



In vitro fertilization breeding program for the Rhodian Small
Horse



“FAETHON” ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RHODIAN SMALL HORSE

The Small-Sized Rhodian Horse: A Living Symbol of Heritage

All horses we know today, including the small Rhodian horse, belong to the zoological family *Equus Caballus*. Horses first appeared around 54 million years ago. Back then, they were no bigger than a small dog, living in forested areas. Over thousands of years, much has changed. Horses gradually increased in size and left the forests to live on plains and steppes, always adapting to their environment. Through this long journey of evolution, many types of horses emerged — some survived, while others were lost to history. After the last Ice Age, by the early Holocene, multiple wild horse populations existed, and selective domestication began around 5,500–6,000 years ago. These were domesticated by humans and became the ancestors of all the horse breeds we know today. This remarkable breed is a remnant of a once widespread family of horses that inhabited mainland Greece, the islands, the coast of Asia Minor, and extended as far as the Caspian Sea and North Africa. Their wide distribution was due to their good nature, great strength, and minimal nutritional needs. These horses became invaluable companions to the Greeks, assisting in every task — from the humblest labor to prestigious ceremonies, from plowing and transportation to competitions and festivals.



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It is significant to note that even the pediments of the Parthenon, which depict the Panathenaic festival, show not large war horses, but small horses much like ours here in Rhodes. For thousands of years, the horse remained by humanity's side. However, with the Industrial Revolution, this loyal companion, which had served so faithfully, was gradually set aside. The result was a sharp decline in horse populations. Just 200 years ago, every family on the island of Rhodes had at least one horse. By 1975, only 60 remained on the entire island — and today, in 2025, there are just 13. What makes the Rhodian horse particularly unique is that it is one of the smallest horse breeds in the world, along with its relative, the Skyrian horse. But what truly sets our horse apart is that its small size is the result of natural selection, not human intervention. Standing at about 110 cm tall, the Rhodian horse has an elegant, well-proportioned body that mirrors the form of larger horses. Its head is broad with large, intelligent eyes and medium-sized ears. The neck is muscular and the mane dense and rich. The body is harmoniously built, with shoulders at the same level as the croup, and the length of the body slightly exceeding the horse's height. Its legs are strong and muscular, ending in small, hard hooves, and its thick tail nearly reaches the ground.



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This small horse of Rhodes is a living symbol of the island’s natural and cultural heritage. It played a key role in the daily life of the people here for countless generations and has earned its place in history. Now, it deserves a future as brilliant as its past.

Each of us — individually and together — can and should do something to help preserve this noble breed. It has given us so much, and we owe it to them.

The history of the small-sized Rhodian horse stretches far into the past, and with your support, alongside the members and friends of “FAETHON,” we are confident that the future belongs to them.





ΔΕΩΝ

“FAETHON” ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RHODIAN SMALL HORSE

The Rhodian Small Horse Protection Association was founded in 2001 and has since taken on the responsibility of protecting the Rhodian horse breed. The primary goal of our association was to bring the horses down from the mountains where they lived, to a controlled place. To offer them food and medical care. Due to the small number of members of the breed and its preservation, controlled breeding is an imperative need. So far, 13 horses in total are being kept. Of these, only four are adult females and available for breeding. A female horse gets pregnant on average once every three years. So with natural pregnancies, the preservation of the breed is impossible. Thus, it is deemed necessary to carry out artificial insemination procedures in order to preserve and perpetuate the species. Our Association, after consultation and cooperation with the organization “Amaltheia”, Native Farm Animal Conservation Network Greece, and the equine doctor, Papanastasiou Vasiliki, an expert in horse reproduction and artificial insemination, conducted an economic study to complete the actions required to ensure its long-term survival - perpetuation and promotion as a protected species worldwide. It should be noted that these horses do not belong to any private individual but to the Municipality of Rhodes, and assistance for their rescue is deemed necessary by both the Municipality of Rhodes and the residents of the island.



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Who we are:

Following the last election procedures that took place at the club's premises, on 09/03/2025, the new Board of Directors was established, consisting of the following:

President: Gantaris Tsambikos
Vice President: Brix Carolien
Secretary: Galata Pagona
Treasurer: Korakis Ioannis-Dimitrios
Member at large: Status Nikolaos



Σύλλογος Προστασίας του
Μικρόσωμου Αλόγου της Ρόδου.

