



The Dorset Equine Rescue

THE FOREVER FARM CAMPAIGN



**Our mission is to rescue,
rehabilitate, and re-home
abused, neglected,
and at risk horses.**





At The Dorset Equine Rescue, we are deeply committed to rescuing vulnerable and at-risk horses and restoring their health – but our commitment does not stop there.

Every horse in our care receives the medical attention and rehabilitation they need to heal. Once they are ready, each horse undergoes an individualized evaluation and structured training program, ensuring they are not simply rescued, but truly whole and prepared for a safe and successful future – whether through adoption or lifelong sanctuary.

Horses come to us from a wide range of heart-breaking circumstances, many arriving malnourished, frightened, and in urgent need of care – often with nowhere else to go. Each has their own story and deserves the chance for a better future.

Since our founding in 2012, we have opened our doors to over 600 horses – and given every single one of them the care, compassion, and dignity they deserve. Our role remains the same: to meet each one where they are—to help them recover, regain their strength, and move forward into a better future.

For years, we have been working to create a permanent home that would allow us to dramatically expand our capacity and meet the growing demand for our services.

Two years ago, we took an important step toward that dream by purchasing 178 acres in Rupert, Vermont to serve as the foundation of our Forever Farm. With expansive pastures capable of supporting on-site hay production, it provides the foundation for a more sustainable future.

It was a deliberate investment in securing the long-term future of this organization. But without barns,

arenas, staff housing, and other essential infrastructure, fully realizing that vision would have required years of construction and significant additional investment.

Then, an extraordinary opportunity presented itself. The neighboring 30-acre horse farm – fully developed, rich in infrastructure, and perfectly positioned alongside our Forever Farm – was offered to us privately before ever reaching the market.

Together, these two properties create a unified campus that will allow us to rescue more horses, expand our rehabilitation and training programs, improve operational efficiency, enhance our long-term sustainability, and secure a permanent home for The Dorset Equine Rescue for generations to come.

What we once expected would take many years – and several million dollars more to build – is now within reach, if we act now.

We invite you to read the full story behind this once-in-a-generation opportunity. We believe that when you understand what is at stake – and what this opportunity means for vulnerable horses for generations to come – you will see why this moment matters so deeply.

Today, we are at a defining moment – one that will determine how many horses we can save, not just this year, but for decades to come.

With your help, we can give these deserving horses the chance not just to survive, but to truly heal and thrive.

With profound gratitude,

JEN STRAUB, Founder and Executive Director

THE CAMPAIGN

The Forever Farm



OUR IMPACT

Filling a Critical Need



The Dorset Equine Rescue was founded in 2012 in response to a growing and urgent need for a dedicated equine rescue organization in Vermont and the surrounding region. Today, we are a trusted resource across the Northeast for rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming horses who have nowhere else to turn.

We are proud to be accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) – one of the most rigorous and respected accreditations in the animal welfare field, and a distinction that reflects our unwavering commitment to the highest standards of care and organizational accountability.

The need for equine rescue across our region is real, widespread, and growing — and the gap between that need and the care we can provide continues to widen.

Across Vermont and neighboring states, horses face a wide range of devastating challenges: neglect, abuse, abandonment, owner hardship, and the very real risk of entering the slaughter pipeline. They range from young horses in acute crisis to elderly horses requiring lifelong care. Many arrive deeply compromised — malnourished, frightened, and in urgent need of medical intervention and intensive rehabilitation.

For many, the alternatives are unthinkable.

The circumstances that bring horses to us are as varied as the horses themselves — owner surrenders due to financial hardship, illness, or life transitions;

well-intentioned owners overwhelmed by the demands of proper care; and, in the most severe cases, victims of neglect, abuse, and large-scale seizures involving multiple animals without adequate food, shelter, or medical attention.

Horses can live 30 to 35 years or more — a reality that drives much of the crisis we respond to. Owners often outlive their ability to provide care, creating an ongoing and compounding need for responsible placement and long-term solutions. This need does not diminish over time. It grows.

DER works in close partnership with law enforcement, veterinarians, shelters, and community organizations to provide critical intervention, education, and resources. We are regularly called upon to assist in formal animal welfare investigations — a reflection of the trust placed in us by authorities and communities across the region.

And yet, despite our best efforts and deepest commitment, every week we are forced to make an impossible decision: which horses we can help — and which we cannot.

Not for lack of will. Not for lack of expertise. But for lack of space, infrastructure, and capacity.

Every horse we cannot take is a horse whose outcome is uncertain.

This gap — between the need that exists and the care we are able to provide — is the gap this campaign exists to close. Permanently.



