

Equine Welfare Advocacy Committee Policies

ASHA Policy Statement for the Equine Welfare Advocacy Committee

The Equine Welfare Advocacy Committee (EWAC), identifies state and national organizations as part of a rescue referral program for membership; evaluates and appraises the Board regarding proposed legislation (positive or negative) affecting the Saddlebred industry; seeks to affiliate the ASHA with prominent industry groups (i.e., the AHC); and recommends ways that the ASHA can be more proactive regarding equine health and welfare issues.

Role

The EWAC serves as an information portal for the Saddlebred. While rescue is a part of equine welfare, the EWAC is **not** a rescue organization. The committee is designated as “rescue neutral,” and no member may be a current member of an equine rescue Board of Directors, nor a principal in an Equine Rescue. Members may be previously affiliated with equine rescues throughout the country.

The EWAC follows the policy set for them by the Board. The EWAC Chair further acts as a liaison, or appoints a liaison to work with other entities as designated by the EWAC or the Board.

Given the declining numbers within the Saddlebred breed, the role of the EWAC is of more importance than ever. The EWAC seeks to protect and advocate the breed, while searching for avenues to promote both the breed and public perception of the breed, as well as increase ownership of the breed.

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Given the governing policy from the ASHA, the EWAC further defines their role and policies as follows:

Identifies state and national organizations as part of a rescue referral program for membership.

1. Identified organizations shall be listed on the EWAC page(s) of the ASHA web site and will be available for referral upon call-in to the ASHA office. These include:
 - a. Global Federation
 - b. Unwanted Horse Coalition
 - c. Appropriate State level clearing houses for bonafide rescues as identified and approved by the EWAC.
 - d. Previous Bruce Hanson Grant recipients. It is the policy of the EWAC (and the ASHA) to not recommend specific rescue organizations. Bruce Hanson Grant recipients are listed, but with no recommendation attached in keeping with the “rescue neutral” policy of the EWAC.
2. The EWAC (and ASHA) will assist members and the general public who may call the ASHA office regarding incidents of Saddlebred neglect and/or abuse in:
 - a. Identifying the issue, and
 - b. Referring callers to resources.
3. Referrals will be made to the appropriate resources, which may include legal entities or local rescues.
4. The EWAC shall be responsible for developing a checklist for ASHA personnel to use when fielding calls regarding alleged neglect or abuse.

Evaluates and appraises the Board regarding proposed legislation (positive or negative) affecting the Saddlebred industry.

1. The EWAC seeks to place the ASHA as an industry leader in being proactive in developing solutions for equine welfare issues, whether real or perceived. As such, the EWAC may bring to the attention of the Board welfare issues which may affect the breed before they become legislated.

Seeks to affiliate the ASHA with prominent industry groups (i.e., the AHC)

1. The Chair of the EWAC will be the liaison, or will appoint a liaison to other organizations as necessary.
2. As with any good business, the EWAC will collaborate as a part of cross-functional teams within the ASHA to recommend and review any proposed rule changes or issues affecting equine welfare, (i.e. if the Rules Committee is considering changes to rules regarding the horse and treatment of the horse, the EWAC will act in a consultative role)
3. The EWAC will also cooperate with the UPHA in identifying and targeting areas of equine welfare; specifically the 80% of the breed that do not currently have show records.

Recommends ways that the ASHA can be more proactive regarding equine health and welfare issues:

1. Works with the ASHA Marketing committee to promote the American Saddlebred as a trotting breed.
2. Recommends and reviews rule changes for the ASHA and ASR as they pertain to equine welfare issues.
3. The EWAC along with the ASR partner to ensure the integrity of registration and transfer of registration for **all** American Saddlebred horses.
4. Promotes the usage of My Meadows via the ASHA web site, and by specifically including program information and a checkbox for My Meadows on every transfer form, thus making My Meadows available for every registered Saddlebred at the time of transfer, wherever it may occur in the chain of ownership during a registered Saddlebred's lifetime.
5. Makes My Meadows available in the following methods:
 - a. At the time of transfer on the transfer form
 - b. Online for all currently and formerly owned horses of any recorded owner, unless said owner has been convicted of animal cruelty
 - c. Upon petition to the Equine Welfare Committee for horses that have not been recorded under the person's name.

Usage of funds:

1. The EWAC is not a budgeted committee for the ASHA. As such, any funds available to the committee are provided solely by donations. Bruce Hanson, an early advocate for equine welfare provided the seed money for the Committee to assist organizations and rescues in the following manner:
 - a. **The Bruce Hanson Grant:** This grant is available to eligible 501c(3) rescue organizations. It supplies a grant up to \$1,000 and may be applied for every other year. For details, please refer to the Bruce Hanson Grant application.
 - b. **Emergency Funding.** As the EWAC is **not** a rescue organization, it cannot step in and directly assist unless there is **a seizure by a legal entity** (i.e. Animal Control or the local police department) or in the case where EWAC works with a rescue organization in a direct surrender. When a seizure or surrender has occurred, the organization receiving the animals, whether they are 501c(3) or not, may apply for emergency funding.

The EWAC has set a maximum funding limit that has been approved by the BOD. This funding is available on an emergency basis at the direction of the Chair, with the committee being immediately informed. Any funds over and above the maximum funding limit must be approved by EWAC and the ASHA BOD.

Emergency bills may then be applied against this balance with anything exceeding the maximum to be the responsibility of the rescuing organization. Such funds will then be paid directly to the vendor (i.e. vet, horseshoer, etc.) upon receipt of a bill by the ASHA. Funds will not be paid to the rescuing organization.

Items which qualify for emergency funding include, but are not limited to:

- i. Veterinary bills
- ii. Horseshoeing
- iii. Feed
- iv. DNA testing by the ASR to prove parentage

Should the bills not exceed the maximum set by the EWAC, all unused funds shall revert to the EWAC fund for future use.