



Dear Potential Horse Donor,

Thank you for your interest in donating your horse to our therapeutic riding program. The J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a premier PATH International (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) accredited facility. Our therapeutic horse-related programs serve children and adults representing more than 50 different disabilities. Through the use and movement of the horse, the rider's goals are realized.

Enclosed in this packet you will find the following:

- Horse Donation Guidelines
- Horse Donation Selection Process
- Horse Donation Application and Video Instruction

The members of our horse selection committee will review your application and will make the best possible decision for both your horse and The Shea Center. Please call if you have any questions regarding the donation process or if you would like to make arrangements to come and visit our facility.

Best Regards,



Kathy Natalizia
Volunteer Department & Equine Operations Assistant
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The J. F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities through therapeutic horse-related programs.

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THE SHEA CENTER HORSE DONATION APPLICATION

Owner Name: _____ Email Address: _____
Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Equine's Name: _____ Breed: _____ Sex: Gelding Mare Height: _____
Color: _____ Markings/Brands: _____ Age/DOB: _____
Current location of the horse: _____ How long have you owned this horse? _____
Riding Style/Training: _____
Farrier Name: _____ Phone: _____
Last Date Shod: _____ Shoes on: Front _____ Back _____ Corrective: _____
Veterinarian Name: _____ Phone: _____
Do you agree to give The Shea Center permission to discuss your horse's medical records with your veterinarian? YES NO
Medical illnesses in the past year? YES NO Lameness in the past year? YES NO
If yes, please explain: _____
Health History – past or present issues that may affect soundness: _____
Current medications: _____
Past medications: _____
Date of Rhino/Flu: _____ Date of VEWT/Encephalitis: _____ Date PHF/Rabies: _____
Date of Strangles _____ West Nile _____ Other _____
Date of last Negative Coggins Test: _____ Date last dewormed: _____
Type of Feed & Amount: _____
Supplements & Amount: _____
Allergies: _____
Horse's Likes/Dislikes: _____
Vices/bad habits (cribbing, weaving, etc): _____
Manners when stabled: _____
Lead: _____ Groomed: _____ Tacked: _____
Ridden in arena: _____ On Trail: _____
Does your horse safely: Cross Tie: YES NO Lunge: YES NO Load: YES NO Clip: YES NO
If no, please explain: _____
Why would you like The Shea Center to have this horse? _____
Are you interested in leasing your horse rather than making a donation: YES NO
Would you like your horse returned to you if it becomes unable to do its job, or when its time to retire? YES NO
Are you interested in underwriting the expenses for your horse during the trial period? YES NO
I have read the complete horse donation packet and understand the 90 Day Trial Period.
Signature of Owner/Donor: _____ Date: _____



HORSE DONATION GUIDELINES

Preferred Age	6 – 15 years of age; horses and ponies outside this range are considered on a case by case basis.
Gender	Geldings preferred, mares accepted; no stallions; no exceptions.
Preferred Height	14.2 – 15.3h; horses over this height make sidewalking difficult; taller horses are considered on a case by case basis.
Soundness	Must have a free moving stride with no physical issues that would cause the animal to be uncomfortable (with or without a rider) at the walk, trot and canter. Must be serviceably sound and comfortable without the need of expensive corrective shoes, feeds, supplements or medications.
Condition & Conformation	Must be in good physical condition. (Horses that come from a pasture life with limited handling are generally not good candidates for our program.)
Temperament & Vices	Must be calm, quiet and react positively to human interaction. Must be trustworthy while being lead and when being ridden by a beginning rider. Must not bite, kick, buck, pace, crib or wind-suck.
Training	Must be <u>completely</u> saddle broke and trained. The Shea Center is not able to accept green or untrained horses.
90 Day Trial Period	Owner/donors must agree to a 90 Day Trial Period where their horse is stabled at our facility while its suitability for therapeutic riding is thoroughly evaluated. Per a signed agreement, The Shea Center may or may not accept financial responsibility for the horse's board, shoeing, daily feed and care; this decision is made on a case by case basis. Owner/donors have full responsibility for hauling their horse to and from The Shea Center. During this trial period, the horse will be exposed to therapy equipment, mounting blocks, walkers, wheelchairs, toys, balls, sidewalkers, leaders, loud noises, sudden movements, unbalanced riding weight and applied pressure on all parts of the body. The horse's body language and reactions will be noted and graded. Also taken into consideration will be: 1) does the horse accept and comply with what is being asked; 2) does the horse demonstrate a patient and tolerant attitude; 3) how quickly does the horse improve upon any negative reactions.



