

Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home, Inc.

Euthanasia Policy

It is the goal of the Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home, Inc. to provide the utmost care to all horses we take in. We have made a commitment to long term care to every horse that we rescue. A reality of this commitment is that some horses are suffering and there is no more that can be done for them. Euthanasia is an important part of animal rescue, but it is a part that cannot be taken lightly. As a non-profit, we must use the funds entrusted to us in the best way possible. This means that we cannot spend thousands of dollars on one horse's life when that money could be used to save many, many more. Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home, Inc. shall follow the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) guidelines for euthanasia:

The AAEP has developed euthanasia guidelines to help the veterinarian assist us during this very difficult time. The AAEP's standards apply to all horses, regardless of their monetary value, and are designed to avoid or terminate incurable and excessive suffering. The following are guidelines to assist in making humane decisions regarding euthanasia of horses:

- Incurable, progressive disease
- Incurable, transmissible disease
- Chronic severe lameness
- Inoperable colic
- Foals born with serious defects
- Debilitation in old age
- Severe traumatic injury
- Dangerous behavioral traits displayed towards humans or other animals
- Undue financial burden of caring for a sick or incapacitated horse
- Undue suffering for any reason
- A horse should not have to endure continuous or unmanageable pain from a condition that is chronic and incurable.
- A horse should not have to endure a medical or surgical condition that has a hopeless chance of survival.
- A horse should not have to remain alive if it has an unmanageable medical condition that renders it a hazard to itself or its handlers.
- A horse should not have to receive continuous analgesic medication for the relief of pain for the rest of its life.
- A horse should not have to endure a lifetime of continuous individual box stall confinement for prevention or relief of unmanageable pain or suffering.

If it is deemed the only option left then Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home, Inc. will have a vet humanly euthanize a horse and dispose of him/her with respect. Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home, Inc. DOES NOT euthanize healthy horses just to make space for new ones.