

The Gelding Project: *Helping the Unwanted Horse 1 Stallion at a Time*

The Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition, the Minnesota Horse Council and the Animal Humane Society in cooperation with the Minnesota Association of Equine Practitioners are launching **The Gelding Project**. This program is designed as a key step to reduce the number of unwanted horses in Minnesota. The first aspect of the project, *Education Earns Stallions to Geldings*, will encourage horse owners to choose to make stallions into geldings through education and financial incentives. An interested horse owner who enrolls in the program will be eligible for a voucher to cover the cost of castration surgery by a participating veterinarian, once the owner attends 8 horse health management educational sessions.

Here's how the program works:

1. Get an official voucher at the MN Horse Expo, from participating veterinarians, the Minnesota Horse Council or members of the Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition (more information listed on www.mnhorsecouncil.org). Vouchers cost \$5.
2. Attend 8 horse health educational sessions, including:
 - a. General Horse Care
 - b. Reproduction
 - c. Nutrition
 - d. Facilities/Manure Management
 - e. Equine Dentistry
 - f. Vaccinations and/or De-worming
 - g. Horse Behavior
 - h. Lecture on the Unwanted Horse or volunteer 2hours at a Horse Rescue
3. Contact a participating veterinarian to arrange castration of the stallion
 - a. The stallion must be halter broke
 - b. The stallion must have 2 descended testicles
 - c. Farm calls are not covered by the voucher
4. The voucher covers the cost of castration, anesthesia, post operative antibiotic and tetanus vaccination or anti-toxin.
5. Complete The Gelding Project evaluation before you leave the clinic.
6. You must be at least 18 years old and a Minnesota resident to participate.

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