



## Volunteer Orientation Guide

### About US

Horse Haven is a safe haven for neglected, abandoned or abused horses where we promote compassion among animals and humans. The Spirit of Compassion!

Remember! Always Have FUN – but your SAFETY is First!

### Overview

Thank you for finding a place in your heart and volunteering with Horse Haven. With your time and generosity our horses and donkeys are able to get the attention they deserve. Many may already have experience with horses, and many may not. You are still very much wanted and needed. We ask that you follow a few rules with handling the horses and donkeys.

- ◇ Closed toed shoes are required.
- ◇ Gloves are recommended.
- ◇ No smoking.
- ◇ Do not climb through or on the rails to get into the stalls or pen.
- ◇ Do not hand feed horses. Put feed or treat in feed bin.
- ◇ Personal pets must be on leash at all times. Please clean up after your pet.
- ◇ Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. No running, jumping or yelling near the horses. This can be dangerous for the volunteer and the horse.
- ◇ Please close and chain all gates.
- ◇ Stay alert when you are around the horses and donkeys.

- ◇ Check with TNT before going in the stall or pen of a new rescue horse or donkey.

Please pay attention to the body language of horse. Their body language and ears are the key to their emotions.

- ◇ Ears flattened to head: Angry, in a fighting mood. May fight, bite or kick.
- ◇ Tail tucked down tightly: Horse may take off, buck or kick.
- ◇ Swapping the tail: Annoyance, irritation from flies or insects. Bothered by actions of a rider or horse.
- ◇ Resting on one hind leg or on toe: Calm and resting, may be taking a nap.
- ◇ Swinging the head: Threatening, angry, bossy. Be cautious!

## Emergency Awareness

Should you notice any of the behaviors listed below please alert Tina @Horse Haven 602-888-6652.

-Not eating or drinking – coughing – biting at rails – laying down and not getting up – injuries – restlessness – anything suspicious.

## Adoption Policy Overview

TNT Horse Haven adoption policy.

- Interested adopters must complete and submit adoption application.
- Interested adopters will be contacted for an appointment to meet the equine of choice.
- Potential adopters will be screened, references checked, on-site assessment will be scheduled and completed. Final approval will be determined after completion of all steps.
- Once approved, adopter can schedule delivery/pick up. Application fee is due at time of delivery/pick up.

- o Adopters are financially, legally and morally responsible for the care of adopted equine.
- o Adopters understand Mares are not to be bred.
- o TNT Horse Haven will handle 30, 60 and 90 days follow ups either by phone or email.
- o Adopter agrees to on-site inspections at any time during the first 120 days.
- o For protection of equine, TNT Horse Haven will retain title/ownership papers for the first 120 days, at which time a final inspection made, and papers will be release to adopter.
- o If, for any reason during the first 120 days, the adopter can no longer care for the equine, TNT Horse Haven must be notified, and arrangements will be made for the return of the equine. Any encumbrance for liens, including feed liens, will not be the responsibility of TNT Horse Haven.
- o All equines adopted from TNT Horse Haven are up to date on all vaccinations, teeth & sheath, hooves and has completed a veterinarian check.
- o If adopter chooses to consult a licensed veterinarian or trainer to evaluate equine, it will be at adopters' expense.

## Commonly Asked Questions About A Horse

◇ What is the average life expectancy of a horse?

Approximately 25 – 30 years.

◇ How can horses sleep standing?

Horses can do so because they have an unusual stay apparatus in their patella(kneecap) that can lock into place and prevent the leg from bending.

◇ Terms used to describe gender of a horse or pony?

Filly – a female horse or pony not yet fully grown

Colt – a male horse or pony not yet fully grown

Mare – a fully grown female horse or pony

Gelding – a male horse or pony that has been castrated

Stallion – a fully grown male horse or pony that has not been gelded

◇ How do you measure a horse?

Horses and ponies are measured from the ground to the withers (highest part of a horse's back). They are measured in hands and each hand is 4".

◇ What is Colic?

Colic is abdominal pain caused with the gastro-intestinal tract. The causes for colic are numerous. It can be life-threatening.

◇ Do horses lie down?

Seemingly a prey animal that evolved on open plains whose life may depend on waking quickly and fleeing, horses sleep for shorter periods of time, more frequently.

They can sleep standing or lying down, but they lie down only when they feel comfortable and safe from danger.

Interestingly, horses sleep on average 3 hours in a 24-hour period. Unlike us, horses need very little REM sleep each day. The reason for this is because a horse is a BIG animal, their blood flow can be restricted by laying down for long periods of time. Laying down causes excess pressure on their internal organs, which is why they only lay down for REM sleep.

◇ Can a horse read my mind?

Horses and dogs are very similar in this way. They are the only animals able to read human emotions.