

Suffolk Horse Gathering 2026

October 8-11, 2026

Virginia Horse Center Foundation, 487 Maury River Rd, Lexington, VA 24450
www.vahorsecenter.org

This event is hosted by Jason Rutledge.
Contact him if you have suggestions, are interested in taking Suffolks, or helping with the weekend.
biological.woodsman@gmail.com

Some rules for the facility and laws of Virginia:
Leave dogs at home, if you must, they have to be leashed at all times
No smoking, no alcohol, no firearms, no fireworks, no tractors, no lunging horses.
Horses must be stalled overnight.
Do not leave trash anywhere except in correct receptacles. Do not dump brown water-use the correct area to dispose.
Golf carts may be reserved from the facility– do not bring your own.
Having listed all these things, we realize we would not do any of these things anyway!

Proposed Itinerary

Thursday, 8 October 2026 - 1:00 pm We will conduct a Restorative Forestry Demonstration on Virginia Horse Center forests. This activity will be provided by HFF certified Biological Woodsmen. It will include chainsaw safety, directional tree felling, individual tree selection for improvement harvesting. This will be held in collaboration with The Virginia Department of Forestry.

Friday, 9 October 2026 - 9:00 am Halter classes. Our judges will be from England, certified by the Suffolk Horse Society. Ribbons awarded for 1st to 5th place and trophies for grand and reserve champion Mare and Stallion. Our invited guest speaker for the evening will be Dr. Phil Elsea, DVM on the subject of reproducing Suffolk Punch Draft Horses.

Saturday, 10 October 2026 - 9:00 am Performance classes will be judged through collaboration with Virginia Draft Horse and Mule Association members. All performance classes will be awarded ribbons and a trophy for Champion Working team. Best foot award judged by Master farrier Mitch Goldman who will also provide a shoeing workshop the evening of the first day.
6:00 pm Annual Meeting of the North American Suffolk Horse Association
7:00 pm Dinner in the Mezzanine dining area.
Music will be played each evening by volunteer musicians.

Sunday, 11 October 2026 - 9:00 am NASHA Board Meeting

Meals and Accommodations:

Food will need to be paid for at the various canteens on the grounds.

Camping is available – there is a fee.

Hotels are within a mile of the grounds.
Rooms have been blocked off for reserving at:

Sleep Inn Suites & VA Horse Center
5 Maury River Rd, Lexington VA 24450
540-463-6000 press 2 mention the NASHA Gathering

Choice of 1 King bed suite or 2 Queen bed room \$139.00/per night
3 nights + tax = \$480.81(ish) USD