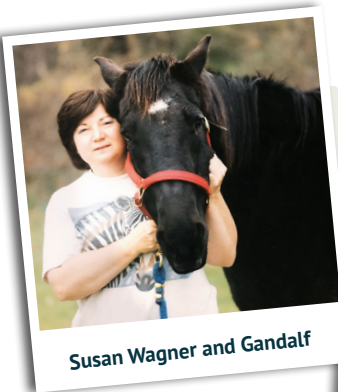


# SANCTUARY TIMES

A newsletter for friends of Equine Advocates • Winter 2026



On February 27, 2026, Equine Advocates officially celebrates **THREE DECADES** of rescuing and protecting equines. In this special edition of our newsletter, you'll see where we've been (below), meet some of the equines that have been with us the longest (pages 2 and 3), and get a peek at the next chapter for our organization (page 4).



Susan Wagner and Gandalf



Where it all started

## 1996

In 1996, Equine Advocates was founded by Susan Wagner after she rescued her first horse from slaughter. His name was Gandalf. Since that time, we have rescued thousands of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules from slaughter, abuse and neglect.

## 2004

In 2004, we established Equine Advocates Rescue & Sanctuary, a 140-acre\* facility in upstate New York from which we now operate. It is an equine village where horses get to live out their lives in a natural environment that allows them to socialize with each other.



Main barn before renovations



## 2006

In 2006, we opened our Humane Education Center, where we welcome visitors of all ages to learn about equine issues, how to advocate on behalf of horses and how to recognize and report equine abuse or neglect.



## 2023

\*In 2023, we achieved a long-time goal that we at one time thought would never happen – acquiring 33 additional acres adjacent to the sanctuary. Sometimes dreams do come true!



*See page 4 for some BIG (and very exciting) plans for the future of that property.*



Equine Advocates has earned the coveted 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This means that Equine Advocates "exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its cause." Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator have this honor. We also received the highest possible rating from Candid with its Platinum Seal of Transparency. These accolades show that you can be confident that your gift will be used wisely.

## OUR MISSION:

To rescue, protect and prevent the abuse of equines through education, investigation, rescue operations, the dissemination of information to the public, and the operation of a horse sanctuary for slaughter-bound, abused and neglected equines.

# Equine Advocates Rescue & Sanctuary Provides a Safe and Permanent Home

*Our residents will live out the rest of their days in peace here at the sanctuary*

► For the horses, ponies, donkeys and mules who come to Equine Advocates' 173-acre sanctuary in the Hudson Valley region of Upstate New York, being rescued from their circumstances is only the beginning. With the help of our supporters, we are able to give each and every equine resident the loving care they deserve for the rest of their lives.

Out of the 83 equines currently under our care, over 30 have been here for over 15 years...and of those, 25 have been here for at least 20 years. Just think about that for a moment. Day after day, year after year, we are committed to their health and well-being.

This includes their daily needs such as feed, hay and bedding as well as veterinary care, farriery services, dental care, and supplements and medications as needed. Sometimes it also means emergency surgery for a sudden illness or injury, or a long-term care plan for those with special needs.

Then, at the end of their lives, every equine deserves a peaceful, dignified end. This, too, is our responsibility as their caregivers.

Featured here are just a few of our longest-term residents. You can see their full stories, and those of ALL our residents, at [equineadvocates.org](http://equineadvocates.org).



Above: Rain Man (left) with his buddy Rocket Man, a 17-year-old Miniature Appaloosa who has been with us since 2012.

Right: Equine Advocates President and Founder Susan Wagner with Rain Man in 1993.



Rain Man, a 36-year-old registered Miniature Horse, wins the award for being here the longest. He has been with Susan since 1993, three years before she founded Equine Advocates. "He was originally rescued from an abusive situation by a Staten Island resident. She reached out to me when she could no longer keep him, and he's been with me ever since."



## Consider Leaving a Legacy through Planned Giving

Planned Giving is a wonderful way to **make a lasting impact** by providing a future gift from your estate to Equine Advocates. Planned Giving is not meant to replace, but to complement, a donor's current giving plan. You can specify a portion of your assets to go to Equine Advocates, and this arrangement can be changed any time you choose. You may also direct your gift to support a particular program, specific equine(s) or a future capital improvement project. For more information, please check the box on the attached Contribution Reply or visit [equineadvocates.org/planned-giving](http://equineadvocates.org/planned-giving).

**Pepper**

**Born: 1992 Arrived: 1999**

One of five Molly Mules we saved at an Amish dispersal sale when she was about seven years old.



**Babe**

**Born: 1991 Arrived: 2001**

A rescued Amish Work Mule who was involved in an accident while pulling a plow and could no longer work.



**Bandit**

**Born: 1998 Arrived: 2001**

A stunning Pinto Pony we rescued from a car garage in New Jersey when he was three years old.



**Plato**

**Born: 2000 Arrived: 2005**

A Registered Thoroughbred Gelding, formerly known as "Platitude," who was injured during a race.



**Nelson**

**Born: 1999 Arrived: 2005**

A Wild American Mustang captured by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at the age of five.



**Casey**

**Born at the sanctuary in 2007**

A Miniature Donkey whose dam, Pat, was pregnant when we rescued her from an animal park.



**Annie Born: 2001 Arrived: 2004 Connor Born to Annie in 2004**

Annie, a Belgian Draft, is one of 46 Canadian PMU Mares we rescued in 2004. She was pregnant with Connor at the time of her rescue. PMU stands for Pregnant Mares Urine, which is used to produce certain HRT/ERT drugs.



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

**CONTRIBUTION REPLY**

I want to make sure Equine Advocates is able to continue its mission to rescue and protect horses, ponies, donkeys and mules.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

*Please make your check payable to Equine Advocates.*

I would like to donate using my credit card:

Visa  MasterCard  Amex  Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Repeat gift each month.

Please contact me about leaving a legacy through Planned Giving.

**Check the "Repeat gift each month" box above and become a Monthly Donor Today!**

# Equine Advocates Plans for the Future

## Rehabilitation Center & Veteran Horses Compound: A First Look

When Equine Advocates was founded in 1996, we never could have dreamed of where we would be 30 years later, but we've learned that anything is possible through the generosity and compassion of our supporters. With this in mind, we are dreaming BIG for the next phase of development.

The Equine Advocates Rehabilitation Center & Veteran Horses Compound will include a medical clinic, large indoor stalls, and an indoor arena for equines recovering from illness or injury and for indoor turnout for the animals who need it. There will also be a wing for retired military working horses who will be part of our new Veterans-to-Veteran Horses program, the first of its kind in the United States. Equine Advocates is currently home to four retired Military Working Horses from the U.S. Army's Caisson Platoon. You can learn more information about them – and all of our residents – on our website.

Below are the first-draft color renderings for this complex. We need YOUR help to make this dream a reality. If you or someone you know is able to make a contribution to our capital campaign for this project, please reach out and let us know. As with every milestone over the last three decades, this next chapter of Equine Advocates is within reach when we all work together.

Front View



Side View



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CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

## CONTRIBUTION REPLY

Become a Monthly Donor at any amount!

I want to be a Monthly Donor at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month.

Equine Sponsorship starts at \$50 per month.

I want to sponsor an equine\* for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month.

Please provide your credit card and contact information on the reverse side.

\*Please include your phone number on the credit card form so that we can contact you to discuss your choice of equine.

Celebrating  
**30**  
1996-2026  
Years of Rescuing and Protecting Equines