End of the Trail RESCUE INC.
5814 Colorado Highway 348, Olathe, CO 81425
Phone: 970.901.0502 ● Fax: 970.323.9090
www.eottr.org

OUTLINE OF ADOPTION PROCESS

So you are ready to add an equine(s) companion into your life? We are so glad you are interested in bringing home a horse(s) from End of the Trail Rescue ("EOTTR"). Our adoption process is set up with the wellbeing of our horse(s) 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(s) for them!

PLEASE NOTE: ALL ADOPTIONS REQUIRE A SIX-MONTH FOSTERING COMMITMENT PRIOR TO ADOPTION, AND MAY ALSO REQUIRE A $30 FEE FOR A BACKGROUND CHECK.

First Step is to be sure you are ready for the commitment of owning a horse(s). There are many other options to get horse(s) experience besides ownership. Horses require a great deal of time and financial support. As any seasoned horse person will tell you "the cost of adopting the horse is the cheapest part". It will cost an average of $4,600 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(s), or fostering a horse so you can get the feeling of what horse ownership is. We want our horse(s) to go to lifetime homes, so be sure you are willing to commit 30+ years to the horse(s) you take on. And realize that as your horse(s) ages, it will need more and more care.

Alright, if you know for sure you want the responsibility of owning your own horse(s), that's wonderful!

Step Two is to decide what kind of horse(s) will best fit with you and your lifestyle. What do you want to do with your horse(s)? A cow horse is a very different animal from a dressage horse, and a trail horse is yet another breed entirely. If you know what you want the horse(s) 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. **Please note that adopters are prohibited from using the horse(s) for purposes of professional rodeo, barrel racing, horse racing, or other similar commercial purposes.**

Step Three consists of filling out our Adoption Survey and emailing it to us (info@EOTTR.org) or dropping it off at our facility (by appointment only). This Adoption Survey 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(s) 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(s) 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 horse(s). After you have submitted your Adoption Survey, please give us a call at 970.901.0502 to set up an appointment with the Barn Manager/Trainer. We will have you come out and introduce you to the horse(s) we feel would be a good match. From this point you will have some time to interact with each of these horses. If you find one or two horses that you connect with and want to move forward with the process of considering adoption, then in

Step Five you will fill out a Foster Application (as stated above, there is a mandatory six-month fostering period prior to finalizing all adoptions). As part of the process of approving your Foster Application, we will do a facility check of where the horse(s) will be housed. Here are the housing requirements:

<u>The Horse(s) Must Be Provided With</u>

- Adequate shelter (three-sided run-ins are sufficient)
- A safe enclosure (prefer pasture, dry lot, etc.)
    - Enough space to move around comfortably and to lay down
    - Safe, horse(s) 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(s).

The horse(s) must be always housed with at least one companion. Once your Foster Application is approved, then in

Step Six you will be asked to work consistently at EOTTR with the horse(s) you are interested in adopting before you begin fostering the horse(s) at your property. We recommend at least once a week (if you are a current volunteer, working with the horse(s) you are interested in must be kept separate from the days/times you volunteer). We define “working with” as grooming and handling your horse(s) on the ground under supervision. This can include, but is not limited to, lunging, backing, leading, working through obstacle courses, and taking your horse(s) for walks. If you plan on riding the horse(s), you must then work with our instructor until s/he determines that you and the horse(s) are confident enough to work alone. This may only take one session depending on your experience level and the horse(s). The lessons are $35 for 30 minutes or $50 for 60 minutes. If you intend on riding the horse(s) in your care at any point this is a requirement. If you work with your horse(s) consistently to build a relationship, then in

Step Seven you will begin the six-month foster period of having the horse(s) at your facility. Before the horse(s) moves, you will meet with the Executive Director and/or the Barn Manager/Trainer to sign the Foster Contract. In these six months you are responsible for all costs and care of the horse(s). The foster period mimics the adoption and will make sure you are prepared for owning a horse(s).

EOTTR also requires a $500 security deposit before the horse(s) moves to your property, to cover any expenses that EOTTR may incur if the horse(s) is injured during the fostering period and returns to EOTTR. The security deposit is NOT an adoption fee. If you choose not to proceed with adoption and the horse(s) returns to EOTTR, the security deposit will be refunded (less any deductions for expenses related to the horse(s) injuries during the foster period). However, if the adoption moves forward after the fostering period, you have the option of instructing EOTTR to apply the security deposit towards the adoption fee.

Within 24 hours of taking possession of the horse(s), you will be required to call EOTTR with an update of the horse(s). 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(s) are still a good match, then

Step Eight is to finalize the official adoption. This means you will sign the Adoption Contract and pay the adoption fee for the horse(s) that you are adopting. At the sole discretion of EOTTR you may also be required to consent to a background check and pay the associated $30 fee. A Brand Inspection must take place to add your name as owner, and **please note that EOTTR will remain co-owner of the horse(s) after adoption**.

At this point the adoption will be considered complete. Congratulations!

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature of EOTTR Representative: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____