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EQUINE ADOPTION INFORMATION

Our equine adoption process is in place to assure that all horses are properly matched to caring, competent and long-term homes. We encourage people to take their time when considering adopting a horse. The cost of caring for a single horse is a minimum (emergencies excluded) of \$2,500 a year. Horses can live to be thirty years or more and to care for them properly requires special knowledge and usually practical care experience. An adopter has to have this knowledge and experience or has to know how to seek it out, apply it and rely on other more experienced horse people for support and assistance. Depending on the facilities, support help, equipment you have and other factors (such as a horse's individual training level, etc.) taking care of an equine can also be labor intensive. Day-to-day care could require mucking out stalls, picking feet, carrying grain, water and supplies, providing hay, medicating an ill horse, moving and handling, etc. It is a big commitment.

It is our goal that the horse be placed in an environment that will assure his/her health and safety for the long-term. We also desire for the adopter to be very happy with the placement, as this factor is imperative in building a strong bond between the adopter and the animal. Naturally, this also helps build good relations for the SPCA. For these reasons, we have a process in place and try to feel out as many concerns as possible ahead of time. This also helps avoid the horse having to go through multiple transitions/homes (which can be the source of behavior problems and result in the horse developing habits that could affect his/her overall future adoptability and stability).

Because we understand that adoption of a rescue horse is not for everyone, we do have some restrictions as part of our adoption agreement which you should know up front. We have these restrictions because there is a nationwide overpopulation of equines. This overpopulation results in a great deal of needless suffering for these noble and magnificent animals. Moreover, because caring for a horse humanely requires specialized knowledge, facilities, significant financial resources and commitment, as mentioned above, and because these horses have already been the victims of severe neglect, we have clauses in our adoption contract which restrict the following:

1. We do not allow breeding of any kind for these animals.
2. Transfer of ownership is restricted.

Adoption Fees: There is no set fee for adopting one of our rescue horses. We only ask for a donation which will be used to help provide care for the remaining equines and help defray care expenses that have already been paid out. We can provide information on a suggested donation amount.

ADOPTION PROCESS:

1. Check out adoptable equine books, posters, flyers, etc. *Please note: The most up to date information on available horses can be obtained by calling the Finger Lakes SPCA, Inc. - 607-776-3039 ask for Vicki.
2. Fill out application.
3. Once you have your application completed, call the Shelter to advise of which horses you would like to see/visit. The Shelter will provide you with appropriate foster contact information at that point.
4. Call foster provider and arrange visit. Note: Please be patient with foster personnel regarding scheduling an appointment. Although most times this can be arranged very quickly, they all have full-time jobs and the additional work of caring for these horses.
5. After your visit(s), advise foster personnel if you are contemplating adopting a particular horse.
6. Complete adoption agreement and call Shelter to arrange meeting to discuss site visit, equine's medical history, terms of adoption agreement, and review references, etc.
7. Following successful completion of site visit and reference check, adoption can be finalized.

All adoptions are at the discretion of F.L.SPCA staff.