



**Our mission statement:** The Fenway Foundation for Friesian Horses Inc., a not for profit corporation, has been created to preserve and enhance the longevity and quality of life of Friesian horses by accruing and disseminating pertinent equine, specifically Friesian, information to educate the public and offering assistance regarding Friesian horses and their owners throughout North America

All of us who own Friesian Horses know how these wonderful animals enrich our lives. Their affection, companionship and endearing attitude make them perfect equine partners. In so many ways, they give much more than they receive. With that thought in mind, the Fenway Foundation was formed. A Foundation designed to give something back to a breed of horse that asks so little and gives so much.

Founded in 2010, the Foundation has three main initiatives; one in the area of Genetic Research, another in the area of Health Studies and the third addressing the rescue of abandoned, abused or Friesian horses at risk.

### **Genetic Research**

Hampered by a very small gene pool, breeding, managing the health and extending a Friesian horse's life can be extremely challenging. In working with

geneticists in Europe and North America we hope to assist in unlocking the secrets that will extend and improve the quality of our horse's life.

Dr. Willem Back at Utrecht University has already begun the study of four such genetic issues that affect the Friesian breed. They are Dwarfism, Hydrocephalus, Aortic Rupture and Mega-Esophagus. The Foundation has united with Dr. Back in the assisting of the gathering of pertinent information in North America.

While we agree these four areas of study are extremely important, the Foundation addresses ALL areas of genetic and health research. Having lost a very important Friesian presence in our life, we at the Foundation are extremely interested in the gastro-intestinal/colic issues that affect our breed. But again, this does not limit our range of interest. ANYTHING that affects the Friesian horse is of interest to us and to our team of researchers. The only way we can determine if there is a commonality in issues affecting our breed to is collect ALL the available information and then make a determination if there are breed specific issues or anomalies.

Two areas of genetic studies that the Foundation is active in are the collecting of necropsy reports and offering breeding advice for mare owners.

The Foundation offers a comprehensive necropsy report on the [fenwayfoundation.com](http://fenwayfoundation.com) website. It also offers financial assistance, up to six hundred dollars, for the performance of necropsies when the information and appropriate receipts are forwarded to the Fenway Foundation. We strongly encourage everyone to go to this website, read the details, download this form and put it into the hands of their veterinarian for that fateful day that it will have to be completed.

We also hope that intelligent breeding may eventually eliminate some of the genetic flaws that persist in this breed. To that end, the Foundation has associated with breeding experts that possess electronic Stallion information that we



believe may be second only to the KFPS in depth and breadth of information. In offering this breeding advice, we hope the appropriate mare/stallion combination will minimize potential genetic flaws and insure a long, healthy and productive future for the new Friesian foal.



### ***Health Studies***

Many times Friesian owners need medical advice/second opinions on the issues affecting their Friesian Horse. Our full time, on staff veterinarian, Dr. Kathy Fox is available to all Friesian owners to assist them in working through problems currently distressing their horse. This assistance is free of charge to all Friesian owners. In all instances, we will request pedigree information. Again, this will be done to track any common factors affecting a specific pedigree.

Inquiries to Dr. Fox can be made direct by phone, email and when and where appropriate through direct consultation. In extreme cases Dr. Fox and/or a representative of the Fenway



Foundation will perform on site visits/consultations to affected horses.

The accrual of the health and medical information, coupled with material harvested from the necropsy reports will create a range of Friesian information to refer to that will hopefully fill some of the medical and genetic voids that continue to affect this breed.

### ***Rescue***

Every Friesian horse is entitled to be cared for and treated with a dignity deserving this noble breed. Whatever the reason; whether it be economic, intervention by civil authorities or abandonment, the Fenway Foundation will assist in whatever way necessary to aid any Friesian horses that are found to be at risk.

When feasible, the at-risk horse(s) will be transported to the





Fenway facility where recovery will begin upon the horse's arrival. Dr. Fox and Fenway Equine Manager, Jamie Van Linn will start the rehabilitation immediately. A full workup will be performed in order to insure the best course of treatment for every rescued horse.

Challenged by the size of our service area, the United States and Canada, the Foundation will many times have "satellite" rescue facilities to address an at-risk horse. These facilities will literally and figuratively get the horse back on it's feet and prepare it for transport to Fenway's primary location. The Fenway Foundation will reimburse these satellite facilities for their costs.

Since our inception, many individuals across the United States and Canada have come forward to offer their assistance and willingness to adopt a rescued horse. The Foundation very much appreciates their support and interest in giving these magnificent horses a loving home. Fortunately for our horses, but unfortunately for these willing volunteers, we have not been contacted for rescue. This is encouraging as it is our hope that all Friesian horses are currently being compassionately and humanly cared for. However, considering these difficult

economic times an at-risk horse may need our assistance at any moment. At that point our team and series of satellite operations will assist these horses wherever they may reside in the United States and Canada.

### **Conclusion**

The Fenway Foundation has many challenges ahead. As we proceed in developing our varied areas of study, any Friesian owner can contact our team and provide input into areas they feel may be pertinent to research. We already have many challenges ahead, but we will not be deterred in attempting to improve the longevity and quality of life of all Friesian horses. We promise to work tirelessly to assist these horses that have so enriched our lives. More information about our Foundation can be found at [fenwayfoundation.com](http://fenwayfoundation.com). We can also be found on Facebook at **Fenway Foundation for Friesian Horses**.

We have some very exciting and demanding challenges ahead. We hope our research will assist ALL Friesian owners from ALL Friesian registries. Please assist us in letting our team know what we can do for you, but more importantly, what we can do for your Friesian Horse.

