



Adoption Policies

- 1) Horses At Heart will approve adoptions based on its assessment of the best situation for the horse. Horses At Heart reserves the right to deny an application for any reason.
- 2) Adopters must clearly understand that because these are rescued horses, Horses At Heart may not be able to provide any history or background information for them prior to their rescue. It is our policy to disclose everything we learn about a particular horse, including behavior we observe, handling or training issues we uncover, and veterinary concerns. But there is still a degree of risk involved in adopting a rescue horse because of the inherent lack of background information. Ideally, Horses At Heart is looking for adopters who primarily want to give a good home to a horse in need, and are understanding and accepting of that horse's potential limitations.
- 3) Adopters will be provided with this Adoption Information Sheet, this Adoption Policy and the publication 'Owner Responsibly' from the Unwanted Horse Coalition, which will be used as guidelines for Horses At Heart adoptions.

Some of the basic areas in which adopters are required to provide for the horse are:

- a) adequate shelter (minimum requirement is a large dry area where the horse can be fed and get out of harsh weather);
 - b) safe, secure fencing in good repair which meet the requirements of Horses At Heart;
 - c) adequate hay, feed, supplements and fresh water;
 - d) adequate turnout and/or exercise;
 - e) necessary veterinarian care, include routine checkups, vaccinations, teeth floating, and emergency care;
 - f) necessary farrier care on a regular basis; and
 - g) three personal references, only one of which may be a family member. One reference should be a trainer or someone who can vouch for the adopter's horse experience.
- 4) Potential adopters of Horses At Heart horses are required to submit to a site inspection prior to approval. A Horses At Heart representative will meet with the adopter at the location where the horse will be kept to assess that all the above requirements are met.
 - 5) As an organization, Horses At Heart feels that excessive breeding of horses is a large factor in the problem of unwanted, discarded and neglected horses. Therefore, it is our policy that mares and fillies adopted from Horses At Heart may not be used for future breeding and all stallions and colts will be gelded before they are offered for adoption.
 - 6) Horses At Heart reserves the right to revoke the adoption at any time during the horse's lifetime if Horses At Heart believes the horse is not being properly cared for in any manner. Horses At Heart will perform, at the minimum, yearly site visits and ask for regular updates on how the horse is doing. An adopter should expect that as many as (6) site visits could occur within the first 24 months of adoption.

- 7) An adopted horse may not be moved from their approved location during the first two years after adoption without Horses At Heart approval. If, at any point during the lifetime of the horse, the adopter chooses to re-locate the horse, the adopter shall notify Horses At Heart of the new location for a site visit by Horses At Heart.
- 8) Horses At Heart is seeking forever homes for our horses. We realize that situations may change and the need to re-home may arise. Horses At Heart's policy is that adopters may not sell, lease, trade, transfer, gift, donate, or any other form of relinquishing sole ownership of said horse to another party without written permission from Horses At Heart. An adopter who has intention to sell, lease, trade, transfer, gift, or donate the horse, shall notify Horses At Heart with the understanding that Horses At Heart has right to reclaim the horse rather than accept the transfer. In the event that Horses At Heart does not exercise its right, Horses At Heart maintains the right to approve any future adopter and the horse's new home, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. New adopters/owners/guardians must sign a new Adoption Contract with Horses At Heart. The goal is not to disallow an adopter from selling a horse, but to ensure that a previously rescued horse never ends up in a degraded situation again.
- 9) Horses At Heart reserves the right to remove the horse from any situation in which the horse is not being cared for properly or is deemed unsafe. Every attempt by Horses At Heart will be made to avoid this situation through education, instruction, guidance and assistance to rectify the negative conditions. This right extends for the life of the horse.
- 10) Horses At Heart welcomes and encourages first-time horse owners to apply for adoption. We do ask that there be an experienced horse person available to provide guidance to the first time horse owner and help when needed. Our first priority is assuring that both the horse and the adopter will be safe.