Πράξη 1

*Σήμερα 12/03/2024 στις εγκαταστάσεις του συλλόγου μας συνεδρίασε το
διοικητικό συμβούλιο με θέμα:*

Συγκρότηση σε σώμα νέου Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου

Σήμερα στον Αρχάγγελο, Ρόδου 12/03/2025 και ώρα 16:00 συνήλθε σε συνεδρίαση το νεοεκλεγέν συμβούλιο του συλλόγου Προστασίας Μικρόσωμων Αλόγων της Ρόδου <<Ο ΦΑΕΘΩΝ>>, στις εγκαταστάσεις του, το οποίο προέκυψε από τις εκλογές της 9^{ης} Μαρτίου 2025 και αποφάσισε ομοφώνως:

Πρόεδρος:	Γαντάρης Τσαμπίκος
Αντιπρόεδρος:	Brix Carolien
Γραμματέας:	Γαλατά Παγόνα
Ταμίας:	Κοράκης Ιωάννης - Δημήτριος
Μέλος :	Στάτης Νικόλαος



Αντιπρόεδρος
Brix Carolien

Η γραμματέας
Γαλατά Παγόνα

Ο ταμίας
Κοράκης Ιωάννης - Δημήτριος

Το μέλος
Στάτης Νικόλαος



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Our establishment:

The club is located in Archangelos, Rhodes. The area in which the facilities are located, covers an area of 10 acres, which has been granted by the parish of Archangelos. Within this area we created stables for the protection and housing of the horses, a visitor reception space, a small shop with local souvenirs and our offices. The facilities were created when the horse population was very small, a total of six horses. Now, with the increase in the horse population, the facilities are not sufficient, making it impossible to meet the horses' needs in the future. Thus, with personal work, by members and volunteers of the Association, we remodeled and improved the stables. The project has not been completed yet. The renovation work of the stables is approximately 70% complete and work continues to complete it.





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Our purpose:

The purpose of the association is the preservation and global recognition of the Rhodian horse breed. It is a rare species found only on the island of Rhodes these days. The Rhodian horse breed has a characteristic that makes them unique. The Rhodian horse is one of the smallest horses in the world. What makes our horse so valuable, is that its microsomia (small-bodied) is the result of natural evolution and not human intervention. Based on the global evolution ranking of equines, the Rhodian Horse is in third place, which demonstrates its rarity. And it should not be lost. We ask for the financial support of the Association for the crucially necessary process of artificial insemination for which a study has been conducted in collaboration with the organization “Amaltheia”, the Network for the Conservation of Indigenous Farm Animals.

The financial needs required are reflected on the next page.

Thank you in advance.



ΔΕΩΝ

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DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	HORSE	NR	COST	TOTAL
2025 BREEDING PROGRAM - IMMEDIATE COST					
Transfer of 4 horses Rhodes - Thessaloniki - Vassiliou transfer	per way		2	€ 682.00	€ 1,364.00
Ferry boat - return ticket	complementary?				€ -
Transfer <u>Skyrian</u> horses, 4 horses Kerkyra - Thessaloniki			2	€ 682.00	€ 1,364.00
Ferry boat - return ticket	complementary?				€ -
Rent place Thessaloniki	estimation		1	€ 500.00	€ 500.00
Construction to adjust the living & <u>work space</u> - treatment box			1	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
Worker	per month		6	€ 600.00	€ 3,600.00
Surrogate mothers from Syros - 4 to start with	complimentary		4		€ -
Hay for 8 horses per month	0.15€ / kg		6	€ 180.00	€ 1,080.00
Embryo transfer			4	€ 350.00	€ 1,400.00
Seed collection from stallion including extender <u>etc</u>			8	€ 35.00	€ 280.00
Artificial vulva			1	€ 250.00	€ 250.00
Test swap for the mares			9	€ 40.00	€ 360.00
Hormone treatment per mare			7	€ 70.00	€ 490.00
Tickets for vet Thessaloniki - Rhodes - twice in April for treatments	estimation		2	€ 250.00	€ 500.00
Tickets for vet Thessaloniki - Kerkyra - once for vet check	estimation		1	€ 250.00	€ 250.00
Veterinary cost during the whole process	Free of charge		1		
Other additional costs	estimation		1	€ 2,000.00	€ 2,000.00
				ΣΥΝΟΛΟ	€ 14,438.00



ΔΕΩΝ

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Bank details:

Piraeus Bank

Association for the protection of the Rhodian Small Horse

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