

MĀLAMA LIO

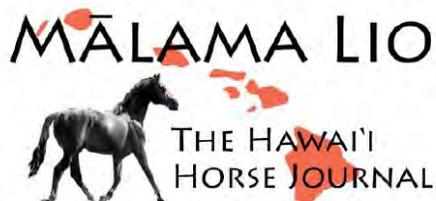


THE HAWAII
HORSE JOURNAL



**Is It Time We Re-Define the Goals and Purposes Of
Traditional Horse Rescues on The Islands....And Abroad?**

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Current Registration No. (If any)

Eye Color:

Coat Color:

Birth Date:

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List all identifying markings, scars, or brands:

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(Signature)

(Date)

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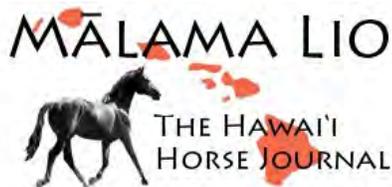
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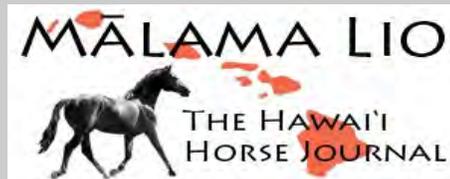
Email: editor@malama-lio.com

Mālama Lio: The Hawaii Horse Journal

P.O. Box 91984, Pasadena, CA 91109

Phone: 626.319.2443

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PUBLISHER'S DESK

I

Dear Readers:

The Summer issue of Malama Lio is simple, but discusses a big problem in the Horse Industry. We all know of the cancer, if you will, that plagues our industry, but for some strange reason(s), we don't truly know the number of horses that are abused, neglected, unwanted, surrendered, etc., in the U.S. - the islands in particular. Maybe the numbers aren't nearly as important as our actions?

With an industry that injects 39 billion dollar into the U.S. economy, it may be time we re-define the purpose and goals of horse rescues and the like.

This is not an attack on the horse industry or the current effort(s) to save and care for equines across the globe, but rather a reflection of one's role in the unnecessary, inhumane treatment of them.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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**Malama Lio, The Hawaii Horse Journal is
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Is it Time We Re-Define the Goals and Purposes Of Traditional Horse Rescues on The Islands....and Abroad?

The equine industry is flourishing; robust even. A recent review of the American Horse Council's industry report indicates, in part, the following:

1. There are 9.2 million horses in the U.S. This includes horses used for racing, showing, competition, sport, breeding, recreation and work - and horses used both commercially and for pleasure.
2. 4.6 million Americans are involved in the industry as horse owners, service providers, employees and volunteers. Tens of millions more participate as spectators.
3. 2 million people own horses.
4. The industry has a 39 billion impact on the U.S. economy when the multiplier effect of spending by industry suppliers and employees is taken into account. Including off-site spending of spectators would result in an even higher figure.
5. The industry directly provides 460,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs.
6. Spending by suppliers and employees generates additional jobs for a total employment impact of 1.4 million (FTE) jobs.
7. The horse industry pays 1.9 billion in taxes to all levels of government.
8. There are horses in every state. Forty five states have at least 20,000 horses each.

Despite the above, there is an element of the entire horse community that is rarely mentioned or somehow excluded from reports such as

the above - **The number of horses that are neglected, abused or end up in horse rescues or other similar organization.** Why is that?

And let's be clear, I'm not suggesting that merely the number of neglected or abused or "sheltered" horses be published for fyi sake. Or that we collectively recount that one horrific story we all have read or heard about some poorly treated horse(s). Specifically, I want to know how many horses are neglected and how that number has influenced the horse community, domestically and abroad, to address the issue. Influence how? Read on.

Shouldn't the horse industry be shaped and influenced by acts of neglect? Think about your answer.

The truth of the matter is that no one, especially those whose business it is to help neglected horses, knows. Take the Unwanted Horse Coalition, for example. When we reported on this organization in 2008, their mission was "to reduce the number of unwanted horses and to improve their welfare through education and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety, and responsible care and disposition of these horses." They had no exact number of "unwanted horses" or neglected horses then, and certainly don't today - 5 years later - as confirmed by this current statement on their website: "No accurate figures document how many unwanted horses actually exist, their age and sex, the breeds represented, how many are purebred versus grade, their most recent use, their value or what happens to them in the long run. Tens of thousands of horses that could be classified as unwanted are being sent to processing facilities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico each year." Further, they state, **"Unfortunately, the number of unwanted horses exceeds the resources currently available to accommodate them."**

Jay Hickney, then president of the American Horse Council comments from 2008 - ring true today - unfortunately - "Although there are numerous media reports and much anecdotal evidence of a growing evidence of a growing problem with unwanted horses, there have been no studies or surveys done to attempt to document it." Remember, the AHC is the national association that represents all segments of the horse industry. The UHC operates with the AHC.

