



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 NARHA accredited facility. Our horse related programs serve children and adults representing more than 50 different disabilities. Through the use and movement of the horse, rider's goals are realized.

Enclosed in this packet you will find the following:

- Horse Donation Guidelines
- Horse Donation Selection Process
- Horse Donation Application

The members of our horse committee will review your application and will make the best possible decision for both your horse and our center. Please feel free to 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/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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HORSE DONATION GUIDELINES

Not all horses are good candidates for a therapeutic riding program. Please review the guidelines we've established for our facility to best determine if your horse is a possible candidate.

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.
Height	14.2 – 15.3h; horses over this height make side walking difficult; taller horses are considered on a case by case basis.
Soundness	The horse must have a free moving stride with no physical problems that would cause it to be uncomfortable (with or without a rider) at the walk, trot and canter. The horse must be sound and comfortable without the need of corrective shoes, expensive feed, supplements or medications.
Condition & Confirmation	The horse must be in good physical condition. (Horses that have been put out to pasture with limited handling are generally not good candidates.)
Temperament & Vices	The horse must be calm, quiet and react positively to human interaction. The horse must be trustworthy on the lead and with a beginner rider. The horse must not bite, kick, buck, pace, crib or wind-suck.
Training	The horse must be completely 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 lives at our facility while its suitability for therapeutic riding is thoroughly evaluated. Per a signed agreement, The Shea Center will accept financial responsible for the horse's board, shoeing, daily feed and care. 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 e.g., balls, mounting blocks, walkers, wheelchairs, toys, side walkers, leaders, loud noises, sudden movements, unbalanced weight on its back and pressure on all parts of its body. The horses' 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 are often used in lessons up to three hours daily, five days a week. They are asked to walk at a therapeutic pace to stimulate their riders, as well as be able to maintain a steady trot throughout a portion of their lessons. Some riders are also 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 while 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.

Paperwork

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 so we can properly assess your horse before arranging a visit.

Horse Committee Visit

Once the donation application, medical history and the DVD or internet recording of your horse has been received, our horse committee will determine if an "in person" visit should be arranged. After this visit, our horse 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.) The Shea Center will accept financial responsibility for the board, feed, shoeing and any necessary veterinary care up to \$500.00. The owner/donor will accept and pay for any additional veterinarian fees incurred by their horse over the initial \$500.00, and accepts 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 this 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 and unbalanced riders and desensitizing as needed. The horses' body language and reactions will be noted and graded.

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 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 ownership of the horse.

Leasing vs. Donation

The Shea Center will consider a month to month lease 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 or able 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 and complete their own tax paperwork. If the value of the horse is more than \$5,000, donors are to support their claim with a written appraisal by a qualified independent expert that must be accompanied by the IRS form 8283. The Shea Center is responsible only to acknowledge the donation by signing the completed 8283 form and issuing a donation receipt.

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 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 equines best interest at heart. Possible reasons for program removal would be:

- ❑ Health, injury or soundness issues rendering the equine unable to perform its job.
- ❑ Inappropriate, unsafe behaviors such as bucking, rearing, biting or kicking.
- ❑ Equine is emotionally unable to cope with pressure the job.
- ❑ The program must cut down the herd for financial purposes.

The information above 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. Please feel free to contact us if you have further questions; we look forward to meeting you and your horse.



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 their trial period? YES NO

I have read the complete horse donation packet and understand the 90 Day Trial Period.

Signature of Owner/Donor: _____ Date: _____