



# SANCTUARY TIMES

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF EQUINE ADVOCATES • SUMMER 2026

## 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 equines.

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## Philip Seymour's Remarkable Recovery

*We are thrilled to bring you a happy update for one of our equine residents!*

On October 7, 2025, Equine Advocates' President and Founder Susan Wagner received an urgent call about a young Thoroughbred Gelding in desperate need of rescue and immediate medical attention. Located in western New York (over 300 miles from the sanctuary), he was malnourished, suffering from various degrees of neglect, and had a massive open wound on his right front leg.

Born in Kentucky in 2019, he had raced eleven times under the name "Garitoff." Years later, after sustaining that very serious leg injury which went untreated, he ended up in a situation that put him dangerously at risk of being illegally shipped out of New York State and sold for slaughter.

*NOTE: In April of 2024, a law prohibiting the slaughter or transportation of equines for consumption of any kind in, through and from the State of New York went into effect. We are still fighting for a national ban! Visit our website to learn more about this and other issues facing America's wild and domestic equines.*

"As soon as I saw photos of this emaciated horse with that huge injury, I knew we had to get him to a hospital as soon as possible," said Wagner, who renamed him Philip

Seymour. Susan quickly arranged for him to be picked up by a hauler and rushed to Cornell University Hospital for Animals in Ithaca, NY, where he underwent extensive testing and diagnostics.

Philip's injury required skin graft surgery, which entailed taking many small pieces of skin from his neck and transplanting them directly into the leg wound. Over time, these skin grafts helped to promote new skin growth to cover the existing bed of healthy granulation tissue.

After 22 days in the hospital, Philip arrived at the sanctuary, but his recovery was long and had its ups

and downs. In the beginning, he had to remain on stall rest with daily hand-walking and hand-grazing for several months until it was safe enough for him to be turned out in a small paddock on dry footing only.

His wound required frequent bandage changes, and there were complications during the healing process which our equine staff successfully handled thanks to guidance from his vets at Cornell. He also had regular follow-up exams by our local equine veterinarian from Rood and Riddle in Saratoga.



Philip Seymour, Thoroughbred Gelding

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Please give today!





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.

## 2026 Public Open Days

We'd love to have you join us for one or more of the upcoming dates:

**Saturday, August 22**

**Saturday, September 26**

**Saturday, October 17**

**Sunday, November 8**

Visit our website [equineadvocates.org](https://equineadvocates.org) for complete details and driving directions.

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Finally, after nearly seven long months of recovery time, the moment of truth arrived! On May 22, 2026, Philip Seymour was walked to a large pasture where he was turned out but separated by a very long fence over which he was introduced to his future pasture mates – Joey, Tom Petty, Monty and Arnold – four other Thoroughbred Geldings who live in a section we call The Heartbreakers. Just a few days later, the gates were opened and Philip officially became the newest Heartbreaker.

"This was a day for celebration for everyone here, but especially for Philip," said Wagner. "His injury could have ended his life. Instead, he survived and is thriving in his new herd. This story has a happy ending thanks to his amazing veterinarians, our caring EA staff and to our loyal supporters without whom this would not have been possible."



Philip's wound when he was first rescued



Shortly after skin graft surgery



Healing well at the sanctuary



Philip's first turnout outside his stall at the barn late last year



Philip (in front) with his new best friend and fellow Heartbreaker, Tom Petty.



Philip spent over three weeks in the hospital being treated for his injuries.



## 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](https://equineadvocates.org/planned-giving).



## Sponsor (and Volunteer) Spotlight

# Equine Advocates Celebrates its Longest-Serving Volunteers!

In 2026, Chris and Michele will not only be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, but also their fifteen years as dedicated volunteers at Equine Advocates.

“Since 2011, Chris and Michele have been among the most experienced and trusted volunteers we have ever had,” said Susan Wagner, Equine Advocates’ President and Founder. “Over the years, they also became equine sponsors for three horses at the sanctuary – King, a retired Military Working Horse who served the country for 16 years with the U.S. Army’s Caisson Platoon; Sophie, a Dutch Harness Horse who had been an Amish buggy horse and scrapped for slaughter when she became injured; and Nemo, a former camp horse used and abused at a now-defunct upstate New York dude ranch where conditions were cruel and inhumane.”

Chris and Michele’s decision to become sponsors came about as they got to know and appreciate the equines at the sanctuary and the stories of how each one came here.



Chris and Michele with King and Amos

“Supporting Equine Advocates and the herd through sponsorship is just a natural outgrowth of our passion for being part of the cause and contributing to the well-being and protection of these magnificent creatures,” they said in a joint statement.

Equine Advocates is fortunate to have volunteers as caring and generous with their time as Chris and Michele. Sometimes they will groom more than twenty equines during one visit. They always try to make themselves available whenever we need extra help, especially before special

events and Public Open Days. However, their main focus is to come on a regular basis and spend as much time with as many equines as possible.

When asked why their relationship with this organization has lasted so long, they said: “In this modern, busy, stressful world, it brings us peace and contentment... spending our time volunteering with our friends at Equine Advocates, recentering ourselves surrounded by the horses we love.”

Not everyone lives close enough to volunteer on a regular basis,

but we have sponsors from all over the country and beyond! When you become an Equine Sponsor, all funds go directly toward the routine care for your chosen equine. This includes feed, hay, bedding, veterinary, farriery and dental care as well as supplements and medications as needed. You’ll receive photos, a key chain, magnet and other goodies, plus privileges to visit your sponsored equine(s) between 10am-2pm Monday through Saturday.

Sponsorship levels start at \$50 per month. If this doesn’t fit your budget, another option is to become a Monthly Donor for as little as \$5 per month. Every gift makes a difference!



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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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!**

# Your Support Means Everything

*There are many ways for YOU to be an equine advocate!*

## 1 SEND A ONE-TIME GIFT TODAY

We are grateful for your generosity, and no amount is too small. When you send a donation to Equine Advocates, it goes toward our Equine Rescue, Sanctuary and Humane Education Programs as well as our advocacy work. You can be confident that your support truly makes a difference! Every dollar matters and we appreciate ALL gifts, no matter the size. Together, there is no limit to what we can do in pursuit of our mission to rescue and protect horses, ponies, donkeys and mules.



## 2 BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR



When you choose to sign up to become an Equine Advocates Monthly Donor, your recurring monthly gift of any amount helps to cover the costs of equine care, rescue operations, and our ongoing humane education and advocacy programs. Predictable monthly contributions provide Equine Advocates with a reliable source of funding which is crucial in times of uncertainty. If circumstances change, you can easily adjust or cancel your monthly gift at any time just by calling our office at (518) 392-0175 or by emailing us at [info@equineadvocates.org](mailto:info@equineadvocates.org).

## 3 EQUINE SPONSORSHIP

As an Equine Sponsor, your monthly gift of \$50 or more will help cover the cost of basic care for the equine you choose. This includes feed, hay, bedding, veterinary, farriery and dental care, as well as supplements and medications as needed. Equines available for sponsorship are at [equineadvocates.org/sponsor-an-equine](http://equineadvocates.org/sponsor-an-equine). You'll receive a "Sponsor Pack" including photos, a key chain, magnet and other goodies. Sponsors are welcome to visit their sponsored equine(s) between 10am-2pm Monday through Saturday. Many have visited from as far away as California!



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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  
**EQUINE ADVOCATES**  
*Years of Rescuing and Protecting Equines*

