



## End of the Trail Rescue, Inc. and Sanctuary

[www.eottr.org](http://www.eottr.org)

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### ADOPTION PROCESS

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End of the Trail Rescue, Inc.

**So you are ready to add an equine companion into your life? We are so glad you are interested in bringing home a horse from End of the Trail Horse Rescue & Sanctuary. Our adoption process is set up with the wellbeing of our horses in mind. It is very important to us that these beautiful animals find the right home and that our wonderful homes find the right horse for them!**

The **First Step** is to be sure you are ready for the commitment of owning a horse. There are many other options to get the horse experience besides ownership. Horses require a great deal of time and financial support. As any seasoned horse person will tell you "the cost of buying the horse is the cheapest part". It will cost an average of \$2,600 each year to care for a *healthy* horse. This does not include any injuries, illnesses, or emergency vet visits. We suggest you volunteer at a horse facility and spend time working around equine professionals before you get a horse of your own. If you aren't sure that you want to commit to ownership quite yet try taking lessons, working with a friend's horse, or leasing/fostering a horse so you can get the feeling of what horse ownership is. We want our horses to go to life time homes so be sure you are willing to commit 30+ years to the horse you take on. And realize that as your horses ages they will need more and more care.

Alright, you know for sure you want the responsibility of owning your own horse. That's wonderful! **Step Two** is to decide what kind of horse will best fit with you and our life style. What do you want to do with your horse? A cow horse is a very different animal from a dressage horse and trail horse is yet another breed entirely. If you know what you want the horse for, then do some research. What types of horses are best for your chosen sport? This is less about breeds and more about characteristics. Do you want a high drive horse or one who will just plod along? Temperament is more important than breed or registration. Next what does your horse need

physically? A large rider will need a larger horse, someone who rides daily will need a different type of horse than someone who rides once a month.

Once you have an idea of who your horse needs to be **Step Three** consists of filling out our Foster Application and emailing it to us (info@EOTTR.org) or dropping it off at our facility (by appointment only). This application will help us to match you with a horse that fits your needs. Be aware that we are a rescue and we can't just generate the perfect horse but this does give us a jumping off point. We will select a number of horses we feel would make a good fit for you. If we do not have a horse in our care that matches your needs we can refer you to someone else or if someone contacts us with a horse that would be a good match we can pass you that information.

**Step Four** will be when you meet the horses. After you have submitted your application please give us a call at 323-5400 to set up an appointment with the Barn Manager. We will have you come out and introduce you to the horses we feel would be a good match. From this point you will have some time to interact with each of these horses and select one or two that you connect with.

In **Step Five** you will be asked to work consistently with the horse(s) you are interested in adopting here on the facility. We recommend at least once a week (if you are a current volunteer working your horse must be kept separate from the days/times you volunteer). We define working with as grooming and handling your horse on the ground under supervision. This can include but is not limited to lunging, backing, leading, working through obstacle courses, and taking your horse for walks. If you plan on riding the horse(s) you must then work with our instructor until she determines that you and the horse are confident enough to work alone. This may only take one session depending on your experience level and the horse. The lessons are \$35 for 30 minutes or \$45 for 60 minutes. If you intend on riding the horse in your care at any point this is a requirement.

If you work with your horse consistently to build a relationship then in **Step Six** we will do a facility check of where the horse will be housed. Here are the housing requirements:

#### The Horse Must Be Provided With

- Adequate Shelter (three sided run-ins are sufficient)
- A safe Enclosure (pasture, dry lot, etc)
  - Enough space to move around comfortably and to lay down

- Safe, horse proof fences (we prefer you do not have barbed wire and that all tee posts are capped)
- Access to fresh clean water 24/7
- Access to high quality feed fitting the dietary needs of the individual horse.
- The horse must be housed with at least one companion at all times.

If your facility is fit for the horse then in **Step Seven** you will begin the six month foster period of having the horse at your facility. Before the horse moves you will meet with the Executive Director and/or the Barn Manager to go over all your paper work. At this point you will fill out the Foster/Adoption Contract and Requirements. In these six months you are responsible for all costs and care of the horse. The foster period mimics the adoption and will make sure you are prepared for owning a horse.

Within 24 hours taking possession of the horse, you will be required to call End of the Trail Horse Rescue with an update of the horse. You will then be required to provide updates via phone call or email once a week for the first month and once a month thereafter until the six month probationary period is over. After the probation period you are requested to provide updates AT LEAST biannually.

If after six months you and the horse are still a good match then the official adoption will take place. This means you must submit the Adoption Application and pay the adoption fee for the horse(s) you are adopting. A Brand Inspection must take place to add your name at which point the adoption will be considered complete. Congratulations!

Adopter/Foster Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_