



# All About Equine Animal Rescue, Inc.

## ADOPTION & FOSTER POLICY/AGREEMENT

Effective Date: June 1, 2009

### 1.0 Policy.

The adoption/foster policy of All About Equine Animal Rescue, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as AAE) is designed to help ensure that all AAE equines are placed in suitable homes, whether temporary or permanent. The equine adopter/foster must be at least 18 years of age with no history of animal abuse or neglect.

### 2.0 Application Process.

The prospective adoption/foster applicant shall submit a complete Adoption/Foster package to AAE. A complete Adoption/Foster Package shall consist of:

- 1) A completed and approved Adoption/Foster Application
- 2) A signed copy of the Adoption/Foster Policy/Agreement
- 3) Adoption fee (non-refundable); applies to permanent adoption only

The approval process will begin upon receipt of the completed Adoption/Foster package. The Adoption/Foster Application will be reviewed and evaluated to assure the applicant meets AAE requirements; references will be verified; and a background check may be conducted. An approved adoption/foster application is valid for a period of six months from the date of approval and can be applied to any subsequent equine the applicant would like to adopt/foster. Adopters/fosters that return an equine may be required to resubmit a new Adoption/Foster Package prior to adopting/fostering subsequent equine(s).

After review and verification of application package, a volunteer inspector may be assigned to conduct an on-site inspection of the property. Every attempt will be made to inspect within 14 days. The inspector will verify that any and all animals on the property are properly cared for, and the property is safe, well maintained, and adequate for the equine. If the equine will be boarded, the inspector will also interview the owner and/or manager of the boarding facility, and notify the boarding facility that AAE must be notified immediately if the boarder does not pay their boarding bill or in any way abuses, neglects, or abandons the equine.

AAE reserves the right to choose the adopter/foster that represents the most appropriate match to an equine; AAE reserves the right to reject an application. If AAE rejects an applicant, application fee will be returned.

### 3.0 Standards Of Care.

The following guidelines are applicable to general equine management practices and must be agreed to prior to adopting/fostering an equine. While not comprehensive, they offer basic parameters for responsible equine ownership. In addition, adopter/foster must agree to comply with all relevant federal, state, and local equine-related laws.

The number of equines should never exceed the ability of the adopter/foster to feed and care for them properly. Such limits are dependent not only upon the physical health of the individual, but also the financial ability to maintain proper management.

### 3.1 General Management Practices.

Various types of enclosures are available to confine equines including, but not limited to stalls, dry lots, or pastures. AAE's philosophy is that horses should have as natural an environment as possible. Adopters/fosters agree to provide housing with sufficient opportunity and space to exercise daily and have freedom of movement as necessary to reduce stress and maintain good physical condition, preferably 24/7 turnout for any adopted/fostered equines. Exceptions to 24/7 turnout may be made on a case-by-case basis. Space and provisions for exercise shall be appropriate for the age, condition and size of the equine. It is strongly preferred that equines have compatible pasture mates, and they do not live alone. Any area in which

equines are kept must have safe fencing and be free from hazards such as debris, machinery, etc. The following are requirements which must be met in order to adopt/foster an equine; however, all will be considered on a case-by-case basis:

### **3.2 Facility Requirements.**

**3.2.1 Pasture.** A minimum of 1/2 acre pasture per equine on the property. Exceptions may be made in those cases where the equine will be maintained at a boarding facility provided the equine, if stalled, is provided daily turnout of an adequate time and space.

**3.2.2 Shelter.** A man-made shelter is preferred, but adequate shelter from trees will be considered. AAE recommends a 12 foot by 12 foot stall per standard size equine in a barn with turnout or pasture; or a three-sided run-in shelter with a recommended 12 foot by 12 foot space per equine in pasture. If man-made shelter is provided, a minimum 10 foot by 10 foot stall is required. Stalls and shelters shall be constructed to provide sufficient space for each equine to turn around, lie down, and move freely and to allow free air flow. Shelter shall provide protection from extreme weather including but not limited to: prevailing wind, snow, sleet, rain, sun, and temperature extremes. Shelters may be constructed with sides that are removable during the summer. All enclosures, stalls and/or shelters shall be kept in good repair and free of standing water, accumulated waste, debris, sharp objects, nails or other objects that could potentially cause injury to the equine. If the barn or shelter is metal, the exposed metal siding on the inside of the stall and/or shelter shall be covered with 3/4" to 1" plywood or 2" by 6" boards.

