

---

## EMERGENCY CARE

---

This policy outlines the procedures and responsibilities for providing emergency care to Standardbred horses under the care of New Start Standardbreds. The goal is to ensure timely and effective responses to medical emergencies, safeguarding the health and welfare of the horses. This policy applies to all horses in the care of New Start Standardbreds, including those in foster homes, or in adoption transitions. It is applicable to volunteers, and foster caregivers involved in horse care.

### 1. DEFINITION OF AN EMERGENCY

An emergency is any situation that poses an immediate threat to the horse's life, health, or well-being, including but not limited to:

- Severe injury (e.g., fractures, deep wounds).
- Signs of colic or gastrointestinal distress.
- Difficulty breathing or severe respiratory distress.
- Sudden, unexplained lameness or immobility.
- Severe allergic reactions, swelling, or hives.
- Life-threatening infections or illnesses.
- Trauma caused by accidents or abuse.

### 2. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

#### Initial Assessment

- **Observation:** Identify symptoms or injuries and assess the severity of the situation.
- **Contact Veterinarian:** Immediately contact the designated veterinarian or emergency equine medical services. If unavailable, contact an alternate veterinarian.
- **Documentation:** Record details about the emergency, including time, symptoms, and any actions taken.

#### First Aid Administration

- Administer first aid as appropriate to stabilize the horse until professional help arrives. This may include:
  - Applying pressure to stop bleeding.
  - Keeping the horse calm and immobilized.
  - Administering medications under the guidance of a veterinarian.

#### Communication

- **Notify Leadership:** Inform the President, or other designated leader of the situation.
- **Foster Homes:** If the horse is in a foster home, the foster caregiver must immediately report the emergency to New Start Standardbreds concurrently with contacting the veterinarian.

### 3. VETERINARY CARE

**Authorized Care:** The attending veterinarians' information must be provided to New Start Standardbreds at the time of emergency.

**Financial Authorization:** Emergency care expenses must be pre-approved by the President or another designated board member. In urgent cases, the attending individual may approve care to prevent harm up to a certain amount, as laid out in the foster care agreement, with follow-up approval documented.

**Treatment Plan:** The veterinarian's recommendations will be followed, and updates will be provided to the Board of Directors and any additional caregivers.

### 4. POST-EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS

#### Follow-Up Care

- Develop a recovery plan based on the veterinarian's recommendations.
- Assign responsibility for follow-up treatments, monitoring, and updates.

#### Documentation

- Maintain detailed records of the incident, including:
  - Nature of the emergency and the horse's condition.
  - Actions taken and care administered.
  - Costs incurred and invoices.

#### Review and Debrief

- The incident will be reviewed by the Board or a designated committee to evaluate the response and identify any improvements for future emergencies.

### 5. TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS

**First Aid Training:** Volunteers, and foster caregivers will be offered basic equine first aid training to ensure preparedness. Costs for courses may be reimbursed by the organization with pre-approval.

**Emergency Contacts:** A list of emergency contacts, including veterinarians, transport services, and organizational leaders, will be readily available to all caregivers.

**Emergency Kits:** First aid kits with essential supplies will be maintained at all facilities and provided to foster homes if requested.

Signed Off: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Kimberly Hale, President

## 6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Emergency care costs will be covered by the organization's emergency fund unless alternative arrangements are made. In the case of extraordinary costs, fundraising or special appeals may be initiated to cover expenses.

This policy ensures the health and safety of Standardbred horses in emergency situations through prompt and effective care protocols.