

Mustang Alley Horse Rescue, Inc
1020 Walters Rd
Greeneville, TN 37743
423-552-5988
www.mustangalley.org

ADOPTION/FOSTER POLICY

Effective Date: January 1, 2010

1.0 Policy

The adoption policy of Mustang Alley Horse Rescue, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as MAHR) is designed to help ensure that all equines in the care of MAHR are placed in suitable homes. The adopter of the equine must be at least 18 years of age with no history of animal abuse or neglect. Anyone who adopts and subsequently returns an equine to MAHR shall have any subsequent adoption applications reviewed and approved by MAHR on a case-by-case basis.

2.0 Application Process

The prospective adoption applicant shall submit a complete Adopt Application package to MAHR. A complete package shall consist of:

- 1)** A signed copy of the Adoption/Foster Agreement
- 2)** A signed copy of this Policy
- 3)** A \$25 check or money order made payable to Mustang Alley Horse Rescue, Inc.

The approval process begins upon receipt of the completed Adoption Application package, including a \$25 processing fee. The Application will be reviewed to verify that the applicant meets the requirements of MAHR and the references submitted will be verified, along with a background check. After review and verification, a volunteer inspector will be assigned to conduct the on-site inspection of the property where the equine will be kept. The inspector will verify that all animals on the property are properly cared for and the property is safe and adequate for the equine to be adopted. If the equine will be boarded, the inspector will talk to the owner of the facility where the equine will be boarded.

3.0 Adoptive Home Standards Of Care

The following guidelines are applicable to general equine management practices and are required of all persons adopting an equine. While not comprehensive, they offer basic parameters for responsible equine ownership. The number of equines should never exceed the ability of the adopter to feed and care for them properly. Such limits are dependent not only upon the physical health of the individual but also the financial ability to maintain proper management. In addition, any individual keeping equines must comply with all relevant federal, state, and local laws.

3.1 General Management Practices.

MAHR's philosophy is that horses should have as natural an environment as possible. Adopters agree to provide 24/7 turnout for any adopted equines. It is strongly preferred that horses not be forced to live alone, but have pasture mates. Exceptions to 24/7 turnout may be made on a case-by-case basis. Any area in which equines are kept must have safe fencing and be free from hazards such as debris, machinery, etc.

The following are requirements which must be met in order to adopt an equine, however, all will be considered on a case-by-case basis:

1) Pasture. A minimum of 1/3 acre pasture per equine on the property. Exceptions may be made in those cases where the equine will be maintained at a boarding facility provided the equine, if stalled, is provided daily turnout of an adequate time and space.

2) Shelter. Equines shall be provided with shelter that provides protection from extreme weather including but not limited to: prevailing wind, snow, sleet, rain, sun, and temperature extremes. Stalls and shelters shall be constructed to provide sufficient space for each equine to turn around, lie down, and move freely and to allow

free air flow. Shelters may be constructed to have removable sides during the summer. All enclosures, stalls and/or shelters shall be kept in good repair and free of standing water, accumulated waste, sharp objects and debris.

3) Water. The adopter shall provide troughs or individual water sources to provide adequate and clean water for all equines. All water receptacles shall be kept clean and free of hazardous contaminants and be positioned or affixed to minimize spillage. Use of defroster to prevent freezing in inclement weather is recommended. Equines shall have access to water at all times when not actually being trained or ridden.

4) Feed and Storage. Equines shall receive at a minimum the equivalent of 3% of their body weight per day in high quality forage and grain. If natural forage is insufficient in quality or quantity, quality hay shall supplement the diet. Diet shall be planned with consideration for the age, condition, size, and activity level of the equine. If more than one animal is fed at the same place and time, it shall be the responsibility of the adopter to ensure that each equine receives nutrition in sufficient quantity. If necessary, equines shall be separated to ensure each has access to adequate nutrition without interference from more dominant individuals. Individual feed buckets or pans should be provided for each equine. All storage and feeding receptacles shall be kept clean and free of contaminants, such as feces, mold, mildew, rodents and insects. Stored feed shall be kept in such a manner that equines cannot gain access to it.

5) Fencing. Fencing shall be of solid construction, without sharp edges and visible to equines; electric fencing is acceptable. The use of barbed wire fencing is unacceptable in any area of five or less acres or along any side of any area separating equines from one another. Use of electric wire may preclude the barbed wire provision. Fencing shall be monitored on a regular basis to ensure its safety and effectiveness is maintained.

6) Cattle Guards. Cattle guards will not be permitted unless there is a gate separating the equines from the cattle guard or the equines do not have access to it.

4.0 Approval Procedures.

After the equine property inspection has been successfully completed and the applicant's facilities have been approved, an MAHR Representative will notify the applicant that they are approved to adopt. At this time the applicant may request priority on a specific equine.

- 1) The adopter will be required to immediately notify MAHR of any change in mailing and/or equine property address, phone numbers, email, or any other contact information.
- 2) Approval applies only to the equine property that is initially inspected. If an adoptive home changes the location of the equine property an inspection of that property will be conducted.
- 3) If after approval the adopter becomes inactive in excessive of twelve months there will be a re-inspection of the property
- 4) If at any time the adopter fails to follow procedures, violates the Adoption/Foster Agreement, or an equine's health declines, MAHR has the authority to remove said equine from the property. On the day of the removal, notice of the removal of the equine/s will be given to the adopter stating the reason for the removal and, if warranted, the revocation of the adopter's approval status.

