



## About Us

HorseWorld Trust has been involved in the rescue and care of horses for almost 70 years. Despite the collective efforts of many equine charities, sadly, there are still horses who have been abused and neglected, horses who are sick and in distress.

HorseWorld Trust was founded as The Friends of Bristol Horses Society in November 1952 by Mabel Cocksedge following a public meeting to discuss concerns about working horses being sent to slaughter. A year later in 1953, Marjorie Pelling and Madge Checkley joined the Charity after reading an article about a rescued horse in their local paper. They dedicated their lives to the cause and for 45 years they ran the Charity on the outskirts of Bristol.

Today HorseWorld continues to operate from Keynes Farm south of Bristol, with approximately 100 horses on grazing land in the region of 150 acres. In addition to providing a home for life to a small number of sanctuary horses, we rehabilitate those rescued horses with potential for rehoming in the region and we also retrain them to support our Discovery programme working with disadvantaged and vulnerable young people.

Our strategy continues to evolve but horses remain at the heart of everything we do. We have a strong HorseWorld Community of trustees, staff, volunteers, expert advisors, partners, and a wide range of supporters. We aim to share responsibility, respect and support each other. We communicate effectively, be the best we can and take a pride in what we do.

As part of our work in the rescue and rehabilitation of horses, ponies and donkeys, we work in collaboration with the local authority, police and other equine charities such as the RSPCA to undertake emergency rescues where the welfare of a horse is in serious danger. In addition to providing a sanctuary for long term residents on our farm, we are also involved in rehoming horses where they can build a special relationship with one of our many loaners. Preparation for rehoming of our rescued horses involves an extensive rehabilitation and training process undertaken by our skilled team, and then horses are matched to suitable homes. We have about 200 horses in loan homes across the South-West of England.

Horses not only provide companionship, but there is strong evidence to support their therapeutic role to improve the well-being and mental health of people. Together with about 20 of our rescued horses, the HorseWorld Discovery programme provides a safe, nurturing, and welcoming environment, in which every young person feels valued, loved, and respected as a unique individual. Discovery is a non-judgemental space where every child, young person, adult and horse are accepted; a place where they can belong and achieve.

Studies have shown that children who have special educational or mental health needs, including anxiety, anger, depression, low self-esteem and withdrawal, especially benefit from relationship building with horses. Anxiety and depression amongst young people can destabilise social and school functioning and generate family stress. The HorseWorld Discovery programme provides an alternative learning provision, where young people and rescued horses work quietly and calmly in partnership, providing tangible benefits where other interventions have failed.

There should be no doubt that the Covid pandemic has had a devastating impact on the lives of many families. There is strong evidence to show that the closure of schools and the interruption in the education for children, has increased the numbers of young people who are struggling in a structured education environment or have been excluded completely from mainstream schools. At HorseWorld we have seen a significant increase in the referral of young people to our part-time alternative learning provision, leading to an increase in our waiting list despite being open during most of the pandemic. We hear so many stories of young people resorting to disruptive behaviour as a way of coping with the frustrations of 2020/21 – levels of positive mental health are at an all-time low.

The therapeutic role of horses to improve the well-being of people has never been more needed than it is now. Based on the provision of our Discovery programme since 2007, thousands of young people have benefited by spending time with our rescued horses supported by our skilled facilitators. Due to an increase in demand, we are



now actively looking at ways to expand our capacity to reach more young people in need and increase our positive impact.

As previously mentioned, we have approximately 100 horses, ponies, donkeys, a mule and a hinny on our 150 acre site here at Keynes Farm just south of Bristol. We have a further 200 horses out in loan homes in the local area. Our Discovery programme supports around 250 young people each year, through 6 weekly sessions during term time. You can find out more about our welfare and discovery work by talking to the respective teams during your induction.

Delmar Hall at Keynes Farm is where our offices are based, and you'll find engagement, stewardship, finance and HR teams, along with our CEO and deputy CEO.

Our culture at HorseWorld is open and professional. We encourage people to be themselves whilst respecting each other. We have a code of conduct that all employees and volunteers are expected to follow, it is a set of principles to be followed in our HorseWorld Community. HorseWorld is a caring team and a safe environment for the rehabilitation and training of rescued horses who become vital to support young people in their personal learning journey, building confidence whilst creating life-changing opportunities and a positive future for both.

We want HorseWorld to be a great place to work and are setting up a network of Wellness Champions to ensure we take care of all staff, alongside an Employee Forum, so we can get feedback from everyone on how we can improve. We try our best to make the right decisions, but not everything goes to plan and we recognise there are sometimes opportunities to improve. We don't blame people when things go wrong, we want to embrace a learning culture and everyone needs to be part of this.

Our HorseWorld Community is a series of statements defining the behaviours expected from everyone who works at HorseWorld. Our HorseWorld Community helps all colleagues understand what "good" behaviour looks like and how we can all abide by these statements. Everyone has the opportunity to lead by example every day and through doing so, create a lasting positive change in the way we behave and interact with others. A copy of Our HorseWorld Community will be provided to all new joiners.

HorseWorld is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk and expects all employees, volunteers, and trustees to share this commitment. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk is everyone's responsibility and everyone who comes into contact with children, adults at risk and their families has a role to play. The full Safeguarding policy and related procedures will be made available to all employees on joining HorseWorld and whenever an update has been made.

We are governed by a Board of Trustees who meet every two months to provide strategic leadership and undertake important fiduciary duties. We also welcome volunteers in our Discovery programme, on the yard, in our offices and at events. If you know someone who would like to be a volunteer, please ask them to contact our HR team for more information. When you meet our volunteers on site, please welcome them as part of our HorseWorld team.

All our charitable work is only possible thanks to the generous donations from our supporters, they may give a regular amount, sponsor a horse, agree to leave a legacy in their will or make a grant to one of our projects – there are lots of different ways for people to support our work. In any financial decisions we should remember where our funding comes from, and ensure we spend it wisely.

Whatever your role in the Charity, you should always feel able to explain how you have effectively used donors money to deliver our charitable aims – I call this the supporter test.