



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 7 JULY 2025

# THE STABLE DOOR

Official Newsletter of the Virginia Partnership for Horses

## The Virginian Horse of the Founding Father



Image Credit: Library of Congress

Thomas Jefferson referred to George Washington as "the best horseman of his age, and the most graceful figure that could be seen on horseback."

Of the many horses that Washington owned, one of his favorites was Nelson who carried him through most of the American Revolution.

Described as a "splendid charger," Nelson was a 16hh, light sorrel gelding of Virginian stock that was

the most prized horse of the Virginia governor. Nelson was about 15 years old when the governor gifted him to Washington to be his dedicated war horse. He was less skittish during cannon fire and sounds of battle than Washington's other mount, and was there the day Lord Cornwallis surrendered in Yorktown in 1781.

Nelson was no longer ridden after the war, but lived out his days at Mount Vernon as something of a pampered celebrity, at ease for his past services.

It was reported that George Washington would walk around the grounds of the estate, where he would stop at Nelson's paddock, "when the old war-horse would run, neighing, to the fence, proud to be caressed by the great master's hands." Nelson's



Image Credit: AGE Fotostock

death was reported to George Washington during the Christmas season of 1790, when he would have been 27 years old.

## July Events

### 100 Mile Yard Sale

White Bird Appaloosa Horse Rescue  
**JULY 5**  
Burkeville, VA

### Summer Day Camp

Equine Connection Center  
**JULY 11**  
Nokesville, VA

### The Future Equestrians Ball

Hope 4 Horses  
**JULY 12**  
Spotsylvania, VA

### July Ranch Tour

Wings of Hope Ranch  
**JULY 13**  
Doswell, VA



Scan here to see a  
complete listing of events

# Help Your Horses Before It's Too Late

It can be an uncomfortable thing to discuss, but every horse owner needs to think about: What happens if your horses outlive you or if the unexpected happens and you can no longer care for them?

It's something that Virginia equine rescues and sanctuaries are faced with everyday. We all want there to be an idyllic green pasture that our beloved equine companions can spend the rest of their days in should we not be there anymore.

But the truth is that these green pastures and continued oversight of your horse's care, should you chose to formally retire your horse at a commercial facility, come with a monthly financial obligation. Sanctuaries and rescues are often at capacity and/or are needing to prioritize horses that have experienced abuse or neglect, and you should not assume that they will be able to accommodate your horses without consulting them first.

The very best thing you can do is to work with an attorney to create a will or trust for your horses that will protect them from the unknown. There are also quickie online platforms that can help you create a simple will in less than an hour.

**At the very least**, if you own horses and have not made the time to create a formal plan for them, then please discuss with your loved ones what you want for them if the worst happens to you.

In the past several months since starting the Direct Placement Program, we have heard from individuals who want to do what's right for the surviving equines of their loved ones, but did not receive any guidance. The uncertainty in addition to the loss is difficult for both your surviving friends and family and a precarious place for your horses.

We are all in this version of Final Destination together so please take the time to make the plan.



United Horse Coalition Guidance on Estate Planning, Equine Trusts, and Wills

FREEWILL



Online Will Platform



Virginia-based Equine Lawyers

## Horses Needing Homes



Moose 23yo TB gelding



Full Rescue Partner Adoption Directory



Smarty Pants 15yo Paso Fino gelding



Other Equines Needing Rehoming



Jameson 25yo OTTB gelding