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(Is It Time cont.)

One would think that as robust as the horse industry is that the industry as a whole would do more than sell you equine related products, events and services, but establish a protocol and procedure to abolish traditional services offered by horse rescues and the like. Yes, abolish.

The industry has 4.6 million players....how hard could it possibly be? Why do we know that there are 45 states with 20k horses, and have anecdotal evidence of an existing problem - a disease plaguing the industry, but not know the actual number of abused, neglected, unwanted, etc. horses? Is it safe to assume that 5%-10% of that 20k from each state, etc. would be categorized on a yearly basis as unwanted? Is it more...less? Regardless of the number picked, determining the numbers is not at all difficult - unfortunately, we have great indicators. We know how many horse rescues and other similar organizations exist. We know how many horses are slaughtered each year. We know the number of horses euthanized and disposed of each year. We know the number of horses adopted or fostered. We know the number of horses abandoned at stables. We know the number of permits issued to homeowners who homes were sold or foreclosed on. We know the number of police reports and convictions relating to animal cruelty. We know of the media reports of animal cruelty. We know how many horses are provided free treatment and care from vets and farriers. We know the number of rescues and the like that exist in the U.S. I think you get my point.

But don't forget, those are just calculations. What's the point of calculating the number of unwanted, neglected and/or abused horses if we have no real desire to end the abuse? Is it because "We" all the members of the horse industry don't care enough to find a cure for this problem? The evidence would concur. There is enough blame to go around for all of us in the entire equine industry. None of us have been influenced to end this ugly, inhumane segment of the horse industry. Let's not forget the industry numbers - the horse industry injects 39 billion dollars into the U.S. economy. Taking care of all of our horses should be an easy task.

I'm embarrassed to be a part of an industry that would allow its most valued resource to suffer. I'm ashamed that I, and this publication, haven't participated more to end the abuse and neglect of horses. Over the last 5 years we have featured articles and stories on Hawaii's horse community. Whether it be the results of a local riding club, or articles regarding equine care authored by the islands veterinarians and farriers, clinics conducted on the island, or outbreaks of various diseases, stud services, horse for sale, or the new rodeo queen, or "The Ten Secrets to Success with Horses," or product reviews and recommendations, etc., we did less than a handful of stories on horse rescues or abused and neglected horses. One such story was about Betina Parker and Equine 808 in the March 2009 issue entitled **"Saving our Equine Friends, One Horse at a Time."** We'll talk more about her later, but the point is simple, no matter what we have done in the past or believed we have done, or how much we care today vs. the past, it is enough if we still have horses being abused and neglected and needing the services of Betina and other horse rescues on the island. Hence my question, **"How many horses are neglected and how that number has influenced the horse**

community, domestic and abroad, to address the issue?"

Are you embarrassed? Is the industry embarrassed? So what that you or your organization take care of your horses - great. So what that you attended horse clinics and purchased books or videos regarding proper horse care. So what you've won or placed in an equine event that you worked hard for. So what that you subscribe to equine publications and think you're an informed horse owner. So what that you voiced your opposition to the return of horse racing. So what - to all of that and more! None of it means anything because horses are still being neglected. Am I being too harsh? Think of it like this - when you buy a horse, the first thing you want to know is its lineage. Where it came from, right? In fact, when buying a horse, the AHC, UHC and other organizations provide a litany of what to do and what not to do - all centered around responsible horse ownership. But the truth of the matter is that when you buy a horse you are, in fact, that horse's parent. You also become a steward - a soldier even, to protect not just your horse but all horses. Remember what I said about lineage.

Don't get me wrong. This commentary is not an attack on the horse industry - it's one's self reflection of his role and others in the industry... and that little segment of it known as Hawaii's horse industry. Take Betina Parker for example. One of Hawaii's finest soldiers in the war against horse neglect. Okay, we'll call her a horse parent. When we interviewed Mrs. Parker in 2009, Equine 808 had been in operation for about a year. Five years later she and her organization are still providing shelter, rehabilitation, care and adoption services for surrendered horses. They continue to provide community resources via equine education and referral services. Just recently, she and her organization announced the opening of a 123 acres shelter in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The lives saved and cared for by Mrs. Parker and her staff at Equine 808 puts all of us who are not in the business to literally care for abused, neglected or unwanted horses, to shame. The same could be true for the other rescue organizations on the islands such as CB Horse Rescue. Unfortunately, despite their best efforts, Hawaii, as of 2010, is still considered to be one of five worst places in the world to be an animal. Since our story, Malama Lio has published its own recommended Minimum Standards of Equine Care, the UHC has published the results of its 2009 Unwanted Horse Survey (available on its website), and Hawaii's State Legislature has passed animal cruelty laws. None of this compares, really, to the actual work that Mrs. Parker and other organizations like hers continue to perform.

