

# Equine Adoption Agreement & Policy



Adopting a horse, while it may be a happy and eventful occasion for a family or a great joy to the individual owner, it is nevertheless a BIG decision that involves a great deal of responsibility.

Illinois Horse Rescue of Will County "IHR" has created this agreement/policy to make your adoption process be both a positive and pleasurable experience. We will assist you in choosing the right horse to suit your particular needs and wants.

With that being said you need to be prepared to take on this lifelong commitment to ensure that your adopted horse is well treated and taken care of for the rest of its life.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All potential adopters are required to fill out our Adoption Application, submit a veterinarian reference, (2) personal references and photos of the facility where the horse will be staying. This may include but is not limited to pasture, stable, stall, paddocks, fencing, etc.

## ADOPTION

Only adopters with an approved Adoption Application will be considered to adopt a horse from Illinois Horse Rescue of Will County. Once the application has been processed you will be contacted by phone, from there upon an approved application we will schedule an appointment for you to come in.

## APPLICATION / ADOPTION FEES

There is a \$35.00 non-refundable fee to process this application and you must be 18 years of age or older to apply.

Each horse has an adoption fee to be paid in full at the time of adoption. All fees paid are non-refundable. It is to be understood that regardless of the reason and under no circumstance can the adoption fee be refunded, even if the adoption process has stopped or you decide to return the horse. Illinois Horse Rescue of Will County reserves the right to refuse adoption of any horse to any adopter if we feel that the adopter is not a good match.

All adopted horse(s) must be given proper feed, abundant water supply, shelter, medical care, farrier care, wormer, vaccines on a regular basis and so on.

## DEATH or ILLNESS

Adopter agrees and understands should a life-threatening situation arise, and the horse is suffering, a veterinarian's advice is required. In the event the horse has passed on from natural causes, old age or that it needs to be humanely euthanized please inform IHRWC within 24 hours.

Please have a licensed veterinarian send a statement stating the apparent cause of death and a certificate of Death within (14) days of deceased adopted equine.

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## GIVING AWAY

Horses adopted from IHRWC are absolutely forbidden to be sold, given away, traded or used for breeding purposes, in doing so will be a violation of this adoption agreement/policy and will result in prosecution.

## RELINQUISH

In the event that you are no longer able to care for the horse you have adopted from IHRWC, we ask that you return the horse, fill out an equine relinquish form (so that we may update the horse's records) and **pay the relinquish fee that can be up to \$1,000.00. Fee is not negotiable.** This policy allows for the least traumatic transition for the horse.

## BOARDING

IHRWC is happy to be able to offer you boarding at our facility. This is an excellent opportunity for new horse owners especially, because you will be among many educated, experienced staff members that are always available to lend a helping hand or to answer any questions you may have.

## FOLLOW UP

Illinois Horse Rescue of Will County requires that the adopter submit clear full photos front, back and each side of the adopted horse twice a year due by March 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>.

In addition to photos we will make random horse inspections to physically view the adopted horse, each case is different and may require one of our investigators to approach the residence to discuss the condition of the adopted horse.

## OWNERSHIP

All horses adopted from IHRWC are jointly owned by the adopter and IHRWC.

Please Sign that you have read and understand the above policy and procedures for adoption.

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Adopter Signature)

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Illinois Horse Rescue Representative)

*We would love to post YOUR successful Adoption story on our website!*