



Organisational Overview

The **Highveld Horse Care Unit** is the largest equine welfare organisation in South Africa. The organisation was established in 1991 and has grown from strength to strength since then.

We get involved in any matters relating to equine welfare.

- Re-homing horses and donkeys to suitable homes on a special adoption policy
- Owner education and equine medical clinics in underprivileged areas
- Investigating and resolving cruelty/neglect complaints
- Hospitalizing and treating horses and donkeys where owners cannot afford treatment

Average statistics over a year:

- We assist about 6000 horses and donkeys.
- Stable on average 600 needy animals throughout the year.
- Carry out outreach clinics in 6 provinces.
- We educate the owner of every horse or donkey we assist.
- We teach horse owners how to shoe their horses correctly and assist with harness repair and cart manufacturing.
- We hold workshops for hundreds of owners, teaching them how to better care for their working animals.
- Deworm over 3000 rural equines per year.
- We hold gelding, dental and farrier clinics in underprivileged areas.
- On average we care for 45 horses at our base on any given day.
- We travel over 200,000 kilometres to help horses and donkeys in need per year.

Our Outreach Programme

A major focus of our activities is the concern for working horses and donkeys from the township and rural life throughout South Africa. Animals are often poorly treated as a result of lack of education and poverty rather than deliberate neglect or abuse. The Unit sends trained inspectors into the townships and rural areas to educate owners and to provide them with support in the care of their animals, including help with harnessing, feeding, vaccinations, farrier, basic wound management and de-worming. The Unit also collects old and unwanted tack from the horse community and give this to under privileged owners to ensure humane use of riding and harnessing equipment on their animals.

In cases of blatant abuse, the inspectors will confiscate the horse and take legal action against the owner. Unfortunately, the legal process is very slow, and the Unit does not have the resources for extended legal action and does not have the facilities to house animals subject to legal action over extended periods of months and often years.

South Africa has a large population of donkeys, some of which are used for work purposes and others are effectively feral and forced to forage in urban areas for any food they can find. The Unit has special programmes to care for these animals relying on the goodwill of the horse community and specific overseas charity organisations for funding in these cases.

Education:

The education of owners, drivers and children in townships and rural areas where we work is a vital part of our organisation's operations. We regularly hold training workshops in all the provinces in which we work and teach skills that not only benefit the working horse and donkey, but also empower the owner.

We also give talks at schools to make our children aware of the welfare and basic care of the working animal. We assist Government Agricultural Departments with the training of their staff by giving lectures on equine welfare, teaching handling skills, and encourage trainee vets and Animal Health Technicians to become involved in our Outreach Clinics in their Provinces

Inspectorate division

We also conduct regular inspections of facilities where horses are housed for sporting, recreational purposes and in security and Government facilities. We rely on the general public to report cases of alleged abuse for investigation. Confiscation and prosecution are employed against owners demonstrating a gross lack of care in the treatment of their horses.

Re-homing

We provide a re-homing service for equines whose owners no longer can afford or want. We locate and investigate suitable homes for these horses and place them where they are best suited. Where horses are not suitable for re-homing, we attempt to place them with foster homes. All re-homed horses are monitored on a regular basis and they will be re-possessed if the home is deemed unsuitable.

Silver Lining Initiative

The aim of the Silver Lining Initiative is to follow the careers of elite ex-racehorses as they embark on their second careers. These horses are placed with talented riders and trainers and they showcase the Thoroughbred as a sport horse. We hope to encourage people to use thoroughbreds again, as they had gone out of favour when the European sports horses were brought into South Africa.

Tack Collection

We have numerous shops that have collection bins for used tack, which we then either sell in our tack shop or use to make better harnessing and bridles for the working horses and donkeys. To help collect tack for our Outreach Programmes shops are able to buy a donation bin for their clients to donate into, to help assist us. Presently Midfeeds, Western Shoppe, Equestrian Affair and Riders have donations bins.

Fundraising Activities

The organisation is a charity which is privately funded. It is a registered Public Benefit Organisation and is registered as a not-for-profit organisation in terms of the Companies Act, 2008. It is exempt from the payment of income tax and has a Section 18A exemption which provides a tax deduction opportunity to donors.

Due to the high number of equines in need and passing thru our stables we urgently need additional funding to continue being committed to the well being and dignity of our equine friends.

Current running projects:

- Upgrade of our Equine Clinic
- Medical Equipment for the Equine Clinic: X-ray Machine and other specialized medical equipment
- Stable yard and used tack shop upgrade and renovations
- Building a hay store room
- A new tractor to work on the farm
- Upgrading our exercise arenas
- Expansion of our Outreach areas

More information on the Highveld Horse Care Unit can be found on our website www.horsecare.org.za
Facebook - <https://web.facebook.com/highveldhorsecare/>, Email – info@horsecare.org.za

Bank Account
First National Bank - Meyerton
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