**3.2.3 Water.** Troughs or individual water sources must be available to provide adequate water supply for all equines. All water receptacles shall be kept clean and free of contaminants, and they should be positioned or affixed to minimize spillage. Equines shall have access to water at all times when not actually being trained or ridden. Equines that are being trained, worked, ridden or transported shall be provided water as often as needed for their health and comfort. Frequency of watering shall take into consideration the age, condition and size of the equine, activity level and climatic conditions.

**3.2.4 Feed and Storage.** Equines shall receive at a minimum the equivalent of 3% of their body weight per day in high quality forage and grain. If natural forage is insufficient in quality or quantity, diet shall be supplemented with quality hay. Diet shall be planned with consideration for the age, condition, size, and activity level of the equine. If more than one animal is fed at the same place and time, it shall be the responsibility of the adopter to ensure that each equine receives nutrition in sufficient quantity. If necessary, equines shall be separated to ensure each has access to adequate nutrition without interference from more dominant individuals. Individual feed buckets or troughs should be provided for each equine. All storage and feeding receptacles shall be kept clean and free of contaminants and hazards, such as feces, mold, mildew, rodents, insects and mechanical hazards. Stored feed shall be kept in such a manner that equines cannot gain access to it.

**3.2.5 Fencing.** Fencing shall be of solid construction, visible to equines, and without sharp edges; electric fencing is acceptable. It is preferred that barbed wire fencing not be used in areas of five or less acres, or along any area separating equines from one another. Use of electric wire may preclude the barbed wire provision. T-posts shall be appropriately capped when used as cross fencing to separate pastures, along any fence line adjacent to another equine property, and/or where property is less than five acres. Fencing shall be monitored on a regular basis to ensure its safety and effectiveness is maintained.

**3.2.6 Cattle Guards.** Cattle guards will not be permitted unless there is a gate separating the equines from the cattle guard or the equines do not have access to it.

**4.0 Approval Procedures.** After the equine property inspection has been successfully completed and the applicant's facilities have been approved, an AAE representative will notify the applicant that they are approved to adopt/foster. At this time the applicant may request priority on a specific equine.

- 1) The adopter/foster will be required to immediately notify AAE of any change in mailing and/or equine property address, phone numbers, email, or any other contact information.
- 2) Approval applies only to the foster property that is initially inspected. Prior to relocation of a foster home, AAE must conduct an inspection of the new property prior to moving equine.
- 3) If, after approval, the adopter/foster does not take possession of an equine and becomes inactive in excessive of twelve months, the property must be re-inspected.

- 4) If at any time the adopter/foster fails to follow procedures, violates the Adoption/Foster Policy/Agreement, or an equine's health declines, adopter/foster agrees AAE has the authority to remove said equine from the property without prior notice. On the day of the removal, the adopter/foster will be notified in writing stating the reason for the removal and, if warranted, the revocation of the adopter/foster's approval status.

## **5.0 Approved Adoptive/Foster Home Procedures.**

**5.1 Placing An Equine Into An Approved Adoptive/Foster Home.** When placing an equine into an adoptive/foster home, the following policies/procedures will be followed:

- 1) AAE will set a non-refundable adoption fee for the equine. Until adoption fee is paid, AAE reserves the right to change the adoption fee as the equine progresses in rehabilitation and/or training, and the adoption fee may be reviewed periodically and adjusted higher or lower. The adoption fee should be paid by cash or money order.
- 2) A foster home (foster) is considered a temporary adoption until a permanent adoptive home can be found. Foster must make equine(s) available for viewing by prospective adopters at all times (by appointment). An adoption fee is not required of a foster.