HORSE DONATION SELECTION PROCESS

What it takes to be Therapy Horse

The Shea Center seeks horses that will be useful for years to come in our therapeutic riding program. A useful horse is one that is calm, healthy, sound, well trained and has excellent ground manners. Therapy horses often work up to three hours per day, five days a week. They must be able to walk at a therapeutic pace to stimulate their riders, as well as be able to maintain a steady trot during a portion of the lesson. Some riders will also be learning to canter, requiring a horse that is able to oblige.

Therapy horses are required to patiently tolerate being handled, groomed and tacked by many different people throughout their day, as well as be accepting of the many activities going on throughout a lesson. They are often surrounded by a leader, two sidewalkers and an instructor while being ridden by an unbalanced and unskilled rider, as toys are passed overhead and music plays in the background.

Health, Soundness and Training

Because of the daily demands made on a therapy horse, we are unable to accept any horse with behavior issues, chronic health or back problems, soundness concerns or anything else that would limit their usefulness. We are also not able to accept green or untrained horses.

Required Paperwork and DVD

All horses considered for donation must be proven sound by submitting current medical records from your current veterinarian with your horse donation application. We also require a DVD or internet recording of your horse demonstrating the following: leading, grooming, tacking, mounting and being ridden at the walk, trot and canter in both directions with a rider so we can properly access your horse before arranging a visit.

Horse Selection Committee Visit

Once the donation application, medical history and the DVD or internet recording of your horse has been received, our horse selection committee will determine if a visit should be arranged. After this visit, our horse selection committee will decide if your horse is a good candidate to enter into our 90 Day Trial Period.

90 Day Trial Period and Financial Responsibility

Our 90 day trial period has been developed to best determine that the right horses are accepted into our program. (This time frame may be reduced if a horse progresses quickly.) On a case by case basis, The Shea Center may or may not accept financial responsibility for the board, feed, and shoeing during the trial period. The Shea Center will cover any necessary veterinary care up to \$500.00 during the trial period; additional veterinarian fees incurred will be the responsibility of the owner/donor. The owner/donor must accept full responsibility to haul their horse to and from the Shea facility as required. Owner/donors are always welcome to come by and visit their horse during the trial period by making an appointment during our regular business hours.

90 Day Trial Period (continued)

While on trial, the horse will be exposed to all common facets of a therapeutic riding program which will include toys, balls, music, loud noises, sudden movements, wheelchairs, walkers, mounting blocks, various mounting techniques, being ridden by balanced/unbalanced riders, as well as sensitizing and desensitizing as needed.

The 90 Day Trial agreement may be terminated by either party, for any reason, by giving 24 hour notice to cancel the agreement and by scheduling an appointment with a Shea staff member for the removal of the horse during our regular business hours.

Completion of the 90 Trial Period

After a successful completion of the 90 Day Trial Period, the horse will be accepted into the program and the final donation paperwork will be completed with The Shea Center assuming full ownership of the horse.

Leasing vs. Donation

The Shea Center will consider a month-to-month lease of a horse rather than a donation on a case by case basis.

Tax Deductions

The Shea Center is not qualified to place a value on your horse for a tax deduction and is unable to provide owner/donors with the required tax forms. The owner/donor is responsible to locate their own equine appraiser, make their own arrangements for a tax deduction. The Shea Center is responsible only to acknowledge the donation by signing a completed 8283 form and issuing a donation receipt. (If the value of the horse is considered to be more than \$5,000.00, owner/donors are to support their claim with a written appraisal by a qualified independent expert that must be accompanied by the IRS form 8283.)

Horse Retirement/Removal from the Program

To remain in our program, horses must be able to perform their jobs and remain useful. Horses that are no longer useful to the program are first offered back to their owner/donor. If the owner/donor is unable or unwilling to take back ownership of the horse, the equine may be sold to a loving home, transferred to another therapeutic facility, be sent to a quality retirement pasture or may be euthanized humanely. All decisions are made with the equine's best interest at heart. Possible reasons for program removal are:

- ❑ Health, injury or soundness issues rendering the equine unable to perform its job.
- ❑ Inappropriate, unsafe behaviors such as bucking, rearing, biting or kicking.
- ❑ Unable to cope with the daily pressures of the job.
- ❑ The Shea Center must cut down the herd for financial purposes.

NOTE: The information provided in this packet is not intended as legal or financial advice; it is to assist you in your decision to determine whether or not your horse is a good candidate in becoming a therapy horse.