

## Adoptions

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### Requirements

- o Interested adopter must fill out adoption application prior to visiting the horse. This is not a commitment to adopt.
- o Equine must have at least one other grazing animal as a companion, preferably another equine.
- o Equine must have shelter; either a run-in shed large enough so that each equine has at least 150 sq ft for each equine to accommodate all the animals in the field without crowding; or a stall at least 10'x10'. Stalls must be kept clean and safe with no protruding nails, etc.
- o Fencing must be in good repair. No barbed wire fencing is allowed.
- o Equine must have enough space outside to adequately exercise for the age, size and species of the equine.
- o The equine must have access to the outside for at least 8 hours per day (weather permitting.)
- o Equine must have fresh, clean water in a clean bucket and trough at all times.
- o Equine must be fed high quality hay and feed. No moldy hay or feed is permitted under any circumstances.
- o Equine must be fed appropriately for its age, breed and size to maintain a body condition score of no less than 4.5 and no more than 6 on the Henneke Body Condition Scale.
- o Adopter must have horse experience or must be receiving instructions from a qualified horse trainer/riding instructor.

### Policies

- o The Executive Director has final approval rights for all adoptions. Decisions concerning adoptions are always made with the best interest of the horse in mind.
- o If several potential adopters are working through the process, all will have equal standing. If all seem to be compatible matches, the Executive Director will review and make the final decision as to who will adopt the horse.
- o Adopters are required to understand all of VEWS Adoption Policies and Procedures as outline in the Adoption Contract/Bill of Sale.
- o Adopters must maintain the horse under terms of contract at adopter's expense.
- o VEWS maintains an ownership interest, defined as an involvement in the horse's best interest and welfare, in every adopted horse for 12 months from the date of

adoption. The adopter is required to follow all requirements of the adoption contract or forfeit ownership of the horse without compensation.

- o If requested at the end of 12 months, a transfer of ownership certificate will be provided.
- o Adopters must notify VEWS of change of facility and/or personal contact information until ownership interest period ends.
- o Adopter must allow a VEWS representative to visit the horse within 6 months of adoption and again 6 months later. If VEWS is unable to reach the adopter within a reasonable amount of time, VEWS' representatives will make an unannounced visit.
- o Adopter may not sell or give the equine away during the 12-month ownership interest period.
- o Once the 12-month ownership interest period has passed, VEWS retains the right of first refusal for up to a 24-month time period should the adopter need to give away or sell the equine.
- o Adopted equines may not be used as a broodmare, raced, or sent to auction for its entire life.
- o VEWS does not pay any post-adoption expenses on adopted equines.

Adoption Process

- o Complete an adoption application (from website or download and email to [VEWSadopt@gmail.com](mailto:VEWSadopt@gmail.com))
- o Once received, the Adoption Director will reach out within a reasonable amount of time.
- o References will be verified and an appointment will be made by VEWS' Adoption Director or a VEWS' representative to make arrangements to visit the horse. Two separate visits of the horse are required.
- o If compatibility is verified, a facility check will be arranged and if the facility passes the adoption can go forward.
- o We often receive more than one application to adopt a certain horse. Until an adoption contract has been signed and the donation to VEWS for the horse has been paid, the horse will still be considered available to other applicants. All other applicants will have the same opportunity to visit the horse. After that process, VEWS' Executive Director will make the decision as to the best situation for the horse.
- o Once an adoption has been approved, the adopter is responsible for hauling the horse to its new home.
- o The equine is officially available when the Executive Director gives authorization.
- o A potential adopter may visit a horse prior to its being officially available for adoption.