Foster period is from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. Arrangements for equine transport back to AAE must be made with AAE 30 days in advance. The foster period may be extended by foster in writing, 30 days prior to end date of foster period.

- 3) Once an adopter/foster makes a request to adopt/foster an equine, AAE will review the application to evaluate adopter/foster's capabilities and needs (both facilities and equine experience) to see whether there are any obvious reasons why the equine requested appears not to be a good match for the adopter/foster. If equine is being adopted/fostered for riding purposes, the listed rider(s) (plus tack weight) should not weigh more than 30% of the equine's body weight. If the equine is to be ridden and/or driven, AAE recommends the adopter/foster arrange a demonstration and test ride/drive prior to adoption/foster.
- 4) If the match appears to be suitable, then the first approved adopter/foster will have first priority on the requested equine. Subsequent approved adopters/fosters who request to adopt/foster the same equine will be placed on a waiting list in the order approved.
- 5) Every effort will be made to disclose the known history of each particular equine, as AAE understands it. These are rescued equines, and in some circumstances, AAE may have little or no knowledge about the equine's life or training, prior to arriving at AAE. AAE will inform prospective adopter/foster whatever significant information AAE knows about the equine. However, AAE cannot guarantee an equine's temperament, training, or suitability for a particular purpose.
- 6) It is advised that adopter's veterinarian evaluate equine at adopter's expense prior to adopting any equine. If adopting for a particular purpose or event, AAE also suggests a trainer or instructor evaluate the equine.
- 7) The adoption applicant is responsible for transporting the equine to its new home once the adoption is approved, and the non-refundable adoption fee is paid.
- 8) An Equine Health Record will have been created for the equine, which will list any special medical conditions and/or needs, as well as dental, vaccine, farrier and worming schedules. The Equine Health Record will also describe equine's current diet. Before the equine is adopted/fostered out it will be at a healthy weight. Adopter/foster's with experience rehabilitating equines may be approved for fostering/adopting horses still rehabilitating.
- 9) The adopter/foster may return the equine to AAE for any reason at any time. If AAE must transport the horse, the adopter/foster will be responsible for the cost of transporting the equine back to AAE or an approved foster home. The adopter/foster will also be responsible for the cost of any veterinary care needed as a result of injuries or illnesses sustained in the adopter/foster's home, and the cost of any other expenses incurred by AAE as a result of the adopter/foster's acts or omissions while in possession of the equine.
- 10) AAE will not reimburse the adoptive/foster home for any expenses incurred on behalf of the equine while in the adoptive/foster home.
- 11) During the first year following the date of execution of the Adoption Agreement between AAE and Adopter, the equine may only be transferred back to AAE. The adopter must complete and submit the

Adopted Horse Relinquishment Form and allow AAE 30 days to place the equine into foster care, if necessary. Subsequent to the first year, AAE must approve all subsequent adopter(s), or AAE will accept the equine back into AAE's care.

- 12) The Adoption/Foster Agreement will be considered complete when the adoption home has successfully passed post-placement inspections at 6 months and 12 months. However, AAE reserves the right to inspect the adopter/foster at any time within the first 12 months.
- 13) Adopter/foster agrees he/she will never sell adopted equine at auction/slaughter or sell, transfer, release, or otherwise place the equine into possession of any person that will cause the equine to be sold at auction or slaughter. Any adopter/foster responsible for sale of adopted equine at auction/slaughter will be responsible for all costs incurred by AAE in recovery of the equine or triple the adoption fee, whichever is greater.

**5.2 Breeding.** AAE policy forbids the breeding of an adopted/fostered horse, as there are already too many homeless equines and unwanted equines going to auction/slaughter. However, exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. Should AAE learn that an adopted horse has been used for breeding without written permission of AAE, such breeding is a breach of contract and can result in ownership of the adopted horse and offspring reverting to AAE.

