



Dusty Trails Horse Rescue, Inc.
P.O. Box 250191
Montgomery, AL 36125-0191

ADOPTION / FOSTER POLICY

The following guidelines are expected of all persons adopting/fostering an equine from DTHR. DTHR reserves the right to turn down/revoke any application at any time. Any individual keeping equines must comply with all relevant state and local law.

- DTHR retains co-ownership of all adopted equines.
- All equines should have ample opportunity and space to exercise daily.
- All provisions shall be appropriate for the age, condition and size of the equine.
- Keeping equines in a herd for social interaction is strongly advised unless otherwise suggested by a Veterinarian.
- DTHR retains the right to seize any adopted/fostered equine upon determination by DTHR if that said horse is not being properly cared for, counting neglect, physical abuse and/or mental abuse. If an adopted horse is found abused or neglected, DTHR will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law following our recovery of the animal.
- If an adopter/foster for any reason can not keep or take care of the adopted/fostered equine, the animal has to be returned to DTHR and no refunds for adoption fee or incurred expenses will be given nor can another equine be adopted within a one year period.
- Anyone donating a horse to DTHR can not adopt an equine from DTHR for a one year period.
- The adopter/foster may not breed, auction, sell, give away, assign, dispose or transfer this horse. If an adopted/fostered horse is found to have been sold, auctioned, given away, assign, disposed or transferred, DTHR will prosecute for theft to the fullest extent of the law.
- DTHR reserves the right to conduct unannounced site inspections to check on the condition of the equine and shelter/pasture conditions.
- The adopter/foster agrees to provide proper care and ongoing maintenance of the equine, to include, but not limited to year round shelter, free access to clean water, proper feed, immunizations, dental care, hoof care and worming.
- The adopter/foster is responsible for providing veterinary care in the event of illness, injury or accident.
- The adopter/foster must agree to these conditions prior to the adoption/fostering becoming final, and the signature, below, is proof of such agreement.

- The adopter/foster agrees to be fully responsible for any and all maintenance costs, including but not limited to hay, grain, veterinary care, farrier, vaccinations, wormers, boarding fees etc. once in their care unless otherwise noted by DTHR.
- An adopted/fostered equine can not be moved out of the State of Alabama.

Adoptive/Foster Home Requirements:

Pasture

- A minimum of 3/4 acre pasture per equine is required

Shelter

- 12x12 foot stall per equine
- If equine is pasture kept a three sided run-in shelter with 12x12 feet per equine in pasture is required
- Stalls and shelters are to be constructed and kept in a safe condition, free of standing water, clean of waste, debris or other objects which may harm any equine
- When shelter is constructed of metal, all exposed sheet metal up to 4.5 feet on the inside of the shelter shall be covered with ¾ inch to 1 inch plywood or 2x6 inch boards.

Water

- Water troughs are to be provided with clean, fresh water and free excess for the equine at all times.
- During training and trail rides all equines shall be provided water as often as necessary for their health and comfort.

Feed

- Each adopter/foster is required to keep the food rations as noted in Equine Medical Record, if changes are necessary adopter is to inform DTHR.
- Each diet is planned to consider the equine activity level, size, condition and age.
- The adopter shall separate equines if necessary to ensure each has access to adequate nutrition without interference from more dominant individuals.
- All feed and food bins are expected to be clean and free of contaminants, such as feces, mold, mildew, rodents and insects.
- Equines shall not have access to feed storage areas.

Fencing

- All fencing shall be of solid construction, without sharp edges and visible to equines; electric fencing is acceptable. The use of barbed wire fencing is strongly discouraged in any area.
- All t-posts shall be capped when used as cross fencing to separate pastures, along any fence line adjacent to another equine property.
- All fencing shall be maintained and monitored on a regular basis to ensure its safety and effectiveness.
- Cattle Guards can not be accessible to any equine

Breeding

- DTHR has a **NO** Breeding policy to Foster Homes and Adopters. Stallions, jacks and colts will be castrated before adoption. Adopter is to sign a non-breeding contract prior to moving the animal from the foster home or DTHR property. If an equine is bred, DTHR may repossess the equine and the resulting foal for breach of contract.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- References submitted will be verified, along with a background check.
- DTHR will inspect the property where the equine is to be kept as well as the condition of other animals on said property.
- The Inspector will make a recommendation to the Board and adopter will be notified if the Application has been accepted, should the adopter/foster fail the inspection, DTHR will inform adopter of what improvements need to be made and a Re-inspection will be scheduled.
- DTHR tries to evaluate each equine as best as possible and will try to match a suitable horse with what is requested in the Application. DTHR does recommend the use of a Veterinarian to evaluate the horse. If looking for a certain type of event horse, bringing a trainer (if one is used) to see if the horse meets expectations is recommended. DTHR can not guarantee a perfect match.
- If the wanted equine is currently at a foster home, the foster parent has the option to adopt this horse first, within a one week period once the equine on the adoption list.
- If the adopted equine will be boarded, DTHR will inform the owner/manager of the boarding facility that the equine is owned by DTHR. If the adopter does not pay their boarding bill or abandons the equine, DTHR is to be notified immediately. Fostered equines can not be boarded.

APPROVAL PROCESS

- Once the application has been approved, the adopter/foster will be notified.
- In case of any changes by the adopter/foster of mailing and/or equine property address, phone numbers, email, or any other contact information DTHR is to be informed immediately. If the location of the adoptive/foster home changes, an inspection of that property will follow.
- Any approved application will expire after 1 year if no equine was adopted/fostered during this time.

DTHR equines

- All equines have a current negative coggins certificate.

- Current health records and food charts are kept for each equine.
- Set adoption fees may change due to training improvements or other reasons.
- Adopter and any person who will be in contact with this animal must meet the equine at the equine's current location within a 2 week time frame. Riding and/or driving is required to determine if it is a good match. In questionable cases it will be up to the Board of Directors' discretion.
- All adopted horses or any other horse in contact with adopted equines shall score no less than a 4 on the Henneke Body Conditioning Scoring Chart unless approved by a Veterinarian and notification of DTHR.
- Should any adopted/foster equine's health decline, DTHR is to be notified immediately.
- Euthanasia shall only be performed after DTHR is contacted and by a licensed Veterinarian performing euthanasia as outlined in the equine euthanasia form. The carcass shall be handled in compliance with local law.
- Unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian or farrier, the equine will receive hoof care every 6 to 8 weeks.

Warning

Under Alabama law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to the Equine Activities Liability Protection Act.

By signing below, I certify that I read and understand the rules and policies of Dusty Trails Horse Rescue, Inc. as described in this adoption policy. I give DTHR and its officers and agents' permission to verify all the information contained therein.

Print applicant's name

Sign / date