



WorldHorseWelfare

Rehabilitation of multi horse cases at our rescue and rehoming centres.

We propose to put the funding towards the cost of ongoing multi horse case rehabilitation.

In the last decade we have seen a rise in the number of multi horse cases being admitted to our centres. These can be incidents where individuals have become overwhelmed by the number of animals they have taken on or bred. They are often a result of someone seeking out animals to 'rescue' with the best of intentions but no suitable experience or facilities. These horses are often unhandled, and the work required to rehabilitate them is complex, lasting anywhere between six months to a year.

When a herd arrives at one of our centres, they are given time to decompress, allowing them to become used to their new surroundings. This time also allows our staff to identify the more confident individuals early on and single them out to begin progressing their rehabilitation sooner, giving the others more time to adapt. This means we are always keeping horses moving through the system. It

is vital we have space ready to take on urgent welfare cases.

If a case involves a lot of native types, we can use their natural food orientation to our advantage in rehabilitation. Pony nuts help build positive associations to encourage ponies to engage with our grooms, to accept a head collar and even to prepare them for their health assessment, which is a condition of their release from isolation. As part of their education, our team will use positive reinforcement to teach the ponies about being injected. This prevents the need for restraint and force at a critical time in their learning to trust people and helps to consistently lower adrenaline, something that is important in a prey animal.

It is not uncommon to have both stallions and inevitably pregnant mares within a single large group and indiscriminate breeding is a welfare issue that affects many of the horses that arrive in our care.

Mares will need to remain with us until their foals are weaned, which makes the process of rehabilitation longer.

Stallions can be challenging as they are naturally more hyper-aware of their surroundings, which can make it difficult to keep their adrenaline levels low enough to learn. Depending on their nature, their rehabilitation may also take longer, as their handling skills need to be sufficiently advanced before they can be

castrated. Once they have recovered from their operation, they often progress faster as they find it easier to focus.

World Horse Welfare is an international charity that improves the lives of horses in the UK and worldwide through education, campaigning, and hands-on care of horses.

In the UK our network of Field Officers investigates and resolves welfare problems. We also have four Rescue and Rehoming Centres around the UK where equines in need can receive specialist care, undergo rehabilitation, and find new homes through our rehoming scheme.

Thank you for your consideration.



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