"It's been our privilege at Arlington Equine to have worked closely with The Dorset Equine Rescue for over a decade. We have witnessed an amazing dedication and commitment by Jen, Tiffany, and the staff and volunteers to rehabilitate countless horses. Their compassionate commitment to advocate for neglected and abused horses has never been more important, and it's been so impressive to watch the crew work tirelessly to expand the outreach of The Dorset Equine Rescue. **The future is hopeful for horses in need.**"

DR. GREG DOWD
Veterinarian

WHY NOW?

A Need That Cannot Wait

CURRENT CHALLENGES & LIMITATIONS:

Inadequate paddock space

Critically insufficient stalling capacity

No centralized hay, feed, or equipment storage

Severely limited quarantine capacity

No on-site overnight accommodation

No functional indoor workspace for staff, veterinarians, farriers, and volunteers

No indoor arena

Critically inadequate office and intake space



The demand for equine rescue across our region has reached a critical inflection point. Economic instability, rising costs of feed and veterinary care, and the mounting pressures of modern life have made it increasingly difficult for horse owners to sustain proper care – driving a significant rise in neglect, emergency surrenders, and urgent intervention cases.

We are receiving more calls than ever before. The trajectory is clear, and it is not slowing down. Without the infrastructure needed to grow, we are forced to turn away horses in critical need. For many of those horses, there is no safety net. There is no second call to make.

The cost of our limitations is measured in horses' lives.

A Transformative Opportunity: The Forever Farm Campaign

For years, we have worked toward a single defining goal: a centralized, permanent home for DER – purpose-built to serve horses at every stage of need and designed to sustain our mission for decades to come.

Two years ago, we took a defining step toward that vision by purchasing 178 acres in Rupert, Vermont. This land – with its sweeping pastures and capacity for future hay production – will form the agricultural backbone of our Forever Farm. It was a bold and deliberate investment in the future of this organization.

But the land alone is not enough. The 178-acre property currently has no usable buildings or infrastructure. Realizing its full potential would require years of construction and a level of investment that has, until now, placed our complete vision well beyond the near-term horizon. That has changed.

The horse farm located directly adjacent to our 178-acre property in Rupert was just offered to us privately – before it goes to market – by an owner whose trust in our mission made this possible.

Alone, neither property is sufficient. Together, they are everything we need.

Our 178 acres provides the pastureland and hayfields and the neighboring farm provides the infrastructure. United, they create the complete, sustainable, and fully operational Forever Farm we have spent years working toward – available now, at a fraction of the cost and time it would require to build.

By securing this farm, we would immediately and dramatically expand our capacity – enabling us to respond to more urgent cases, house more horses simultaneously, provide proper quarantine and rehabilitation spaces, and operate with the efficiency and professionalism that this work demands.

This expansion would allow us to care for substantially more horses each year – and ensure that far more of the calls we receive can become a yes.



"As a law enforcement officer, the current animal welfare laws in Vermont often limit my ability to help animals in crisis. Horses present unique challenges, making their removal complicated. The Dorset Equine Rescue provides transportation, medical, and boarding care to create a soft landing for the abused and neglected horses that are seized in law enforcement actions. **They provide unparalleled resources and support during the investigative process.** Law enforcement's efforts on behalf of horses would be severely compromised without the assistance of The Dorset Equine Rescue."

STACIA GENO
Vermont State Trooper

TIME IS LIMITED

A Unique Opportunity

This property is not a blank slate. It is a fully developed, operational horse farm – equipped with barns, an indoor riding arena, staff housing, office space, fencing, and the core infrastructure that would take years and millions of dollars to build from the ground up. This extraordinary gesture gives us a unique and time-limited window to act before the property is made available to the broader market.

The indoor arena alone transforms our rehabilitation capability, allowing consistent year-round training and recovery regardless of Vermont's demanding winters.

Beyond rescue and rehabilitation, this expansion positions DER to become a true regional center for equine welfare – offering expanded education, owner support, and outreach programs that address the root causes of neglect and prevent crises before they begin.



The Forever Farm Campaign Goal: \$4.5 MILLION

To secure this transformative opportunity and ensure a strong, sustainable future for The Dorset Equine Rescue, we are launching **The Forever Farm Campaign** with a goal of \$4.5 million.

This campaign will make it possible to acquire the neighboring farm and combine it with our existing 178-acre Forever Farm, creating one unified campus dedicated to providing exceptional care for abused, neglected, and at-risk horses. It will also establish **The Forever Farm Endowment** and support strategic investments that strengthen the long-term sustainability of our rescue.

By acquiring this neighboring property – with its barns, indoor and outdoor arenas, staff housing, office space, and existing infrastructure – we will save millions in future construction costs while accelerating our timeline by years.

The owner has generously given us a limited window to make this extraordinary opportunity a reality. We hope you will join us in bringing the Forever Farm vision to life.

