



## New Mexico Equine Rescue Alliance (NMERA)

New Mexico's licensed equine rescues have built a statewide safety net that relies overwhelmingly on private donations and volunteer labor. As the rescue population has grown from fewer than 250 horses in 2022 to 445 today - an increase of approximately 80% - that system is reaching its operational limit. A predictable state investment in the Equine Shelter Rescue Fund would protect New Mexico's response capacity while leveraging millions of dollars already contributed by the nonprofit sector.

## Equine rescues are also local economic engines

A relatively modest state investment in the Equine Shelter Rescue Fund leverages millions of dollars in private donations, volunteer labor, and local economic activity. Licensed rescues support veterinarians, farriers, feed suppliers, trainers, contractors, and other New Mexico businesses while preserving the statewide equine safety net the state already relies upon.

NMERA members work hand in hand with their government partners - the New Mexico Livestock Board, local animal services agencies, and Tribal law enforcement, providing the vital rehabilitation services that allows these agencies to act and place the equine in rescue for rehabilitation. NMERA also serves as a critical safety net for New Mexico residents who must re-home their horses because of financial hardship, illness, or other difficult circumstances, helping prevent neglect, abandonment, and future state intervention.

The rescues have also become centers of active learning - providing New Mexicans from all walks of life direct connectivity to equines. Education programs range from horse-handling 101 for first-time volunteers to advanced training. From health of herd with local veterinarians, to student internships, and farrier clinics – the rescues are supplying employment pipelines across business sectors for the state's young adults.





# Equine rescues are local economic engines

13 State-Licensed Rescues - operational expenses in 2025

- Feed/Pasture: \$983,000
- Veterinary Services: \$239,000
- Farrier: \$107,000
- Trainers/Instructors/Ranch Hands: \$932,000
- Support Personnel and Contractor cost: \$469,423

**Licensed New Mexico Rescues directly contribute more than \$3.7M annually to the state's bottom line.**

Equine rescues also support New Mexico builders, contractors, drillers, suppliers, and other professional services through capital investments.

Although equine rescues can create jobs and strengthen New Mexico's workforce, chronic underfunding leaves many operating with little or no paid staff - a model sustained by grit, faith, and volunteer labor. Daily demands often leave little time for collaboration, professional development, or capacity building.

**The New Mexico Legislature established the Equine Shelter Rescue Fund in 2013 to support the work that licensed rescues provide on behalf of the state – serving as the critical safety net for its most threatened equines.**

The Legislature has appropriated funding only four out of fourteen sessions.

## Rescues Have Met Rapidly Growing Demand

In 2022, fewer than 250 equines were housed in licensed rescues. Today, that number has grown to 433 - demonstrating how NMERA's member rescues have expanded to meet New Mexico's increasing needs.

**In 2025, NMERA rescues accepted 98% of all horses referred by the New Mexico Livestock Board that needed rescue and rehabilitation. Through the end of August 2026, NMERA members accepted 100% - demonstrating the rescue's network unwavering readiness to meet the needs of the State.**

In addition, these rescues take in owner-surrendered horses that might otherwise become neglect, abandonment, or seizure cases requiring state intervention - demonstrating the state's reliance on this privately supported network.

**Solution: 1M annual appropriation to the Equine Shelter Rescue fund, to increase rescue and service capacity for New Mexico.**

## It's time for New Mexico to lead by example

Establish predictable base funding for the Equine Shelter Rescue Fund, and support the equine welfare programs and rescue & adoption services New Mexico communities rely on. This baseline support will be leveraged exponentially.

## New Mexico's Licensed Rescues

Dharmahorse Equine Sanctuary — Las Cruces, Doña Ana County

End of the Road Ranch — Silver City, Grant County

Equine Spirit Sanctuary — Ranchos de Taos, Taos County

Four Corners Equine Rescue — Aztec, San Juan County

Horseshoe Canyon Rescue Ranch — Youngsville, Rio Arriba County

Lotta Love Farm — Capitan, Lincoln County

Masleña Rescue Foundation — Tijeras, Bernalillo County

Mustang Camp — Lyebrook, Rio Arriba County

Perfect Harmony Animal Rescue and Sanctuary — Chaparral, Doña Ana County

Sky Mountain Wild Horse Sanctuary — San Miguel County

Tamaya Horse Rescue — San Ysidro, Sandoval County

The Horse Shelter — Cerrillos, Santa Fe County

New Mexico Horse Rescue at Walkin N Circles Ranch — Stanley, Santa Fe County