

## Appendix I

Ideas rated in order of importance (1 = most important and 3 = least important) and condensed into broad categories for action plan

RANK	ACTION ITEMS	BROAD CATEGORIES
1	Source of relinquished/abandoned horses: socioeconomic, animal demographic, geographic, owner-related (e.g., experience of people) characteristics of unwanted horses	Epidemiologic study
1	Case control study: successful vs. unsuccessful ownership and successful vs. unsuccessful re-homing	Epidemiologic study
1	Risk factors for horse relinquishment and all forms of re-homing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal factors: age, breed, color, lameness, other health factors</li> <li>• Behavioral factors (horse)</li> <li>• Human factors: socioeconomic, geographic, experience, education/training</li> <li>• Geographic regions and ties to climatic conditions (how does that relate to economic issues that influence relinquishment?)</li> </ul>	Epidemiologic study
1	Euthanasia: newer, better regimen; horse welfare; response of humans and horses to the procedure; environmental contamination	Strategies assessment
1	Rescue/sanctuary organizations: capacity, location, funding, mission, qualifications	Strategies assessment
1.5	Carcass disposal: cost-effectiveness, contamination issues	Strategies assessment
2	Use of epidemiologic modeling to explore various scenarios: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport of movement outside U.S.</li> <li>Various circumstances</li> <li>Economic influences</li> </ul>	Epidemiologic study
2.5	What constitutes good ownership? Develop humane audit for owners/facilities Develop behavioral assessment tool (ASPCA)	Epidemiologic study
2.5	The long-term effects of allowing the horse problem to correct itself Economic research, market corrections	Strategies assessment
2.5	Lifetime horse history, changes of owners and why	Epidemiologic study
3	The impact breed registry and government incentives have on breeding and horse populations; study of horse breeder attitudes	Strategies assessment
3	Abandonment definitions, verify numbers	Epidemiologic study
3	Access data from UK – horse passports (transports)	Strategies assessment
3	Influence of government regulations in different countries, e.g., Germany	Strategies assessment
3	Owner origin, from sales to death, how many change of hands?	Epidemiologic study
3	Picture of overall equine industry (Does AHC have the data?)	Epidemiologic study
3	How has public policy impacted this issue, include zoning laws; federal, state and local laws; public policy; effect of environment; zoning; regulations; EPA	Policy assessment
3	Engage officials in a count of dead/abandoned horses, e.g., county roads Data from police depts. etc. on carcass/abandonment on roads, etc. Animal control agencies	Outreach and education program
3	Horses are a combination of livestock and companion animal. Is there a need for a new category? Definition of “horse category”	Policy assessment
3	Study of human psychological biases, education of owner, human–animal bond, sociological changes in attitudes [that lead to relinquishment]	Outreach and education program
3	We need to find out more about the groups we don’t know about, such as data on groups of people that have not yet been included in prior registries, breeding, market driven vs. indiscriminate etc.	Epidemiologic study