



Annual Report 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

What can we do to make the biggest impact on horse welfare? That is the question we ask ourselves when deciding how to best use our resources. Every horse is important, but the need for help exceeds our current capacity.

For many years now, we have felt like we are able to make the biggest impact by supporting law enforcement on horse welfare cases. We are convinced that neglect is far more rampant in locations where animal welfare laws are rarely enforced. By supporting law enforcement, we not only help spread the message to people that they will be held accountable for harming horses, but we are able to reach those horses that are suffering the most.

In 2023, one of our biggest hurdles was having horses remain in protective custody for long periods of time. Some horses have been in that status now for 11 months. Horses in protective custody are at the mercy of the court system. We currently have fourteen horses that came to us from four different law enforcement seizures in 2023 whose stories we cannot yet share. Historically, there has always been a delay in telling these horses' stories, but this year

the delay has been much longer. Our court system is bursting with criminal cases, struggling to fill vital court positions and defendants facing misdemeanor charges are failing to show up to court in what feels like record numbers.

While we wait for the cases to close, we have been busy behind the scenes helping these horses physically and mentally recover. They are looking and feeling so much better! We look forward to introducing you to them in 2024 and being able to start the search to find them new loving homes.

To better help the horses that need us in 2024 and beyond, we are ramping up our planning in order to acquire a facility of our own. There is much work to be done, but we are excited at the prospect of eventually having a place to help even more horses, improve our efficiency, and host more classes and events for both the public and law enforcement.

Thank you for continuing to be part of the solution. Together we are making a huge difference in the lives of horses!

Kim Mosiman

Kim Mosiman
Executive Director
Sound Equine Options



WHO WE ARE

Sound Equine Options (SEO) is a 501(c)3 organization that dreams of a world where every horse is safe, healthy, and valued. Since our founding fifteen years ago, we have worked diligently to make our dream into an actionable mission and in turn, to make that mission into a reality for thousands of horses.

To maximize our impact and reach the greatest number of horses, we have identified three primary areas of focus...

RESCUE

We are a licensed rescue, able to take custody or ownership of horses who have experienced abandonment, neglect, or abuse. While some horses come to us as estrays or owner surrenders, the majority come to us through our connections with local law enforcement agencies during legal seizures. In our care, horses go through evaluation, rehabilitation, taming, socialization, and training before they are placed in appropriate, loving homes.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND ADVISEMENT

Law Enforcement Officers are our most direct link to the highest-risk horses, but they are rarely experts in equine health and husbandry. This is where we can help. SEO works with law enforcement agencies to provide expert evaluation of potential neglect or abuse cases and offers officer training on the common signs of equine neglect.

OWNER EDUCATION

One of the most important things we can do as a horse welfare organization is to normalize good horse ownership. We do this by promoting and educating good ownership practices, offering individualized evaluations and recommendations, and serving as a model for horse care practices.

SEO Mission

To create positive, lasting change to ensure every horse is safe, healthy and valued by caring for neglected, abused and at-risk equines, providing leadership, support and education to owners, the community and law enforcement.



THE IMPORTANCE OF FOSTER HOMES

When it comes to the success of SEO, we cannot stress the importance of good foster homes enough. On average, 70% of our horses are in foster homes at any given time.

Foster homes allow us to increase the number of horses we can help by providing a space, daily care, and advocating for the needs of each horse. They also often help us find wonderful new homes.

In addition to daily care, the horses received valuable ground work training and socialization that helps heal both their physical and mental health.



Teresa Wilson and Paul O'Neal are a wonderful example of how much foster homes do for the horses in our program. In addition to adopting two SEO horses, they have fostered 32 different horses for us over the last 10 years.

Left: Theresa with SEO horse Flash. Above: Paul with adopted SEO horse Howard.



Christine LaFord White became a wonderful first time foster in 2023! She was willing to care for a horse in protective custody, while its case works through the court system.

Left: Christine with her rescue horse Shabaz.

