



## Sophia's Oasis for Equines, Inc. (SOFE)

3811 Hance Road, Port Republic, MD 20676

Tel: (410) 610-0430

### Equine Adoption and/or Foster Requirements

If you are interested in adopting one of our rescues, please request an application by phone or email at [sofe@gmail.com](mailto:sofe@gmail.com).

**ADOPTION:** These are the basic guidelines for adoption:

We take applications on a case-by-case basis as we want to ensure a good match of equine and adopter. If in the future the Adopter must rehome this equine, the Adoption Contract stipulates that SOFE, Inc. has right of first refusal on the equine; and that the equine is **never** to be conveyed via dealer, auction, slaughter, etc. In the event of the death of the adopter, the estate is to (1) return the equine to SOFE or (2) If the estate knows of a suitable placement, the estate **must** contact SOFE to approve placement of the equine.

If we waive our right of first refusal, we require that the subsequent owner/buyer also contract with us, to ensure the equine's continued safety.

#### **PLACEMENT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Failure to complete all questions completely will delay or deny your application. Please feel free to attach additional information about you and the kind of equine you are looking for to expedite your application.
- Please include a \$25 Processing Fee with your Placement Application. This fee is non-refundable.
- Once your application is approved, you must make arrangements to finalize the adoption by executing the Adoption Contract, paying his adoption fee, and arrange transport of your new equine within 7 days. Until this accomplished, the equine will still be available to other potential adopters.
- If possession of the equine is not arranged within the 7 day period, the adopter will be responsible for the continued care costs of the equine, which are \$300/month or \$12/day until he leaves our facility, plus any additional costs such as farrier and vet services if required.
- The Adoption Contract will be a "Conditional Adoption Contract for ownership" for a period of 6 months. SOFE, Inc. reserves the right and the adopter agrees to allow representatives of SOFE, Inc. on the property where the equine is kept to check on the

equines wellbeing. Ownership of the equine remains with SOFE, Inc for 6 months to ensure a safe and mutually satisfying placement for both the equine and the Adopter. After the initial 6 months a final transfer will be affected with the submission of an acceptable veterinary Report (we supply form). Additionally after the initial 6 months the adopters agree to allow representatives from SOFE, Inc. on the property where the equine is kept at least once a year for the first 5 years to check on the equine.

- Also, we request that all Adopters adhere to SOFE's "Standards of Care" in caring for their adopted equine. A copy of our standards of care is attached to this Application for your review and understanding and it is made part of the Adoption Contract.

### **FOSTERING:**

SOFE fosters out equines in very specific circumstances. Specifically, we are looking to place companion-only types into long-term situations -- we refer to them as "forever fosters". Many of our rescues just need safe haven to enjoy the rest of their lives. Young, trainable and/or rideable equines come directly to our facility to allow us to work with them and have them available to show to prospective adoptive homes. (Jackie Curry Flynt, Pres. of SOFE)

However, at times, we do look for short-term quarantine ("QT") situations that are local to us and our vet so that we have access for emergent care. These one-on-one QT circumstances might be for us, or for colleagues who need to quarantine equines prior to trailering them longer distances to their ultimate destinations.

Occasionally we receive offers of fostering slaughter auction or feed lot equines so that we can pull equines to safety. Generally, we can't just 'pull and foster-out' these equines as SOFE can only take on responsibility, financially &/or otherwise, for so many equines at a time.

Ultimately, fostered equines are **STILL** our responsibility, and normally we've found that most foster-offerers are only able to assist in housing the equines short term, a month or so or less. Please keep in mind that the average time an equine stays in rescue before adoption is 6 months. Often it's much longer. When/if they start 'coming back' fosters contacting us to 'return' equines (ie: the weather starts to turn), it can overwhelm our ability to house and care for them. So sadly, we do have to limit the number of equines we can assist at any one time.

SOFE DOES have a Foster/Quarantine Application and Contract procedure, just as we do for Adoption --- to protect the equines. Sadly, there have been too many instances out there of Foster equines disappearing. . . If you are local to SOFE and would consider fostering a companion equine long-term or quarantining a equine short-term, please contact us via email.