I don't own enough land to start a shelter or sanctuary. Nor do I have the physical time to volunteer at the same. Nor do I have the time or resources to publish and republish texts, manuals and the like regarding responsible horse ownership, etc., that will inspire you and others to help eradicate the traditional definition of horse shelters and that ugly sector our industry that we know exists. We all share in the excuses. But let's be clear, we are neglecting our horses. Is there hope?

(Cont. on Page 3)

(Is It Time cont.)

I, like you, do have resources i.e. at least one dollar. And if I search hard enough, I'm sure I can find more. I'm sure you could also. For example, during the research for this article, one staffer suggested that we forego our weekly cigar night, and send those dollars to Equine 808. He discovered their Facebook page when Malama Lio launched its own page. Interesting. Our first Check totaled \$75.00. When we decided to give up the entire month of our ugly habit, we discovered that we would have donated \$300.00 to the organization without much time and effort. No research to conduct, any planning and plotting with various boards, etc. We simply redirected our funds. Maybe you don't share the same disgusting habit, but you can do something. What can you or your friends, group(s) and other organizations forego to help the neglected horses on the islands? Maybe the next time you go out you'll order one dessert and send a check for the second one you wanted to order to a rescue? Maybe you'll give or donate the proceeds from your recycled bottles, cans and newspapers to a rescue. Maybe you'll take all the loose change you accumulate from monthly purchases and forwarded it to a rescue? Maybe, you'll put one gallon less of gas in your car a week and send that extra gallon's worth of funds to the rescue? Maybe, you'll buy cheaper store brand items and send your savings to a rescue? The point is, you can do something in your everyday life, without much effort, to help the industry cure this disease and give horse rescues a new definition and purpose. With your continued, committed help, horse rescues become advocates of responsible horse care - not shelters for abused, neglected, abandoned, surrendered, etc. Horses; and their facilities become welcoming centers - new homes for horses that simply don't have homes - for however long is needed.

Malama Lio has a new purpose - To eradicate the traditional services of horse rescues on the islands and to get Hawaii a minimum standard of care for equines. It won't affect the current operations, but know that everything else...all that "So, what!" stuff, will come second to these two important issues.

We begin our new endeavor by donating an additional \$500.00 to Equine 808 - the staff decided that no matter how much we enjoy a good Malbec, it's never as good as a trail ride on horseback. Join us. Gather as much money as you can, today, and send it to Equine 808 or one of the other horse rescue organizations on the island...and do it again as often, without planning, and as much as you can.

We can do this, Hawaii. I know we can. Let's set the example for the rest of the industry.

Hopefully, I will meet many of you at the Hawaii Horse Expo 2013; ML is a Diamond Sponsor. There, I and other staffers at Malama Lio, will encourage all attendees, without fanfare - during simple conversation, to donate to Hawaii's horse rescue organizations. It seems the perfect place when you consider why the Horse Expo, and the later installed, Mana Award, was created. Many of you may have forgotten or are unaware of "Mana's Story."

As reported in ML in its February 2010 issue, her story was told as follows:

"On a bright and sunny day early in November, a woman arrived at the Kona Human Society Shelter trailing a small, emancipated, female horse named Mana. The owner, realizing that she could no longer adequately care for Mana, had decided to surrender her to HIHS.

Mana was very underweight, her ribs were showing, her coat unkempt, and her personality unpleasant. Dr. Brady Bergin was called to examine her. Dr. Bergin determined that Mana was approximately 35 years old, and although badly malnourished still had life left in her.

The decision was made not to put Mana down. Dr. Bergin de-wormed Mana, floated her teeth, and recommended a good feeding protocol. With good food Mana grew stronger and nicer each day.

In December, Mana was moved to the Waimea Shelter where there is greater pasture space. Mana continued to gain weight, her personality has improved, and she is more relaxed and trusting of her caregivers. Dr. Bergin continued to monitor her health.

Mana is now ready for adoption. As part of the adoption process the HIHS determines what type of environment would be best for the horse, consulting with both the primary veterinarian and when necessary a professional horse trainer.

Mana is a special needs horse. She can't be ridden or worked. Mana needs a supportive loving environment where she knows she is safe and will always get enough to eat. Mana deserves to live out the rest of her life in dignity.

Prior to approving Mana's adoption HIHS will interview prospective candidates and visit the location of Mana's prospective candidates and visit the location of Mana's new home to ensure that Mana's transition to a new life is successful.