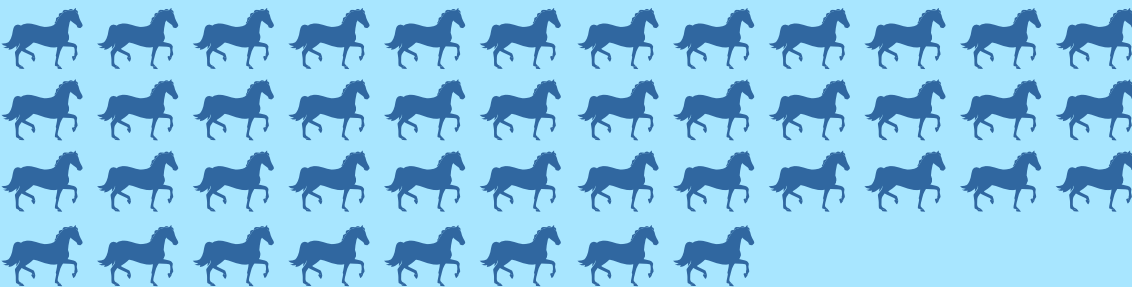
Number of Horses in Foster Homes: 76

Number of Foster Homes in 2023: 57

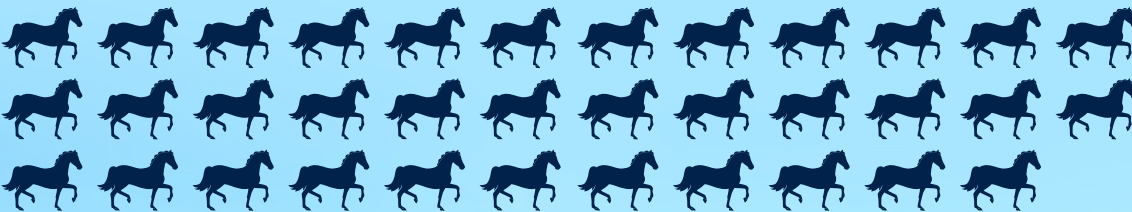
OUR IMPACT

Total Horses Under our Care in 2023: 99

Number of Horses That Left Our Care: 44



Number of Horses That Came Into Our Care: 35

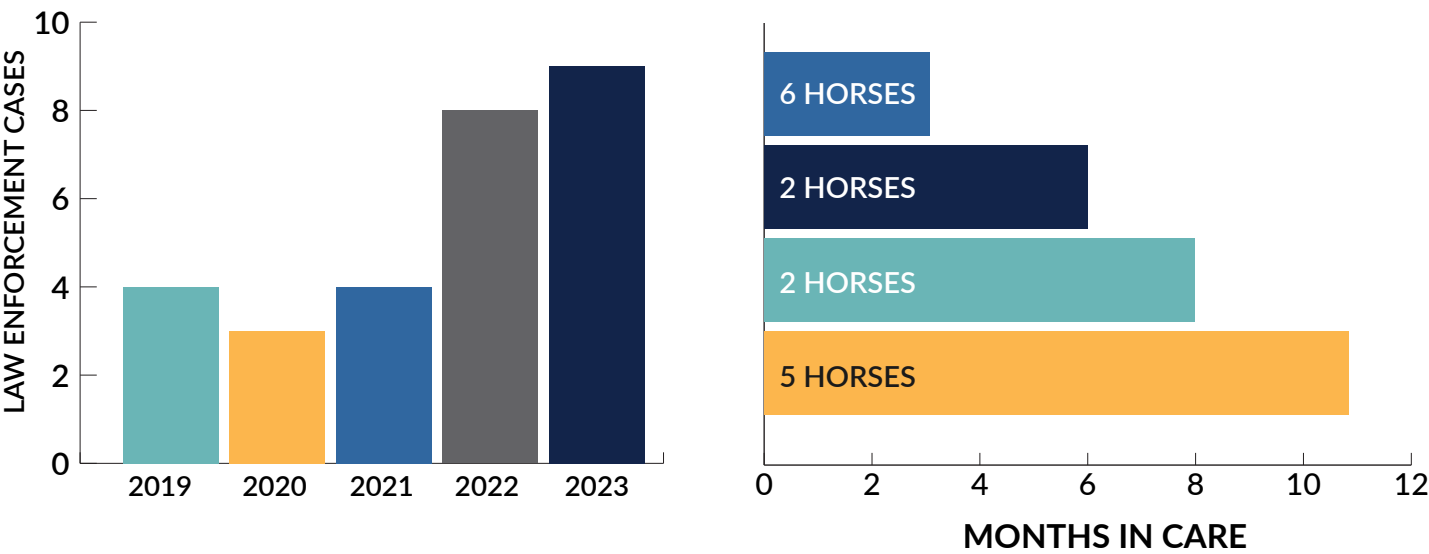


WORKING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

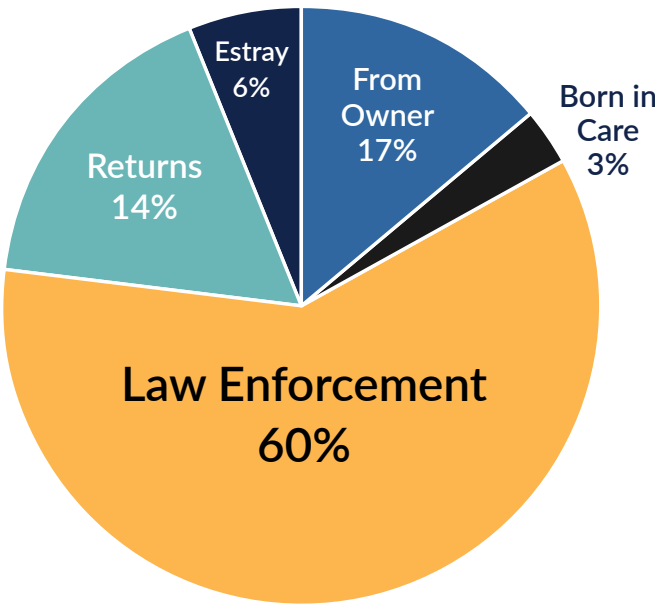
Sound Equine Options is always looking to amplify our impact. To us, that means to reach the most horses and to reach the horses who need us most. Our partnerships with law enforcement give us access to the horses in our community who need us most; those who have been abused, abandoned, neglected, or left behind. Together with our partners in law enforcement, we fight for the custody and rights of these horses, while focusing on helping them on their long road to recovery.

21 horses came from 10 different Law Enforcement Situations from 4 different counties (Clackamas, Washington, Marion and Clark).

