



The Dorset Equine Rescue, Inc.  
P.O. Box 92  
East Dorset, VT 05253  
802-366-1300  
dorsetequinerescue@yahoo.com

## Adoption Contract

This agreement is made between The Dorset Equine Rescue, Inc., hereby referred to as "DER", and \_\_\_\_\_, hereby referred to as "Adopter."

Adopter agrees to adopt and care for the following equine for the purpose of providing a safe, healthy, and loving environment for the horse and will abide by all anti-cruelty laws of the state in which the animal will reside.

A) Name of Horse: \_\_\_\_\_ Age/DOB (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

B) Gender of Horse: \_\_\_\_\_

C) Approximate Height of Horse: \_\_\_\_\_

D) Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

E) Registry and Registration Number (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

F) Description of Horse, including brands, scars, tattoos, or disabilities: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Bringing Your Adopted Horse Home:**

Congratulations on your newly adopted equine! Thank you for giving a rescued equine a second chance. Please keep in mind that most of our rescue horses have come from various neglectful situations. It should be expected that the transition to an unfamiliar environment can be stressful as they are leaving their herd behind. The horse should be given a minimum of 3-7 days to adjust to their new surroundings and herd before over stimulating them. Going to a new home can be a frightening experience and it's important that you are patient and understanding with them during this transition.

### **Required Level of Care:**

The level of care of Adoption Horses should be the highest standards in the industry.

#### Required Veterinarian Care:

- Spring Inoculations – Eastern/Western Encephalitis, Tetanus, Rabies, and any others recommended by your vet
- Annual Dental Care (floating of teeth)
- Fall Inoculations – Influenza, Rhino, and any others recommended by your vet
- Rotated de-worming every 8 weeks.
- Hoof care every 6-8 weeks.

Horses are herd animals and are happiest when they have an equine companion. Horses will not be adopted out to a home without another horse and must always be turned out with an equine companion unless due to a temporary medical emergency.

The horse must have daily turnout of no less than 8 hours unless there is dangerous weather or a medical reason.

An equine veterinarian is to be called for any illness and any serious injury. If diagnosis of injury or illness cannot be treated due to financial reasons, the horse must be returned to DER immediately.

The horse must be trimmed or shod by a qualified farrier, going no longer than every 8 weeks. The feet are to be cleaned regularly.

Each horse must receive the required daily feed allowance plus plenty of good quality grass or hay.

Each horse must be offered no less than 15 gallons of fresh water each day, either in buckets or in a regularly cleaned out water trough (Must be heated in the winter). A stagnant pond or creek is not an acceptable primary source of water.

The adopter agrees not to work the horse beyond its physical limitations at any time or to put the horse in harms way at any time. Miniature Horses should not hold more than 50 pounds of body weight.

The minimum turnout requirement for two full size horses is 1/2 acre. For each additional horse, the minimum space requirement will increase by an additional 1/8 acre per horse. Miniature horses and small ponies require less space. The minimum turnout requirement for two mini horses is 5,000 square feet. For each additional mini, the minimum space requirement will increase by 500 square feet per mini. You must have a dry lot (no grass) available to put the minis on as needed.

The horse must have access to at least a 3-sided shed in the paddock or field to block wind and bad weather. This shed must be an adequate size to house all the horses turned out in their paddock/pasture.

Your pasture must have safe and sturdy fencing. Barbed wire or a single wire electric fence is not acceptable. T-Posts must have plastic caps on the tops.

Variations in facility requirements depend on the horse, the region and the predominant weather.

Adopter agrees and understands that, under no circumstances, is an adopted horse(s) to be sold at a Livestock Auction or to Slaughter.

The Adopter agrees to contact DER for the following reasons:

- If Adopter can no longer care for the horse.
- If the horse dies.
- If the horse becomes seriously injured or ill.

Although we strive to make a perfect match, we understand that sometimes things happen that are out of our control. If you are no longer able to care for your adopted horse for ANY reason, you must notify DER immediately and give DER the option to take the horse back.

We will either assist you in placing the horse in a pre-approved home through our adoption program, or the horse must come back to us. Please note that we have very limited space at our shelter and may not be able to take the horse back until a space opens.

Adopted horses are not to be sold, given away or transferred without first going through our adoption process. The potential new adopter must read our adoption requirements and fill out an adoption application found on our website. They will then go through the same approval process as any other adopter and DER will require a new contract with them.

DER will check in on the adopted horse after 1, 3 and 6 months after adoption and then annually after that.

It is advised that the adopter pay for a pre purchase exam if you have any questions prior to the horse departing DER's facility.

I chose to have a pre-purchase exam. *Adopter's Initials:* \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Veterinarian who completed pre-purchase exam: \_\_\_\_\_

I chose to decline a pre-purchase exam. *Adopter's Initials:* \_\_\_\_\_

All costs upon departing and while away are to be paid by the Adopter, even the return transportation fee. DER is not responsible for any accidents or injuries either to the horse or adopter after leaving our facility.

\* Adoption Fee: Concurrent with the Signature of this Agreement, Adopter is to pay a non-refundable adoption fee in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to The Dorset Equine Rescue, Inc. Payment in full is required before removal of the adopted horse from DER.

\* Prohibited Uses: ADOPTER AGREES THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL THE ADOPTED HORSE BE USED FOR BREEDING PURPOSES.

*Adopter's Initials:* \_\_\_\_\_

\* Disclosure and Release: Adopter represents, warrants, and declares that Adopter is aware of the following in connection with his/her adopted DER horse:

A) That horses are different from human beings in their responses to human actions

B) That the actions of horses are often unpredictable

C) That horses should be closely and carefully supervised when with or around children

D) That the adopted horse's behavior may change after it leaves DER's facility

E) That horses in a new environment may act differently and Adopter will afford the horse adequate time (at least 7 days) to acclimate to its new environment before being ridden, to the extent the horse is rideable

F) That any statements made by The Dorset Equine Rescue and/or its representatives regarding the adopted horse, either orally or within this adoption agreement, are merely opinions and are made or given solely as a courtesy to those considering adopting a horse from DER, and in no way amount to claims, representations or warranties as to the temperament, health, or mental disposition of the adopted horse or the suitability or safety of the adopted horse for Adopter's intended purposes.

G) Adopter releases, discharges, indemnifies and holds harmless The Dorset Equine Rescue from and against all claims, liens, damages, losses, and causes of action which may be asserted by Adopter and all third parties for injury or damage to all persons, property, or thing whatsoever caused directly or indirectly by the adopted horse

H) Any individual or organization in possession of the equine as of the date of the agreement and any time thereafter is bound to not sell the equine at auction or for slaughter or allow the equine to be sold, transferred, released, or otherwise placed into possession of any person or organization that will cause or allow the equine to be sold at auction or slaughter.

*Adopters Initials (subsections A through H):* \_\_\_\_\_

The Dorset Equine Rescue holds the right to recover the horse(s) if ever abused, abandoned, neglected, starved, or mistreated, etc., in anyway. The Adopter agrees to abide by the Required Level of Care, or the horse can and will be recovered by DER at any time. DER reserves the right to visit the equine anytime after adoption with 48-hour advance notice to the adopter.

I have read and understand the conditions of the Adoption Contract and agree to uphold the highest level of care for my adopted horse.

Name of Adopter: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Adopter: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_

Dorset Equine Rescue, Inc. Representative

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_