

But there are few crematoriums around the state offering the service, and even on the cheaper end, it can be financially unfeasible for many people.

For those who still dream of their steeds spending eternity on a quiet pasture, Omega Farms is located outside Noti, about 40 miles west of Eugene. It is a 387-acre farm with wide open spaces for your horse to rest. It was started in 2003 by Marta and David Heidt, who decided to open their vast property for people who don't have their own space and machinery to bury their horses.

According to Marta Heidt, "it's got a lot of hills and pretty steep hillsides. The majority of it is timber and there's probably about 70 or so acres of flat pasture land. In the summertime, the horses are buried out in one of the fields. But in the winter, when the water comes up, we go up in the hills, and [David] buries them among the trees."

While it is also a working cattle ranch and farm, about 6,000 horses from around the state have been buried throughout the pasture.

Wendy Jameson is the owner of Tail End Transport, a pick-up service for large deceased animals. Along with regularly transporting horses to two of the only horse crematoriums (aside from Kali's, which does its own transport) within nine hours of Eugene (West Coast Pet Cremation in Portland and Petland Cemetery in Washington), she is the sole transport service for Omega Farms. She has also been an Omega customer for more than 20 years. "I remember my first horse I brought to them up vividly," she says. "They did the job with such grace and compassion."

The price to bury at Omega Farms is \$250 in cash or check, and you can either drop the horse off yourself or call Tail End Transport. After it is buried, you can visit it for free any time by appointment. For the Eugene area, Jameson says Omega Farms is a "good middle-priced option."

The cheapest option Jameson is referring to, is bringing your horse to the landfill, which Tail End also provides transportation for. Jameson suggests Short Mountain landfill. "We have found they are very organized and very respectful of the process," she says. "How do I say this? It's as graceful as it can be for a landfill."

To drop your horse off at Short Mountain, you have to call ahead and set an appointment, where you will be directed

to whichever bay that is currently accepting waste. The price to dispose of materials at the landfill is \$112.51 per ton (2,000 pounds) and pro-rated based on weight. This means that a 1,000 pound horse costs about \$56.26 to leave at the landfill.

Jameson adds that she has delivered to several dumps around the area, and Short Mountain is her top recommendation. "They do a very good job. I mean, if I had to, I would be OK with my horse going to Short Mountain."

There is also a free option for horse disposal, which is donating your horse to Wildlife Safari.

Wildlife Safari is a 600-acre drive-thru safari zoo located in Winston, 80 miles south of Eugene, that has elephants, zebras, tigers, cheetahs, lions and more.

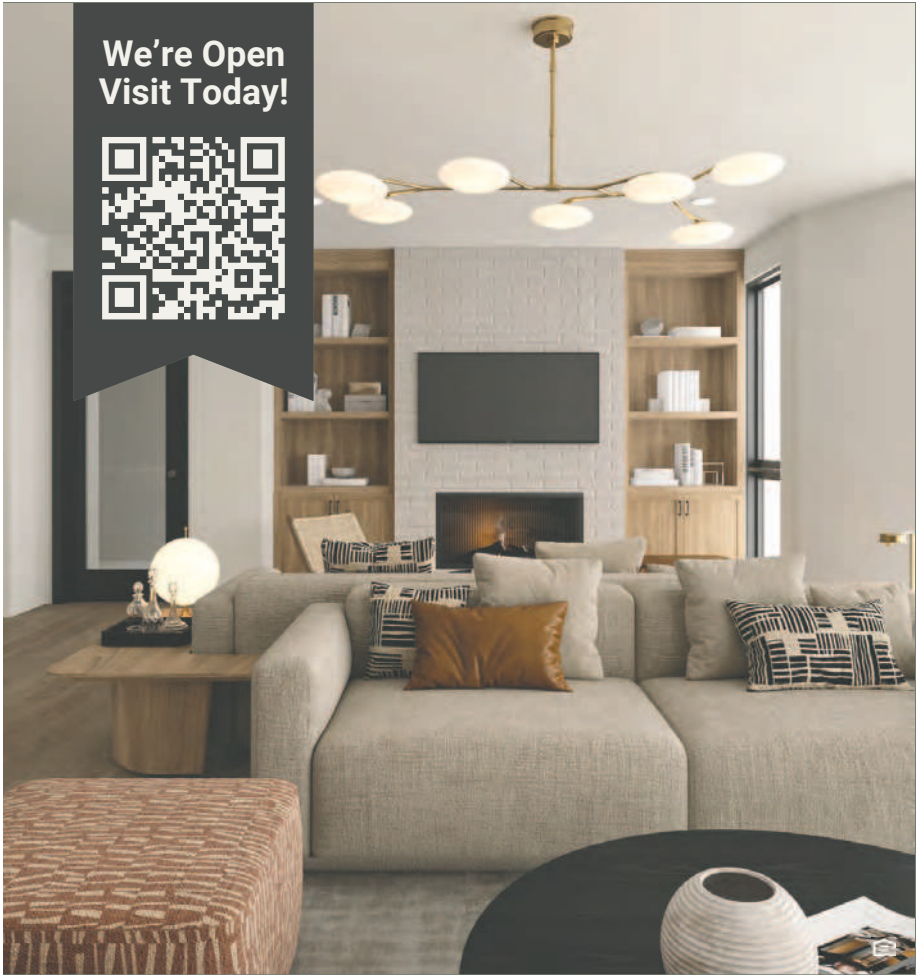
According to their marketing director, Ali Shaver, Wildlife Safari only accepts elderly horses at the end of their life. When your horse arrives, "we will humanely euthanize it," she says, using a captive bolt if possible and a bullet if not, "and then we will quarter it up and feed it to our big cats."

The carnivores have to be fed "lean meat, especially for our cheetahs, and horse meat is very lean," she says. Along with the horse meat, Wildlife Safari also mixes in essential vitamins for the cats. "So it's a good option for us, and it's an inexpensive option for us to make sure our animals are healthy and fed the way that they need to be fed."

She also mentions that this option can be beneficial for horse owners. Giving your horse to Wildlife Safari "is a tax write-off because it's a charitable donation."

Whatever you decide to do, Jameson and Brown both advise planning ahead so you know who to call, and that any decision you make for your horse is OK. "It's just one of those moments where there aren't enough hugs in the world," Jameson says.

Kali's Cremation is at 5807 Airway Drive, Klamath Falls, 509-948-6864 or email KalisCremations@yahoo.com. Visit KalisCremation.com for more information. Omega Farms is at 21479 Cook Road, Noti. Call 541-935-1588 or go to Omega-Farms.com for more information. For horse transportation to Omega Farms, landfills or other horse disposal areas, call Tail End Transport at 541-914-0500 or email TailEndTransport@gmail.com. Short Mountain landfill is open 7 am to 5 pm Monday through Saturday at 84777 Dillard Access Road. It is closed to the public. For more information about access and rates call 541-682-4120 or visit LaneCountyOr.Gov. Wildlife Safari is open 10 am to 6 pm every day at 1790 Safari Road, Winston. For more information call 541-679-6761 or visit WildlifeSafari.net.



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