Of the 15 horses that came into protective custody, only 1 horse was released in 2023. To date, their time in care has ranged from 3 to 11 months.



HOW HORSES COME INTO OUR CARE



VOLUNTEERS/TRAINING

Saving equine lives has always been a team effort. Our wonderful Volunteers dedicate their hearts, time, talent, abilities, and experience to SEO to make our work possible.

SEO volunteers are active in every part of our organization, from boots on the ground and hands-on horse care to event planning and fundraising. Our three defined volunteer areas are barn helpers, horse handlers, and admin and events. If you would like to help us in our mission, regardless of your previous experience to knowledge of horses, we have a place for you.



Volunteer Training Program

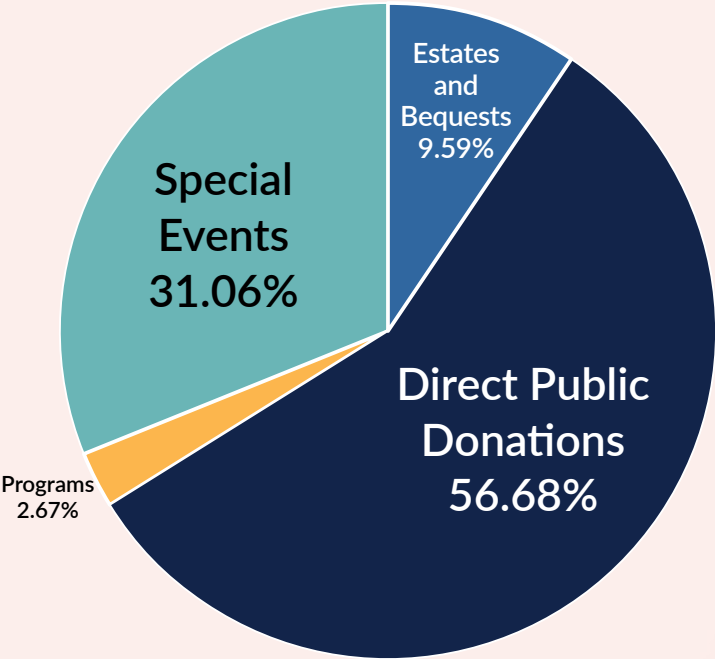
For more information about our next volunteer orientation in March, scan the QR code to the right and fill out a volunteer application.

We can't wait to meet you!



