


EQUITOM



PRESS KIT

Official inauguration of the
Equitom Foundation:

**NO MORE UNNECESSARY
EUTHANASIA**

Equitom Foundation

ABOUT THE EQUITOM FOUNDATION

A mission... to serve horses

For over 20 years, the Equitom Equine Clinic has been recognized as a global reference in equine **medicine**. Under the innovative vision of its founder, Dr. Tom Mariën, Equitom has redefined the standards of equine veterinary medicine in Europe. Equitom welcomes horses from all over the world, offering them a second chance when all other options have failed.

Despite their best efforts, **many horses are still euthanized each year** - not because of an incurable disease or fatal trauma, but merely because the financial means to pay for the necessary care, are unavailable. This heartbreaking reality has deeply affected the entire Equitom-team, and underlined the urgency to come up with a structural solution.

Today, Equitom marks a milestone with the establishment of the **Equitom Foundation** - a visionary initiative dedicated to the welfare of horses in need and supporting their caretakers.

Through the Equitom Foundation, we strive for a world where **neglected and mistreated horses have access to high-quality medical care**. Not only do we provide direct assistance to horses in need but also support animal welfare organizations and owners facing financial difficulties.

*Our goal is to never let financial constraints
be a reason to give up on a horse again.*

Moreover, the Equitom Foundation invests in **scientific research** and strongly focuses on **education and knowledge-sharing about equine welfare**. By raising awareness and sharing expertise, we aim to achieve a sustainable transformation in equine welfare – not just locally, but globally.

The **official launch of the Equitom Foundation will take place on February 14**, a symbolic date celebrating love and well-being. This ambitious project embodies a deep commitment to horses, but also the values of compassion, excellence and innovation, which define all of our efforts.

The Equitom Foundation is officially recognized as a **Public Utility Foundation by Royal Decree**, which means that our mission of general interest is recognized by the Belgian government. Thanks to this status, we can further expand our commitment to horse welfare and to help owners in need.



TOM MARIEN, FOUNDER OF EQUITOM

Ever since I was very young, I have always felt a deep connection with animals. This passion led me, in 2001, to found Equitom with one clear goal: to save as many horses as possible. Over the years, what was once a mission, has become my life's work.

'Equitom is the largest and most innovative equine clinic in Europe, welcoming patients from >70 countries. Our international clients have nicknamed us "The clinic of the last hope", because we go to great lengths to give every horse a chance at recovery. **But for me, that is not enough.** Every year, horses in need are euthanized – due to colic, broken bones and other serious conditions – not because their condition is hopeless, but simply because their owner does not have the financial means to perform an operation at that time. **Last year, at Equitom, we already saw more than 100 of such cases.**

This leads to heartbreaking situations, with an immense emotional impact on families and often also on children who lose their beloved horse. The Equitom Foundation is my answer to this injustice. **It embodies hope for these vulnerable animals, whose only instinct is to fight for their survival.'**



KADIDJA ESSAHELI, PRESIDENT OF THE EQUITOM FOUNDATION:

Too often, we have witnessed owners and associations facing insurmountable financial constraints, despite their unconditional love for their horses. It is these sacrifices, this injustice and these heartbreaking stories, that inspired the creation of the Equitom Foundation.

Through this foundation, we aspire to give these vulnerable animals a second chance, while supporting those who work so hard to protect them. Furthermore, we will collaborate with other professionals, support scientific research and provide training in care and welfare.

We count on the support of people who have a big heart for animals, people who are empathetic and want to contribute to this life-saving initiative. But I also expect support from entrepreneurs and companies who want to contribute to animal welfare. Their support goes beyond just saving a horse - or even several horses. They also help prevent the immense grief and trauma that families experience when they lose their beloved animal for financial reasons. In today's society, ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) plays an increasingly important role. This initiative fits in seamlessly. I am convinced that many entrepreneurs feel inspired to contribute to this noble project with such a strong social impact.'



FABRICE RENARD – ANIMAL SANS TOIT

Fabrice Renard is the driving force behind Animal Sans Toit, a renowned shelter for animals in need. Founded in 2002, **this shelter offers a safe haven for pets and farm animals**. The centre covers 10 hectares of pastureland and has a modern infrastructure that meets BEA standards.

The equine department currently has 60 horses and ponies, which have been confiscated, abandoned or rescued, and are carefully rehabilitated to give them a new chance at adoption. In total, **Animal Sans Toit houses over 250 animals and manages to realise more than 80 adoptions per year**.

The day-to-day operation of the shelter is made possible by a team of 7 permanent employees, supported by a network of more than 40 dedicated volunteers. Thanks to their commitment and Fabrice Renard's vision, Animal Sans Toit remains an essential player in the protection and rehoming of neglected animals.

For more information about the Animal Sans Toit shelter, please visit:

www.animal-sans-toit.be





STEFFI VERJANS – VZW FARM FLORA

Steffi Verjans is the founder and driving force behind VZW Farm Flora, an animal shelter located in Halen, Limburg.

Founded in 2016, Farm Flora offers a safe haven for both pets and farm animals that have fallen victim to neglect or abuse.

The shelter is spread out across a large farm, giving the animals the space and care they need to recover. **Steffi is the only person responsible for the day and night care of all the animals that reside there permanently.**

No adoptions

VZW Farm Flora distinguishes itself by being a “sanctuary”; that is to say, the animals that live there will never be up for adoption. They stay with Steffi permanently. Dogs and farm animals with a disability, or with severe trauma, or animals with behavioural problems and neglected/abused animals are rescued.

