



Shelly Wright: Equine Director, Horses Help Therapeutic Riding Center

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Dear Horse Owner,

Thank you for considering Horses Help as the next home for your horse. Horses Help has been helping people with disabilities experience the joys of riding and horsemanship for over 30 years. It is very important to us that the horses we bring into our herd are going to be happy working in our equine assisted activities and therapies. Working with the special needs population is not the best fit for every horse. The role comes with unique challenges and requires a very steadfast and trusting equine companion. Please help us get to know a little bit about your horse by filling out and returning the *Horse Profile* form. Completed forms can be emailed to me at shelly.w@horseshelp.org.

After I review the *Horse Profile* form I will let you know if your horse fits our program criteria and current program needs, or if I need more information. The next step would be an onsite evaluation with the horse so we can see how he/she acts in a familiar setting. This evaluation usually requires one or two members of Horses Help and some of the equipment and obstacles that the horse will encounter in our programs. We like to see the horse move on a lunge line or while ridden by the owner or someone that is familiar with the horse, using the horse's regular saddle and bridle. After that, one of our representatives will ride the horse and we will do a variety of skill tests to further assess the horse.

If the horse shows signs of suitability for our program, we may accept the horse on a 60-90 day Trial Period. Before being brought to Horses Help, we would like a current (less than 30 day old) vet letter stating the horse is in acceptable health to be used in our program. Your horse also needs to be current on vaccines, deworming, and farrier care. Sometimes we have room for the horse immediately and sometimes there is a waiting period for space to open up.

Your horse can be accepted into the program at any time during the Trial Period. Occasionally, the trial period will be extended to allow further assessment, particularly if class scheduling/breaks have not allowed for ample real-application experience. Once the horse has been accepted, Horses Help receives ownership of the horse and the donor will receive a letter stating that the horse has been donated and ownership has officially transferred. If, however, we determine the horse is not a suitable match for our programs, the trial period will be terminated, and the horse will return to its owner.

Horses Help is a non-profit organization and exists primarily off of donations. As you know, keeping a horse for 60-90 days requires a significant amount of feed and resources for daily care. For this reason, the donor is responsible for the costs of farrier care and vet bills while the horse is on trial.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have about Horses Help, our programs, or the donation process. I encourage you to visit Horses Help if you have not done so already; please contact me at shelly.w@horseshelp.org and we can set a date to give you a tour of our facility.

Thank you again for considering Horses Help for your horse's next career. I look forward to learning more about your horse and how he/she may assist our special needs client population.

Shelly Wright
Equine Director
PATH Intl. CTRI
Horses Help TRC