



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 for over 30 years. It is very important to us that the horses that we bring into the program are going to be happy being a therapy horse. Being a therapy horse is not the best fit for every horse. Please let us get to know a little bit about your horse by filling out and returning the attached "evaluation" form. Completed forms can be emailed to me at shelly.w@horseshelp.org.

After I review the evaluation form I will let you know if your horse does or does not fit the criteria for our program, or if I need more information. Most of the time we do an onsite evaluation with the horse so we can see how it acts in a setting it is used to. This evaluation usually requires one or two members of Horses Help and some of the equipment and obstacles that the horse will encounter while at Horses Help. I prefer to see the horse 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 many skills tests to further assess the horse.

If the horse shows signs of working in the program, then we 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, worming, and trimming or shoeing. Sometimes we have room for the horse immediately and sometimes there is a short wait for space.

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. There is also the option of an open-ended lease wherein the horse will return to the owner when he/she is ready to retire from the program.

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 any shoeing and/or 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. If you would like to come see Horses Help, let me know and we can set a date to give you a tour of our facility.

Thank you again for considering partnering with Horses Help to benefit our riders and for giving us the opportunity to determine if your horse will be a good candidate for our program.

Shelly Wright
Equine Director
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