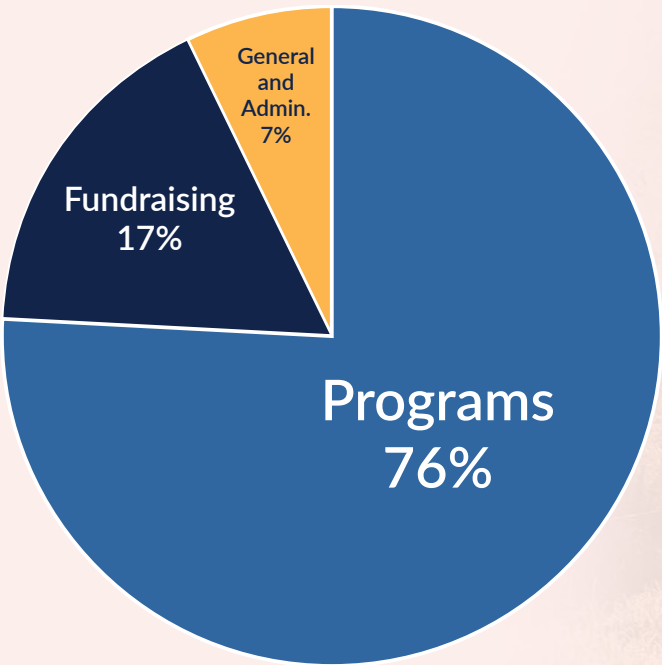
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Revenues: \$637,904



Estates and Bequests: 9.59%
Public and Direct Donations: 56.68%
Special Events: 31.06%
Programs: 2.67%

Total Expenses: \$671,886.05



Direct Horse Care Expenses:
Training: 18%
Veterinary: 20%
Farrier: 5%
Feed: 30%
Occupancy: 15%
Hauling: 3%
Bedding: 4%
Supplies & Manure Removal: 5%

SEO is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that exists solely on private donations, small grants and fundraising. The cost to save the life of one horse, including veterinary care, rehabilitation and training necessary to find it a suitable, permanent home, averages more than \$2,500.

COMPANION HORSES

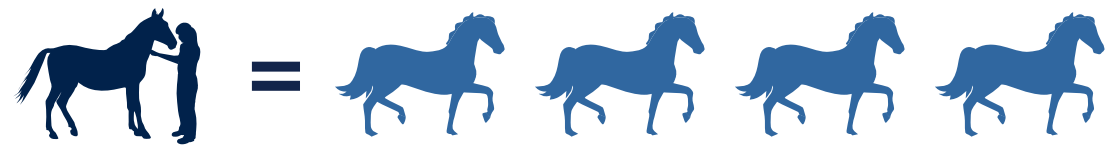
Companion horses have a special place in our hearts and in our rescue. To many in our modern, fast-paced world, non-ridable horses are deemed useless, but at Sound Equine Options, we simply and earnestly disagree.

Horses are communicative and expressive. They can read and convey emotion. They are capable of strong bonds and trusting relationships with their humans and pasture or stable mates. Horses can learn to work in hand or at liberty and some can even compete in non-riding classes. Horses add value to the lives around them in so many ways beyond riding, and each of them is worthy and deserving.

Until these horses find homes, they are safe, loved, and valued here with us. Unfortunately, our space, time, and finances are all finite. Until our companion friends find homes, they are drawing from the same resources that could otherwise be utilized to help additional suffering horses from our community.

The solution is homes. These companions need adoptive homes who will realize what treasures companions horses are.

1 COMPANION HORSE ADOPTED ALLOWS US TO TAKE ON 4 MORE HORSES



Pinot



Marion



Bess



Sinful



Sahara



Rose a Rena

SEO LEADERSHIP

Co-Founder and Executive Director: Kim Mosiman

Kim co-founded SEO with Scott W Hansen, DVM, in 2009. Kim spent 20 years in the veterinary field, and her experience includes Newberg Equine Clinic, Carlton Veterinary Hospital and Columbia Equine Hospital. While managing Columbia Equine Hospital, Kim noticed a dramatic increase in the number of horses that were not receiving adequate care due to the economy, increasing horse population, and other causes. After researching resources for clients with horses in need, she discovered there was a shortage of veterinary-focused horse rescue organizations in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington.

Since 2009, Kim has overseen the growth of SEO from a small organization offering low-cost veterinary services to one that provides a wide variety of programs and assists with law enforcement cases and seizures. Kim currently serves as SEO's Executive Director. When not working, Kim enjoys spending time with her sons Jacob and Chase.

