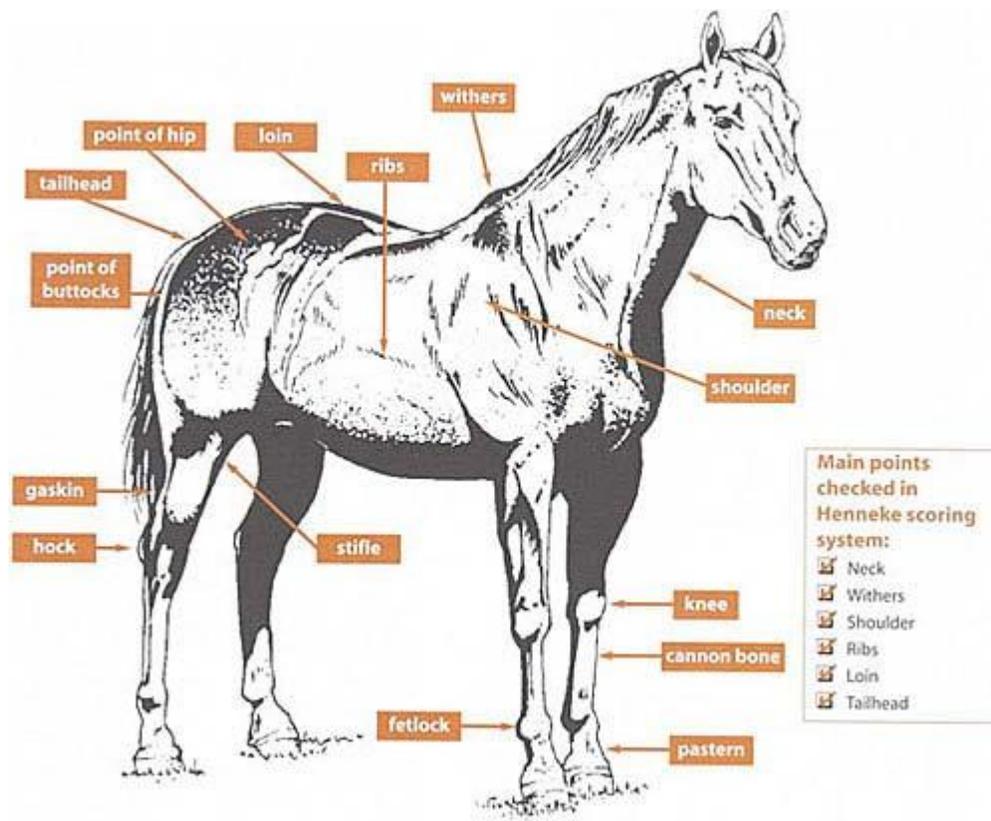
The following information is intended to assist our foster farm owners in taking personal assessments of their foster horses and their rehabilitative development.

We strive to maintain the following scores for healthy adoptable fosters:

5-7 – Mares and geldings during Winter, Spring and Summer

6-7 – Mares and geldings during Fall, going into Winter

6-8 – Pregnant Mares in the last 3 months of pregnancy



Score	Description	Image
1. Poor	Extremely emaciated; no fatty tissue; vertebrae, ribs, tail head, and bones of withers, shoulder, and neck are visible	 <p data-bbox="922 646 1414 716">This horse is extremely emaciated and was probably near death</p>
2. Very Thin	Emaciated; slight tissue cover over bones; vertebrae, ribs, tail head, and bones of withers, shoulder, and neck are visible	 <p data-bbox="922 1100 1208 1129">This horse is very thin</p>
3. Thin	Slight fat cover over body; individual vertebrae and ribs no longer visibly discernible; withers, shoulders, and neck do not appear overly thin	
4. Moderately Thin	Ridge of spine and outline of ribs are visible; tail head may or may not be visible depending on the breed; withers, shoulders, and neck do not appear overly thin	
5. Moderate	Spine and ribs cannot be seen however ribs can be felt; tail head is spongy; withers, shoulders, and neck are rounded and smooth	

<p>6. Moderately Fleshy</p>	<p>Slight crease down spine; ribs and tail head feel spongy; fat deposits along withers and neck and behind shoulders</p>	 <p>A horse in good condition, about a 6 on the scale</p>
<p>7. Fleshy</p>	<p>Crease down spine; ribs have fat filling between them; tail head spongy; fat deposits along withers and neck and behind shoulders</p>	
<p>8. Fat</p>	<p>Apparent crease down spine; ribs difficult to feel; soft fat surrounding tail head; fat deposits along withers, behind shoulders, and on inner thighs; neck is large</p>	 <p>This horse is noticeably overweight</p>
<p>9. Extremely Fat</p>	<p>Obvious crease down spine; patchy fat on ribs; bulging fat on tail head, withers, behind shoulders, and on neck; fat fills in flank and on inner thighs</p>	

Appendix A: Preferred and Restricted Feeds

Preferred List

- Triple Crown – Complete Product Line
- Nutrena SafeChoice – Complete Product Line
- Nutrena Force Fuel – Complete Product Line
- Tribute – Complete Product Line
- Thrive Feed
- Winners Cup – Advantage 1200 and 1400
- Winners Cup – Endurance 1010
- Purina Ultium – Growth and Competition
- Purina Wellsolve
- BlueSeal – Complete Product Line
- ADM Alliance – Complete Product Line

Restricted Feeds (and why!)

- Generic Textured/Sweet Feeds. Commonly called 12%, 11% or 2/6.
 - We restrict these products because the recipe changes constantly so every bag you buy can have a different formula. This increases the risk of equine colic. These feeds typically also have a very high sugar content.
- Purina Equine Senior
 - We restrict the use of equine senior because it is a very hard pellet that does not soak as well as other similar senior feeds and has an increased risk of choke. Purina Equine Senior is very high in Molasses and Non Structural Carbohydrates. It is lower in fat than other senior feeds. It is simply not a very good choice. Purina missed the mark with their senior line.
- Purina Strategy
 - Strategy being on the restricted list may come as a surprise to some, but from a nutritional standpoint, we believe it is a terrible feed. It's high in sugar, extraordinary on the NSC level (if you have a horse prone to founder, strategy is one of the worst choices you can make), and it is not a fixed formula feed, so just like the generic feeds above; every bag you get is a different recipe. The only products for horses Purina makes that are fixed formula are Ultium and Wellsolve.

If you choose to feed a feed off the restricted feed list Safe Harbor reserves the right to refuse reimbursement of those feeds. Additionally, if you feed Purina Equine Senior and your foster horse chokes, the responsibility for the emergency vet bill will be your responsibility not the

rescue responsibility. We acknowledge and understand that Purina Equine Senior raises the risk of choke and prohibit it for that exact reason.