

RETURN TO FREEDOM

ADOPTION EQUINE CARE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Horses that are transferred to new ownership are subject to the same standards of care expected of foster caregivers. ADOPTION stipulates that the TRANSFER OF TITLE is contingent upon the new owner's willingness to follow these conditions. If the new owner fails to meet these standards, he / she agrees that Return to Freedom has the right to reclaim the horse in exchange for return of any adoption fee initially collected by RTF from the adopter at the time ownership was transferred. This does NOT include any transport fees, costs of care, feed, farrier, vet, or board. The horse or horses placed with the new owner are not available for re-homing or sale by the new owner *unless* "owner" is a viable 501 C3 organization and their standards for adoption are approved by RTF.

RTF suggestions for care:

With regard to nutrition, we like to keep this as close to the horse's natural diet as possible. Quality grass hays such as timothy or orchard grass are preferable. These horses do best with simple foods and proper trimming. Horse shoes are often totally unnecessary.

Horses develop well into their fifth year. Although **relationship training** can start at any age, we do not put a lot of pressure on the young horses beyond developing his enthusiasm and focus. As the horse increases his desire to focus we can ask for more but should remember to always end the sessions positively, to leave him/her on a good note so that they *want* to spend more time with us again.

We recommend that the owner refrain from mounted training until the horse is at least well into their 3rd year or their 4th year. There is much that can be accomplished from the ground in earlier years. If a horse is substantially developed and is over 3, light preparation for riding may be appropriate. Remember that they were not created with us on their backs. Taking the time to let their minds and bodies grow strong will yield the best results.

The Adopter ("adopter") agrees not to use dominion over the animal to force him/her into a program that he/she is not suited or which causes the animal stress, injury or continued unhappiness. RTF believes in establishing a relationship based on trust and respect to create a **willing partnership**.

If for any reason the horse does not work out, the horse(s) must be returned to Return To Freedom Sanctuary. As long as the prospective owner is comfortable with that, please proceed with our Terms and Conditions.

1. Adopter hereby agrees to abide by and comply with the following terms and conditions set forth herein.
2. Adopter is legally and financially responsible for providing proper care and shelter. Owner is to guard and protect the horse in his / her care from being subject to malicious harm or endangerment, negligence, harassment or outright abuse.

3. "Abuse" as used herein shall mean physical aggression, the withholding of food, water, or shelter and/or emotional neglect and loneliness derived from isolation from other equines. Horses shall be provided with other suitable equine companions at all times, sufficient room and/or habitat to move, roll, play and exercise at will on a daily basis.
4. Adopter agrees to treat the horse humanely and with kindness, dignity and respect at all times.
5. Adopter agrees to refrain from riding the horse until it reaches 3-4 years of age.
6. Adopter agrees not to use severe training tools or aides such as severe bits and spurs.
7. Adopter agrees the horse is not to be used for commercial purposes and are not, therefore, to be placed with riding schools, horse rental programs (riding stables.
8. Adopter agrees not to breed the horse.
9. Adopter agrees to never send the horse to a rodeo.
10. Adopter agrees to never send the horse to auction or slaughterhouse.
11. Adopter agrees never to rope or "trip" the horse for sport or in any form for training.
12. Adopter agrees never to hobble the horse.
13. Adopter is responsible, as provided by State law, for any personal injury, property damage, or death caused by the animal in my care, for pursuing horses that escape or stray, and for cost of recapture. Owner also holds harmless Return To Freedom as provided by State law, for any personal injury, property damage, or death caused by the foster animal in their care, for pursuing horses that escape or stray, and for cost of recapture.
14. Adopter agrees that Return to Freedom retains the right to inspect the premises where the horse will being kept prior to adoption, or without notice if there has been a complaint or concern for neglect or abuse.
15. Adopter will not sell or transfer guardianship of the horse without express written authorization from Return to Freedom.
16. Should extreme hardship circumstances arise where adopter is no longer able to care for the horse, Return to Freedom is to be immediately notified.
17. In the event Adopter locates a prospective "replacement" Adopter, Return to Freedom retains the right to screen all potential candidates and retains the exclusive authority to extend acceptance of, or to decline, the candidate. The new Adopter must agree to all terms and conditions of care / ownership set forth herein by Return to Freedom.

18. In the event that the Adopter can no longer care for the horse, the horse shall be returned to Return to Freedom's care, custody and control. Adopter agrees to do what they can to pay all costs involved in transporting the horse back to Return to Freedom.
19. In the event that the horse's life must be terminated due to injury or illness, this must be done in a humane manner. A veterinarian needs to document that further medical intervention would not help the horse and euthanasia is the only humane option. RTF must be notified prior to euthanasia unless the situation is an emergency and immediate action must be taken; (horse cannot be kept comfortable, pain is too great, etc). Saving unusual and emergency conditions, the horse's life must be taken exclusively at the hands of a licensed veterinarian by tranquilizers followed by lethal injection. If owner wants to euthanize a horse simply because he has become unusable, or care may exceed the resources of time or money for the Adopter, RTF must be notified and given the opportunity to determine whether horse can have quality of life if treatment/care is made available.
20. Adopter shall immediately notify the authorized representative of Return to Freedom within 24 hours via telephone, e-mail or fax of discovery of the horse's death, theft or escape, and shall provide a Veterinary Certificate stating the cause of death within three (3) days. The owner shall be responsible for any expenses incurred by the death of the horse and its subsequent legal disposal.

Signature of Adopter

Date