President: Paula Savage

Paula brings to Sound Equine Options over 20 years of experience working with animal welfare non-profit organizations. She is a skilled international business executive with a lifelong passion for animals. Most recently Paula has been focused on helping non-profit organizations develop and scale strategic corporate giving initiatives alongside organizational growth. Paula was on the founding board of SEO and was delighted to rejoin the board in 2022 as SEO focuses on addressing the ever-increasing need in our equine community to find as many horses as possible safe and loving homes.

Learning to ride and compete on the hunter/jumper circuit as an adult, Paula finds great joy in spending time at the barn every day with her horses, dogs, and cats. Most weekends she can be found on the water with her family at their lake cabin in Southwest Washington.

Secretary: Carolyn Biemer

Carolyn became a foster and volunteer for Sound Equine Options in 2012 and joined the board of directors in the Spring of 2021. Since then, she has enjoyed the opportunity to engage with the SEO's extended community of horse lovers including board members, staff, volunteers, fosters, and adopters. As a lifelong horsewoman from a family of the same, Carolyn is thrilled to connect with others in pursuit of SEO's mission.

Carolyn graduated from Santa Clara University with a B.A. in English and a full set of pre-med sciences. From there, she followed her parents into medicine and found her niche in administration. She is currently a medical office manager and aspiring author. Carolyn brings experience in project planning and leadership to the board of directors as well as boldness and creativity. In her free time, she loves riding her horse Khan, dabbling in portrait painting, and gardening. You will rarely see her without her trusty orange dog Finch by her side.

Treasurer: Hallie Savage

Hallie joined the SEO board during the Summer of 2023. With 10 years of experience in finance and a deep love for animals, she brings a unique blend of financial expertise and commitment to animal welfare. Most importantly, she is thrilled to be able to contribute to SEO's wonderful mission.

Hallie graduated from the University of Washington with a B.A. in business administration and a master's in professional accounting. As a CPA, she possesses a strong background in financial management, auditing, and budgeting. Beyond professional achievements, she has a lifelong passion for animal welfare. She has actively supported various animal rescue organizations and enjoys volunteering at local shelters. In her down time, you will find her catching up on a good book, golfing with her husband, or experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen.