4.1 Placing An Equine Into An Approved Adoptive Home.

When placing an equine into an adoptive home, the following procedures will be followed:

- 1) MAHR will set an adoption donation fee for the equine. This fee is subject to change as the equine progresses in training and may be reviewed periodically and adjusted higher or lower.
- 2) Once an approved adopter makes a request to adopt the equine, MAHR will review the adopter's capabilities and needs (both facilities and equine experience) to see whether there are any obvious reasons why the equine requested appears not to be a good match for the adopter. If the match appears to be suitable, the adopter will have first priority on the requested equine. Subsequent approved adopters who request to adopt the same equine will be placed on a waiting list.

3) While MAHR tries to evaluate each equine as best as possible, MAHR cannot make a final recommendation on the suitability of an equine for any particular purpose. MAHR highly recommends the adopter have a veterinarian evaluate any equine they wish to adopt. If adopting for a particular purpose or event, MAHR also suggests a trainer or instructor meet the equine.

4) If the adoption is approved, the applicant is responsible for transporting the equine to its new home. Or, if need be, MAHR will transport the horse for a minimal fee, within the area.

5) The adopter may return the equine to MAHR for any reason. The adopter will be responsible for the cost of transporting the equine back to an approved foster home (if MAHR must transport the horse), the cost of any veterinary work needed as a result of injuries or illnesses sustained in the adopter's home, and the cost of any other expenses by MAHR as a result of the adopter's acts or omissions while in possession of the equine.

6) MAHR will not reimburse the adoptive home for any expenses incurred by the equine while in the adoptive home.

4.2 Breeding.

MAHR policy forbids the breeding of an adopted horse, as there are already too many homeless horses and unwanted horses going to slaughter. However, exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. Should MAHR learn that an adopted horse has been used for breeding without written permission of MAHR, such breeding is a breach of contract and can result in ownership of the adopted horse reverting to MAHR – as well as the offspring of said horse, should it be a mare.

4.3 Financial Responsibilities.

Upon agreement to adopt an equine, the adopter takes full responsibility for all maintenance costs of the equine including boarding fees, grain, hay, paste wormer, yearly vaccinations, farrier, and other usual and customary costs including veterinary expenses once in their care.

4.4 Health Guidelines.

Equines shall maintain a body condition score of no less than 4 on the Henneke Body Condition Scoring Chart. Exceptions shall be made for equines under regular veterinary care for a medical condition. If the health of an equine in adoptive care is in decline and weight loss occurs, the adopter must immediately notify MAHR of such circumstances.

4.5 Humane Euthanasia.

Should the adopted equine suffer an injury or condition for which a licensed veterinarian recommends euthanasia, with the exception of laminitis, founder, or navicular, MAHR will accept the opinion of the vet. ***Should the horse suffer from laminitis, founder, or navicular – then the horse shall be returned to MAHR for treatment, unless the adopted owner opts for natural hoof care for the condition. No adopted horse shall be euthanized for laminitis, founder, or navicular, without the written consent of MAHR. Only a licensed veterinarian may administer euthanasia,*** except in an extreme emergency when a veterinarian is not available. A veterinarian shall examine the carcass to verify, in writing, such immediate need. Carcass shall be disposed of in compliance with all relevant law. The adopter shall immediately notify MAHR of such euthanasia and provide a veterinary statement and record of the euthanasia.

4.6 Hoof Care.

The adopter shall ensure that the equine will receive regular hoof care and maintenance every 4 to eight weeks, or as directed by a veterinarian or natural hoof care practitioner. Adopted horses are **NOT to be shod** without the express written permission of MAHR. Shoeing of a horse without such permission is a breach of contract.

4.7 Mental and Emotional Health.

The adopter agrees, by signing this policy, that all equines are sentient creatures with mental and emotional needs. These include the company of other horses, access to open areas, humane training and handling methods, and respect as a living creature with its own unique needs. No adopted horse shall be treated in a way to jeopardize it's mental and emotional health, and such treatment is a breach of contract. No horse shall be forced into a discipline for which it is not physically, mentally, and emotionally suited. Such conditions shall also be a breach of contract.

4.8 Sale or other disposal of horse.

No adopted horse shall be sold, given away, donated to another agency, or leased without the express written permission of MAHR. This is not to inconvenience the adoptive owner, but to safeguard the welfare of the horse. If the adoptive owner can no longer afford to keep the horse then the horse must be returned to MAHR.

I hereby agree that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Adoption/Foster Policy of MAHR

Applicant's signature Date

Printed Name/s of Applicant/s

Approved **By** **Date**

Disapproved **By** **Date**

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EQUINE ADOPTION/FOSTER APPLICATION

Check each that applies: _____ Adoption Applicant _____ Foster Applicant

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

County/Region _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Have you ever been charged with or convicted of animal abuse? Yes No
If yes, please explain

Identification Information: Driver's License No.: _____ State _____

Equine Property Location

If the equine will be kept someplace other than the address given above, please list the name of the facility, address, contact person, and phone number:

References

Adopters must provide two references:

1) Name, address and phone number of equine veterinarian reference: if 1st time horse owner "friends"

2) Name, address and phone number of equine professional reference: "friends if 1st time horse owner

Please describe why you are adopting/fostering a horse.

What is your philosophy of horse care and training?

Current Equine Information

How many equines do you currently have? _____
Where are they located?

What veterinarian(s) treats your current horse(s)? (Please give name and contact info.)
