



## So you've rescued an equine yourself. - Now what do you do?

Here are some pieces of advice from us here at **Beast of Burden Recovery and Education Center**- we have rehabbed many different equines over the years- and when we first started it was really overwhelming to know what to do first! So here are some steps of rehabbing your new rescue; horse, mule, or donkey!

### Initial Vetting

The first course of action is to do an overall evaluation by a vet to see if the equine is a candidate for rehabbing or if it is a euthanasia case with untreatable ailments or injuries. This often requires x-rays and other initial detrimental diagnostics.

### Quarantine

Your equine will need about 30 days being quarantined from other equines. This means their manure and any other waste must also be disposed of separately from the other animals. You will need to do the following while quarantining to ensure the equine can integrate with others once the 30 days is completed.

NO

Is this equine a candidate for rehab?

YES

### Euthanasia

The last act of kindness- though heartbreaking- is sometimes the only fair thing left to do. We personally will give them a few days of; giving lots of grain, pain meds, and all the love we can- before choosing a day to lay them to rest.

### Starting Rehab

Your day 1 vetting should consist of;  
Administering *gastrogard/ulcergard* (for 30 days full dose), blood work panel, checking dentition, farrier work (x-rays may be needed). Other factors like advanced wound care or more serious cases needing fluids may need to be done in a clinic rather than in the field.

### Plan of Action

Proceed with the refeed plan that will help your equine recover. Depending on blood work results this may need adjustments on protein intake and NSC requirements. Typically a safe start is a mash based feed (like timothy pellets) to ease the GI tract into safe and easy nutrition absorption. Once your equine is stable enough (determined by vet) it is time to get the seasonal vaccinations, a dental float, and any other procedure needed to create comfort or better soundness. Getting another blood panel to track changes after a refeed is also smart to be sure levels look good or have (ideally) improved. Once the equine is physically progressing- it is just as critical to invest in ensuring good behavior and training so your equine will thrive in the human world.

**DISCLAIMER:** Though we think it may be of great intention to decide to rescue an equine yourself- we do strongly encourage **ADOPTION** through a reputable non-profit.

If you are not versed with (nor have the resources for) the initial vetting of an at-risk equine- or do not have experience to handle extreme behavioral issues of an at-risk equine, please consider adopting an already vetted equine that may be a good fit for you to get started on- OR come out to organizations like ours who can give you some real hands-on experience with guidance first.