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## STANDARDS OF CARE

The following Minimum Standards of Care will be required for equines housed at approved foster and adoptive homes:

### Feeding

- Nutritious grain in sufficient quality and appropriate nutritive value unless equines are receiving adequate natural forage.
- Diet shall be prepared with consideration for the age, breed/type, condition, size, work level and quantity of equine(s).
- Equines shall have no less than a body condition score 4 and no more than 6 on the Henneke Condition Scoring Chart (BC) to be considered of adequate weight. Exceptions are made for arrivals on premises less than six months and showing continued documented improvement or for equines under the continued care of a veterinarian.
- All feed and hay storage and feeding receptacles shall be kept clean and free from contaminants, such as feces, mold, mildew, insects, etc.
- If more than one animal is fed at one time or in one place, it shall be the responsibility of the owner/custodian to ensure that each animal receives nutrition in sufficient quantity.
- Minimum hay requirements shall be observed with the quality of hay representative of choice grasses in the local area. Equines should receive a minimum of 2% of their body weight in high quality hay per day unless equines are receiving adequate natural forage. Exceptions may be made for equines who need less to maintain an acceptable Body Condition Score or for those who are on a diet for weight loss.

### Necessary Veterinary Care ~

An annual vaccination schedule shall be maintained and conducted by a veterinarian. This includes a Spring Vaccination protocol to include Eastern and Western Encephalitis, Tetanus, West Nile, Potomac Equine Fever, rabies and tetanus and a Fall vaccination protocol to include a flu vaccine and if necessary Eastern/Western Encephalitis and Tetanus. It is expected that the adopter will seek immediate veterinary intervention in the event the equine shows any of the following signs:

- Shock
- Colic
- Founder
- Broken bone
- Deep tissue wound
- Inability or unwillingness to eat or drink

- Blistering or burns
- Irregular or abnormal breathing
- Partial or total paralysis
- Abnormal discharge
- Severe bleeding
- Continued symptoms of heavy intestinal parasite load despite adequate deworming
- Weight loss
- Abnormal skin condition
- Hair loss
- Temperature fluctuation
- Diarrhea
- Lameness

#### Standard Care

- Hoof care maintenance and trimming every six (6) to eight (8) weeks or as directed by a veterinarian or a farrier. Hoof care shall be done by an experienced person knowledgeable in standard farrier practice. Exceptions may be made for equines who are not yet tame enough to have their feet handled.
- Hooves should be cleaned out at least once/week. Exceptions may be made for equines who are not yet tame enough to have their feet handled.
- Parasites kept under control through either a daily deworming product or by deworming every eight (8) to twelve (12) weeks or as directed by a veterinarian.
- Annual veterinary procedures as outlined in the Standard Veterinary Procedures Policy shall be performed.

Dental care - Routine dental work (floating) shall be performed at least once/year by a qualified veterinarian or equine dentist. Floating may be recommended more often for certain equines by a qualified veterinarian or equine dentist.

Non-routine dental work shall be provided as needed in a reasonable amount of time.

Water - Proper water is clean, potable water that is available at all times for all equines. Exceptions shall be determined by veterinary consultation of professionally accepted practices for the safety and well-being of the equine.

Equines that are being worked or are in transport shall be provided water as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the equine. All water receptacles shall be kept clean and free of contaminants and be positioned or affixed to minimize spillage.

Space and Shelter for Each Equine - Each equine must be provided with space that is safe. The space for each equine must be free from standing water, accumulated waste, sharp objects, and debris.

Any fencing must be well maintained and in good repair at all times. Each equine should be provided with adequate exercise. Exceptions are granted when equines are under stall rest per a veterinary recommendation.

Stalled equines shall be exercised or turned out daily. Exceptions shall be made for times of bad weather, injured or ill equines, or equines who are not yet tame enough to be exercised or lead to turn out areas.

While not all pastures or turn out areas must have man-made shelter, man-made shelter consisting of a roof and a minimum of two sides must be available as needed for ill, injured, older, or underweight equines. The shelter shall be in good repair and free of standing water, accumulated waste, sharp objects, and debris. There should be adequate space for each equine that will be sharing the shelter at any given time.

**Your signature below indicates that you agree to abide by the terms and conditions set forth and detailed above.**

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_