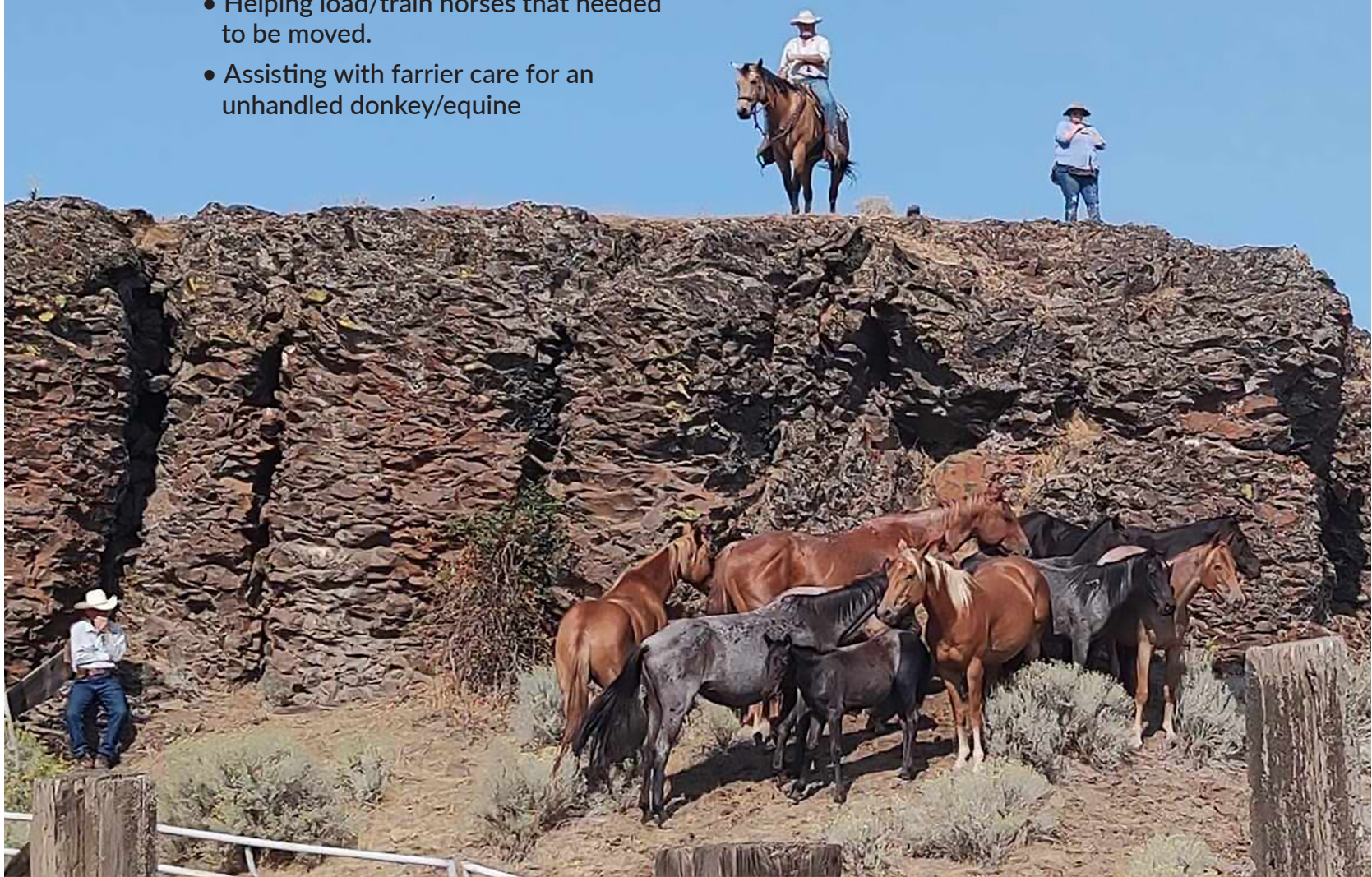
OWNER ASSISTANCE

Fifteen years ago, Sound Equine Options was founded to provide aid and temporary relief to struggling horse owners. Though we have expanded our programs dramatically to serve the needs of our community, owner outreach is still an integral part of our organizational DNA.

Each year, we receive many requests from horse owners. These requests are frequently complex and challenging. They often require the organization of multiple resources, quite a bit of time, flexibility, and creativity, but when we can help, we do. We believe that thoughtful owner assistance can be the thing that keeps horses from needing our help with more dire situations further down the road.

In 2023, some examples of the owner assistance we provided includes:

- Helping network horses into new homes.
- Temporarily housing horses while their owner found a new location.
- Assisting with the cost of emergency euthanasia.
- Providing temporary feed assistance.
- Coordinating at the roundup, sorting, and placement of a feral herd of horses.
- Evaluating individual owners' situations and helping them develop a plan.
- Helping load/train horses that needed to be moved.
- Assisting with farrier care for an unhandled donkey/equine



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

As an active member of the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organizations Animal Mac-G group, we stay informed and up to date with the latest emergency resources, planning, and training. The Animal MAC-G (Multi-Agency Coordination Group) is composed of government agencies, non-profits, and private organizations working together to build and maintain disaster preparedness for animals and their people in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Columbia and Clark Counties.