Campaign Allocation

Property Acquisition \$3.25 million

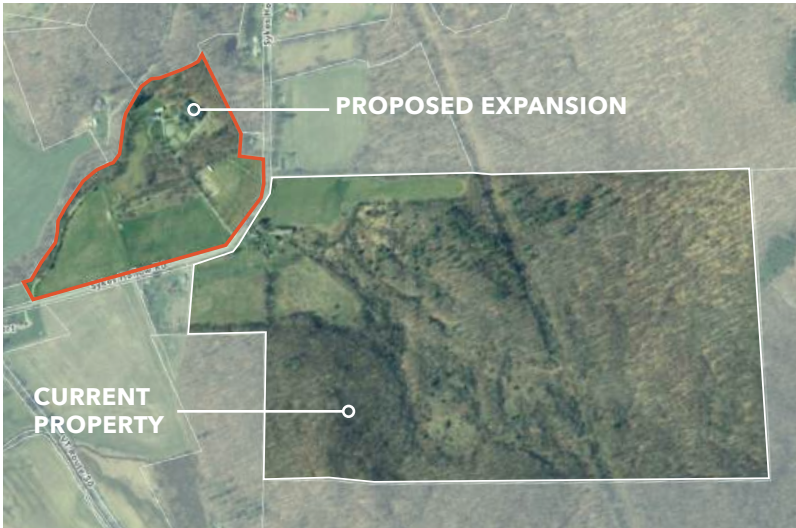
To purchase the neighboring farm and create one unified Forever Farm campus, including the purchase price, closing costs, legal fees, and professional services.

The Forever Farm Endowment.....\$800,000

Providing long-term financial stability while protecting the future of The Dorset Equine Rescue and the horses entrusted to our care.

Campus Improvements & Equipment\$450,000

Investments in critical water management, permanent fencing, pasture and hayfield improvements, essential equipment, professional services, and other campus needs as they arise.



LAYING A FOUNDATION

This is the Moment

Once-in-a-generation opportunities do not announce themselves in advance. They arrive – briefly, with urgency – and they require those who recognize them to act

This is that moment for The Dorset Equine Rescue.

For over 14 years, we have built something rare: an organization defined by genuine expertise, deep community trust, rigorous accreditation, and an unwavering commitment to the horses who need us most. We have done extraordinary work within significant constraints. What is possible when those constraints are removed is difficult to fully overstate.

The two properties in Rupert – our 178 acres and the neighboring farm with its fully developed infrastructure – together form something we could not have designed more perfectly if we had tried. The land. The buildings. The arena. The pastures. The staff housing. Everything required for a world-class equine rescue and rehabilitation center, available now, in one extraordinary moment of alignment.

Your gift to this campaign does not simply fund a property acquisition. It builds the permanent foundation upon which every horse we rescue – today, and for generations to come – will heal, recover, and find their way forward. It ensures that when the call comes in the middle of the night, when a horse has nowhere else to go, we can say yes.

It means we can dramatically reduce the number of horses turned away for lack of space.

This campaign will succeed because of people who understand that some opportunities only come once – and that the measure of what we leave behind is defined by the courage to act when it matters most.

We are asking you to be one of those people.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you personally about how your gift can help make this vision possible – and how you can play a meaningful role in shaping the future of this organization and the horses who depend on it.

Together, we can close the gap between the need that exists and the care we can provide.

Together, we can build something that will outlast all of us – and give thousands of horses the chance not just to survive, but to truly heal and thrive.

To learn more, contact Jen Straub:
dorsetequinerescue@yahoo.com





Leadership

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Bre Johnson, *Horse Care Assistant*
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Kendra Renfors, *Horse Care Assistant*

Design: Lisa Cadieux / Liquid Studio

"Through the volunteer work that I have done with DER, **I have witnessed the remarkable transformation of these often neglected and abused animals.** The loving care, attention, retraining, and rehoming they receive from this wonderful organization is phenomenal. Seeing them thriving and happy in a safe environment gives me such joy! I am honored to be a donor and to contribute to their ongoing success."

ALICE PEZZULICH, *Donor and adopter of four Dorset Equine Rescue horses*

"I have been supporting The Dorset Equine Rescue since it began in 2012. I am amazed at how much they have accomplished in such a short time. I consider them the premier equine rescue in the area. So many abused and neglected horses have found safety and love at The Dorset Equine Rescue. **The Legacy Farm development is going to make an enormous difference in the number of animals that this organization can save.**"

ALICE RYAN, Supporter



Panike at the time of rescue



Panike 14 months after rescue, beautiful and thriving

**Please join us
in making a
difference for
horses like Panike.
Together we can
give them a
second chance at
a better life.**



The Dorset Equine Rescue

THE FOREVER FARM CAMPAIGN

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Platinum
Transparency
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