Dependent

In order to keep vzw Farm Flora running, Steffi has two paying jobs in addition to the vzw. However, she is completely dependent on gifts and donations from sympathizers. The sanctuary cannot count on any form of subsidies because, the animals are never offered for adoption, among other things.

Increasing the knowledge of animal welfare

To increase awareness of animal welfare and involve the community, educational activities are also organized from time to time, such as children’s camps and workshops.

Thanks to Steffi’s efforts, Farm Flora has a positive impact on the lives of countless animals and contributes to a greater awareness and respect for not only our familiar pets, but also for the ‘forgotten’ farm animals in our society.

For more information about VZW Farm Flora and its activities, please visit the website www.farmflora.be or their social media channels.

More information: info@farmflora.be or **0491 25 44 55**



THE FOUNDATION'S OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES



1. Support animal welfare organizations

The Equitom Foundation is initially committed to reducing 50% of the medical costs for organizations dedicated to rescuing horses in distress. With this strategic approach, we can offer a greater number of animals the help they deserve, despite the currently limited resources. Our ambition? To offer 100% coverage within a few years.



2. Invest in research and innovation

The Foundation funds interesting scientific projects to improve equine care, develop innovative treatments and prevent diseases, thus contributing to sustainable equine welfare.



3. Help owners in difficulty

We also want to assist private horse owners with financial limitations to make lifesaving care possible and avoid euthanasia. In addition to the horse we save, this also has a very positive impact on the owner and the family.



4. Promote awareness and education

We will set up conferences, trainings and awareness campaigns to disseminate best practices in equine care and encourage global awareness of the importance of equine welfare.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE EQUITOM FOUNDATION?



Make a donation

Contributions, whether one-off or regular, directly fund the care and medical treatments for horses in need.

Making a donation is easy and can be done directly via the Equitom Foundation website. For larger or targeted donations, or for information about leaving a legacy, you can also contact us by email.

Every donation, big or small, means a second chance for a horse in need. Together we can give horses the care and opportunities they deserve.

Become a volunteer

It is possible to join our team and put your skills or time at the service of the equine cause. Whether it is helping with the care of the horses, supporting the organization of events, or participating in our awareness campaigns, every gesture counts and makes a real difference.

Become a partner

Companies can make a financial contribution in exchange for brand recognition or other rewards. Thanks to your help, we can achieve ambitious goals.

OUR CORE VALUES, VISION AND MISSION



Passion

The engine that drives each of our actions, with a boundless devotion to the well-being of horses.



Empathy

A deep understanding and sincere compassion for horses and their owners, is at the heart of everything we do.



Innovation

A focus on research and innovation to sustainably transform equine welfare.

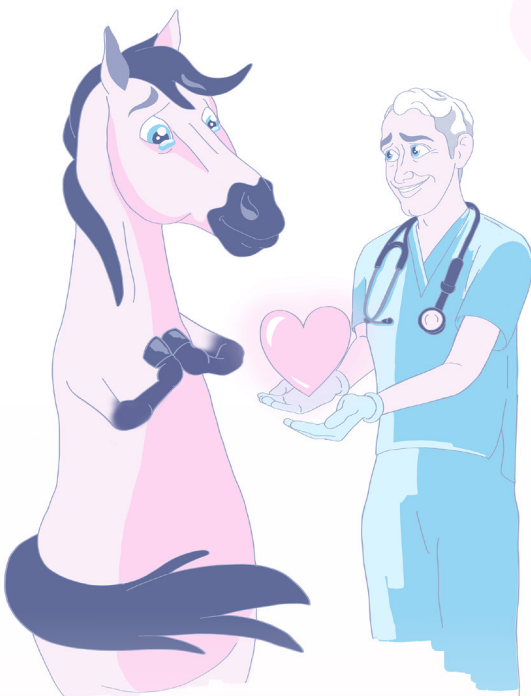


Transparency

A clear, honest and open communication with our donors, partners and all stakeholders, to build trust and ensure integrity.

OUR VISION

Every horse deserves access to high-quality medical care, regardless of its origins, history or the resources of its owners.



OUR MISSION

- **Provide essential and accessible medical care** to horses in need.
- **Actively support** animal protection organizations and owners facing financial difficulties.
- **Promote prevention, education and research** to sustainably improve equine welfare and prevent animal suffering.



ABOUT EQUITOM

Located in Lummen, Belgium, on a **16-hectare estate**, the Equitom clinic hosts performs more than 10,000 consultations and operations each year. **With a team of 85 passionate experts**, it is world-renowned for its innovations in surgery, internal medicine, orthopedics, regenerative therapies and medical imaging.

Some key statistics:

- Largest and most innovative equine clinic in Europe
- Possibility to hospitalize 150 horses
- Clients from >70 countries
- 24/7 Emergency Service
- A community of 5 million followers on social media

Equitom is more than a clinic; it is a **sanctuary where horses in need are given a second chance and where innovation and passion come together**. Here, not only lives are saved, but it's also an inspiration for animal owners and horse lovers around the world.

With a community of **over five million followers on social media**, Equitom is the most visible horse clinic in the world. Equitom has an unparalleled impact on the welfare of horses worldwide thanks to its educational videos and inspiring content, shared almost daily.

Contact

For more information, interviews or reports, please contact us:

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