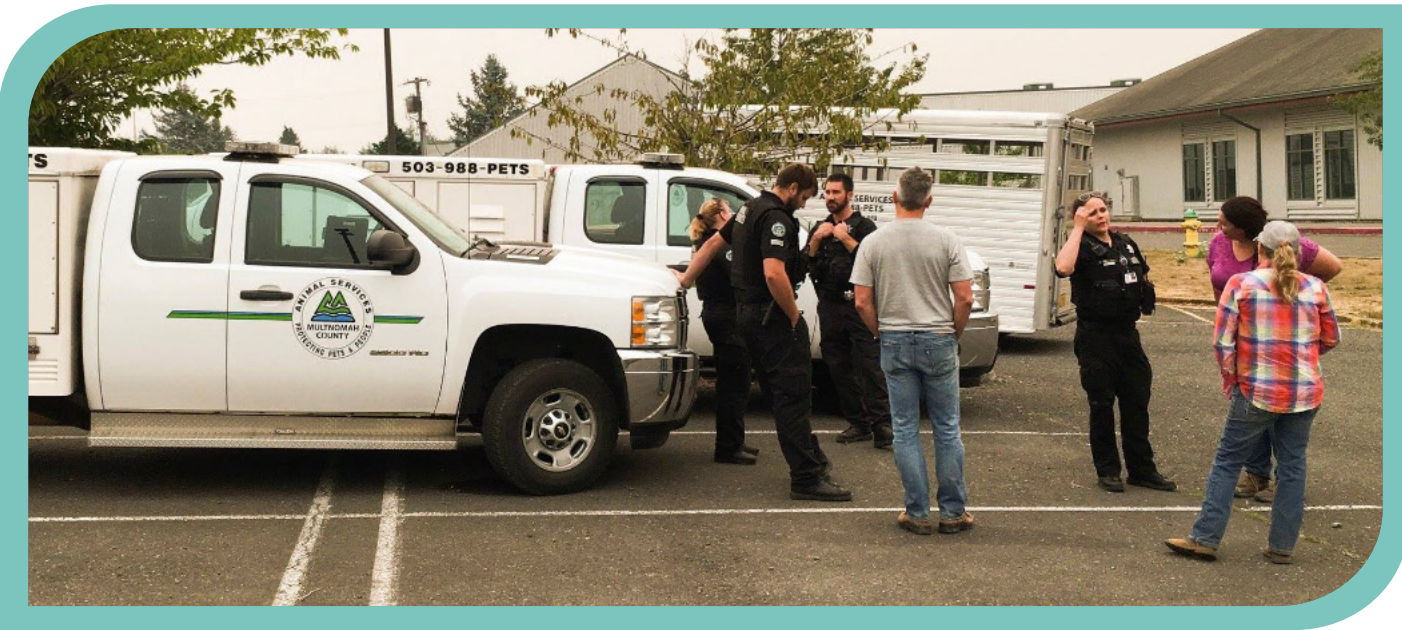


In 2023 SEO helped develop a housing and evacuation plan for livestock during the Bull Run Fire. This included advising both Multnomah and Clackamas Counties on appropriate trailer staging areas, organizing volunteer haulers on evacuation standby, helping secure a livestock housing area for the county, and attending regular briefings until the fire was no longer a threat. Thankfully, we did not have to evacuate any animals, and now have a solid plan in place for the area.

Local Coordination

The Animal MAC-G exists at the local level to prepare regional animal welfare agencies and nonprofits to coordinate their response and resources in any emergency. Our goal is to make sure there is always a way for pet and livestock owners to safely evacuate, seek shelter, and return to their homes at the conclusion of an emergency.

The Animal MAC-G can self-activate when needed, independent of emergency declarations, thanks to existing mutual aid agreements between jurisdictions and regional animal-welfare nonprofits. This functionality enables group members to serve each other and respond with necessary resources for any emergency event.



PLAN FOR THEIR FUTURE

Including Sound Equine Options (SEO) in your estate planning is a meaningful way to create a legacy and ensure a safety net for horses.

There are many ways to make your estate gift. Estate gifts, commonly called “planned or legacy gifts” include bequests, securities, charitable trusts, life insurance, retirement accounts and more. Estate gifts of every size make a life-changing impact on the lives of horses.

By leaving a gift for SEO in your will, trust, or other account, you're making your love for horses and their well-being part of your life story.

Contact us with any questions on how you can **create your legacy**.

SAVE THE DATES



SEO Tack Sales: Saturday, April 6th and Saturday, October 5th, 2024

Join us on the first Saturday of April and October for a chance to purchase some tack at some great prices! Not only will you get to shop for tack, you will also be helping provide for local rescue horses!



Ride to Provide Poker Ride: July 2024

It's back! One of our favorite events of the year. The Ride to Provide Poker Ride will be back this year at Milo McIver State Park. Bring your horses and friends for a fun ride with a chance to win some great prizes. Join us afterward for lunch, live music, and a small silent auction.



The Mane Event: October 19th, 2024

Sound Equine Options is excited to announce our annual Gala Auction – The Mane Event. This year we are once again hosting a hybrid event. We will be in person at the beautiful Abernethy Center on Saturday, October 19th from 6-9 pm. Our online auction will run from Wednesday, October 16th to Sunday, October 20th.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sound Equine Options is working towards owning our own facility where in addition to our current work, horses and classrooms can coexist. Our goal is to educate the public in the care and handling of horses so that they can become stewards of SEO in our community.



CONTACT US

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