



# EQUINE ADVOCATES®

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www.equineadvocates.org  
Susan Wagner, President & Founder

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025

### Rescue & Sanctuary

We focus our work on rescue, sanctuary, humane education, & advocacy. Since 1996, we have helped save & rescue countless equines from slaughter, abuse & neglect. Our 173-acre horse sanctuary in Chatham, NY, is currently home to 80 rescued horses, ponies, donkeys & mules. This includes 7 new arrivals:

Blue, a Pony; Jasper, a Standard Donkey; Philip Seymour, a Thoroughbred; as well as Bruce, Dylan, Sly & Willy, all Wild Burros.

We are also very proud to give a forever home to four retired Military Working Horses who served this country as members of the Caisson Platoon, a unit of the U.S. Army. Their respective missions involved leading, pulling or escorting the caisson (wagon) carrying the caskets of fallen military members to their final resting places at Arlington National Cemetery. Every equine resident at the sanctuary remains here for life and receives loving care, including excellent veterinary services.

### Advocacy

Through our website, e-blasts, social media, campaigns, newsletters and rescue operations, we provide information to help bring awareness to the general public on important equine issues. We also provide tools to help people get involved and become proactive. We believe everyone can make a difference and report equine cruelty when they see it. We provide fact sheets, letters, reports, informational videos, presentations from past equine summits and other important information that can be printed out and shared to help people become better informed.

Since our inception, our advocacy work has been focused on ending horse slaughter. New York banned the slaughter of equines for human and animal consumption in 2023. We want to make sure any federal ban that is introduced also ends horse slaughter entirely without any loopholes and that the prohibition is Constitutionally balanced to include intra-state, inter-state and foreign commerce.

### Rehabilitation Center & Veteran Horses Barn

The building will include a small clinic and med room, a recovery stall, 10 large indoor stalls with outdoor turnout for rescued equines, wash stalls, feed room, kitchen/meeting room and an indoor arena for equines recovering from illnesses, injuries as well as 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 and exciting Veterans-to-Veteran Horses Program - a first of its kind program in the U.S. The Veteran Horses Wing will have a total of 8 large indoor stalls with access to the large indoor arena and outside areas for grooming and groundwork.

The renderings for the construction of this Center are available on our website.

### Humane Education Program / Public Open Days

Each year, we welcome thousands of visitors and students to the sanctuary. All get a chance to tour the sanctuary and meet our remarkable equine residents.

Graphics are displayed at every paddock so visitors can read about where each equine came from and why he or she needed to be rescued.

This makes for an enlightening and educational experience.

**On February 27, 2026 we will be celebrating Equine Advocates 30th Birthday!**

### Mission Statement

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 horses.

### Board of Directors

Jeffrey Tucker, Chairman  
Susan Wagner, President  
Barbara Guarino Lester, Vice President  
Kelley Watts, Treasurer  
Karen Wagner, Secretary  
Lisken Cordes  
Elisa Haworth  
Yvette Jackson  
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### Financial Information Year ending 12/31/2025

<b>Income</b>	
Donations & Grants	\$4,122,715
Interest/Investment Income	142,160
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$4,264,875</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Program Services (76%)	
Equine Rescue & Sanctuary	\$1,339,797
Equine Education	445,910
	<u>\$1,785,707</u>
Supporting Services	
Management & General (14%)	\$ 337,472
Fundraising (10%)	<u>232,874</u>
	\$ 570,346
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,356,053**</b>

\*\* Includes \$169,522 in depreciation.

<b>Assets</b>	
Assets at start of year	\$7,260,119
Assets at end of year	\$9,168,941
Increase in Assets	\$1,908,822