**5.3 Financial Responsibilities.** Upon agreement to adopt/foster an equine from AAE, the adopter/foster takes complete responsibility for the equine, including boarding fees, grain, hay, paste wormer, farrier, and other costs including veterinary expenses once in their care, as well as responsibility for injury or damage to the person or property of another.

Foster care expenses may be tax deductible. Foster should consult with a tax professional to verify.

**5.4 Health Guidelines.** Equines shall maintain a body condition score of no less than 4 on the Henneke Body Condition Scoring Chart. Exceptions shall be made for equines under regular veterinary care for a medical condition. If the health of an equine in adoptive/foster care is in decline and weight loss occurs, the adopter/foster must immediately notify AAE of such circumstances. The adopter/foster agrees to forward a veterinarian's brief statement of named equine's residence, general condition, weight, teeth and hoof condition upon request. The adopter/foster agrees AAE has the right to obtain all veterinary records directly from any veterinarian treating the named equine and that execution of the placement agreement shall serve as a release to the applicable veterinarian authorizing the delivery to AAE of all veterinary records maintained.

**5.5 Hoof Care.** The adopter/foster shall ensure that the equine will receive regular hoof care and maintenance every six to eight weeks, or as directed by a veterinarian or natural hoof care practitioner. Fostered horses should **NOT be shod** without the express written permission of AAE. Shoeing of a horse without such permission is a breach of contract. Exceptions may be determined by veterinary or other expert consultation when such care is deemed necessary or would endanger the equine in question and/or their caretaker(s), i.e., in the case of wild or untamed equines.

**5.6 Humane Euthanasia.** Should the adopted/fostered equine suffer an injury or condition for which a licensed veterinarian recommends euthanasia, then a licensed veterinarian may administer euthanasia. If euthanasia is considered for any other reason, then AAE must be notified and consulted before any action is taken. This restriction is active for the first year following the date of execution of the Adoption Agreement. The adopter/foster shall immediately notify AAE of such euthanasia and provide a veterinary statement and record of the euthanasia. **Adopter/foster agrees no adopted/fostered horse shall be euthanized for laminitis, founder, or navicular, without the written consent of AAE.**

Only a licensed veterinarian may administer euthanasia, except in an extreme emergency when a veterinarian is not available. A veterinarian shall examine the carcass to verify, in writing to AAE, such immediate need. Carcass shall be disposed of in compliance with all relevant law.

**5.7 Mental and Emotional Health.** The adopter/foster agrees, by signing this policy, that all equines are sentient creatures with mental and emotional needs. These include the company of other equines, access to

open areas, humane training and handling methods, and respect for the equinee as a living creature with its own unique needs. No adopted/fostered equine shall be treated in a way to jeopardize it's mental and emotional health, and such treatment is a breach of contract. No equine shall be forced into a discipline for which it is not physically, mentally, and emotionally suited. Such conditions shall also be a breach of contract.

**5.8 Sale or other disposal of equine.** No adopted equine shall be sold, given away, donated to another agency, or leased without the express written permission of AAE. This is not to inconvenience the adoptive owner, but to safeguard the welfare of the equine. If the adoptive owner can no longer afford to keep the equine, then it can be returned to AAE.

## **6 Restrictions.**

**6.1 Breeding.** No breeding of adopted or fostered equines is permissible. Studs shall be physically separated from pastured mares by a minimum of a ten foot buffer zone, constructed of adequate fencing at a minimum of six feet in height.

**6.2 Branding.** No branding of adopted or fostered equines is permissible.

**6.3 Racing.** No racing of adopted or fostered equines is permissible.

**7.0 Additional Terms:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

I hereby agree to Adopt or Foster (circle one) the following equine(s):

Name of Equine(s): \_\_\_\_\_ AAE ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Equine(s): \_\_\_\_\_ AAE ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby agree that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Adoption/Foster Policy of AAE.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Adopter/Foster Applicant(s) signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name(s) of Adopter/Foster Applicant(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
AAE Representative's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name(s) of AAE Representative