At the time of writing this article, Mana is still waiting to find a new home, and can be visited at the Hawaii Island Human Society's Kona Shelter."

Plato, the great Greek philosopher once stated, "**A good decision is based on knowledge and not on numbers.**" We know what's happening, so let's stop it. Otherwise, the story of Mana's and others like her, will never end.

Laurence Todd

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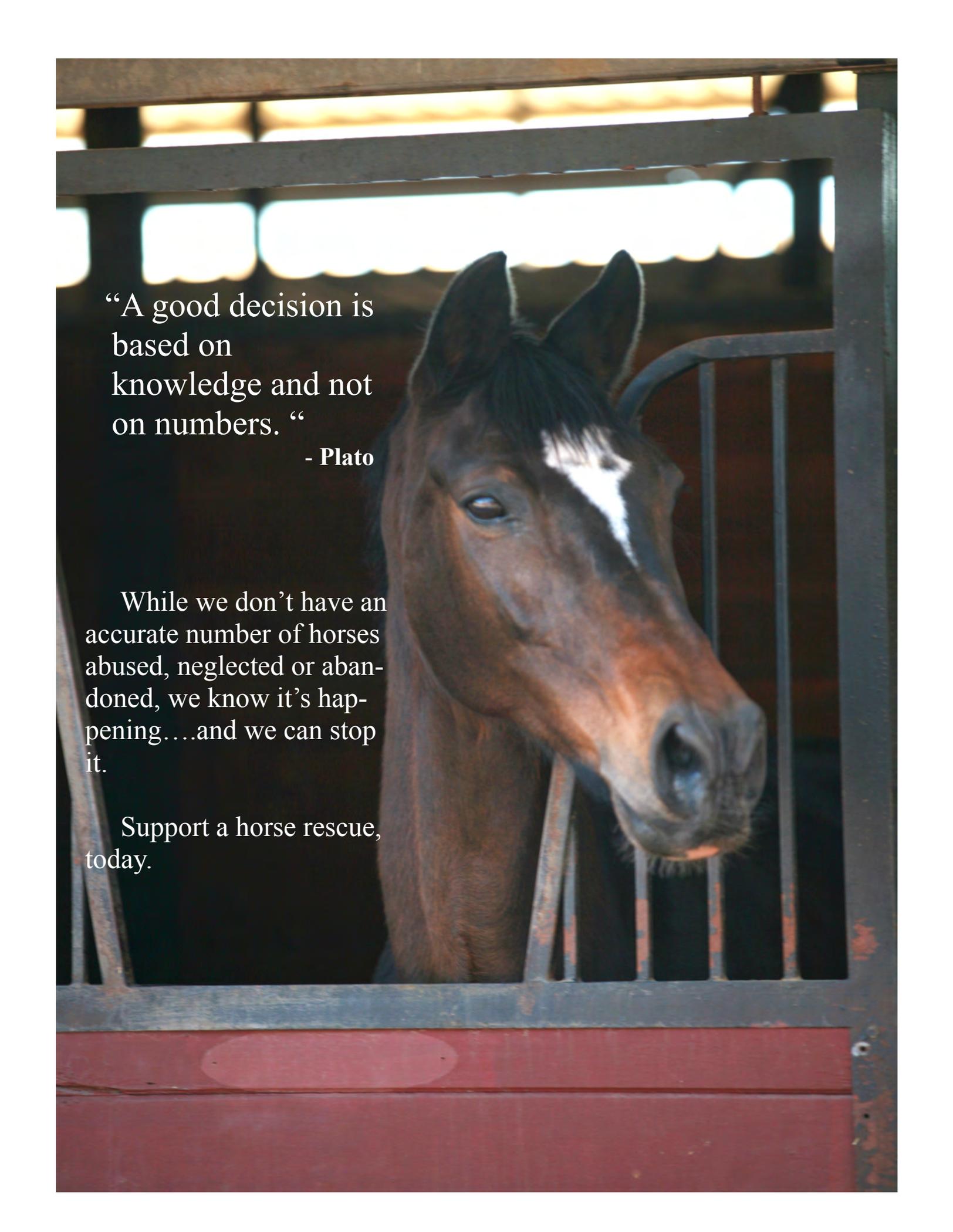
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Kauai

Del's Farm Supply, Puhi;

A brown horse with a white blaze on its face is looking out from a stable stall. The stall has a metal railing and a red-painted lower section. The background is dark with some light coming through the top of the stall.

“A good decision is based on knowledge and not on numbers. “

- Plato

While we don't have an accurate number of horses abused, neglected or abandoned, we know it's happening....and we can stop it.

Support a horse rescue, today.