



## The Dorset Equine Rescue

Thank you for your interest in adopting an equine from The Dorset Equine Rescue Inc. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing abused, neglected and slaughter-bound equines. We provide equine rescue regardless of age or disability. Please be sure to read our Adoption Requirements (attached) and Adoption Process found on our website before submitting your application. The information you provide on your application helps us to make sure the horse we are matching you up with is both equally compatible for you as well as the horse. Please note that by filling out an adoption application, you are not obligated to adopt the horse(s) and can change your mind at any time during the approval process.

All adoption fees are put back into The Dorset Equine Rescue and help support the current rescue horses at our facility. Once the adoption fee has been set, we will not take less than the offered price. Please keep in mind that we typically invest far more into each horse than what we can adopt a horse for. Fees are based upon the horse's age, abilities and amount of training. The adoption fee is due and must be paid, when adopter is approved and has agreed to adopt said horse(s). We do not accept payment plans.

Please keep in mind that when you are adopting a rescue horse, you are making a commitment for the remainder of its life. Horses that are treated properly can live to be 35 years of age or older. Our goal is to find each rescued horse a compatible and loving forever home.

All adoption applications are reviewed on a first come, first served bases and are processed on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday's. We have the right to deny your application for any reason. This includes if we feel the horse and adopter are not a good fit, and/or if the requirements are not met. Please fill out the attached Adoption Application and return it as soon as possible. Once we review your application, we will contact you to talk in more detail about the horse(s). If we have a horse that sounds like a good fit for both you and the horse, we will set up a time for you to come and visit. Once a compatible match is made, we will call your references and schedule the barn check. Please contact your veterinarian and give authorization to speak with us as a reference. We appreciate your interest in adopting an equine from The Dorset Equine Rescue and look forward to working with you.

Thank you,

The Dorset Equine Rescue



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## Adoption Requirements

Thank you for your interest in adopting a rescue horse from DER! Our goal is to find our available horses a loving, safe and compatible home.

1. Since all adoptions require a farm visit, we only adopt out within a three-hour radius from Dorset, VT. Please do a map check from your property to Dorset, VT to see if you are within that range. This range is a little flexible, but not by much.
2. You must be at least 18 years old to adopt a horse. If you are under 18, your parent will need to sign the adoption contract and they will be legally responsible for the horse.
3. Each adopted horse must have an equine companion at their new home to be turned out with. Horses are herd animals and are happiest with a buddy.
4. The horse must have 24/7 access to a barn or a three-sided run-in shed to block the prevailing winds and protect them from the weather. The shelter must be large enough to house all of the animals in bad weather.
5. The horse must always have access to a clean water trough that is heated in the winter.
6. You must have safe and sturdy fencing. Some examples of fencing we will not approve is barbed wire fencing or fiberglass fence posts. T-posts are acceptable but must have plastic caps. Plastic step-in fence posts are not tall enough or sturdy enough to be used on their own. Livestock fencing that has 2"x 4" holes is ok. Anything with larger holes is not safe as they can get their legs or feet caught in. Some of our favorite fencing includes (but is not limited to) wood fence posts with 3-5 wooden rails, or ElectroBraid fencing with wooden posts.
7. The adopter must be physically able to handle the adopted horse for their basic care (must be able to safely catch, halter, lead the horse and pick up all four feet).
8. You must have horse experience. We generally do not adopt out to first time horse owners UNLESS they are boarding the horse at a full-care boarding facility, are working closely with a trainer and are receiving regular lessons. This is for the safety of the horse and the adopter. You don't have to board your horse forever but is always a good idea until you are very familiar with basic horse care and become a more confident horse handler and/or rider.
9. The adopted horse must reside within 40 miles of adopter's home.
10. We require the adopted horse stay up to date on these basic vaccines: Eastern/Western Encephalitis, Tetanus, Rabies, Influenza and Rhino.

11. Our adopted horses leave with a strict NO BREEDING policy. Why? Because there is a large overpopulation of horses and overbreeding is a major cause of horse slaughter.
12. If you have ever been convicted of any type of animal cruelty related charges, you are not eligible to adopt.
13. You must have a veterinarian and farrier that will vouch for you. Please include their contact information in your adoption application.
14. We require that the adopted horse stays up to date with regular feet trimming (6-10 weeks depending on the time of year), deworming (minimum of 4 times per year), and annual dental care.
15. The adopted horse must have a minimum of 8 hours of turn out time daily.
16. The minimum turnout requirement for two full size horses is 1/2 acre. For each additional horse, the minimum space requirement will increase by an additional 1/8 acre per horse. Miniature horses and small ponies require less space. The minimum turnout requirement for two mini horses is 5,000 square feet. For each additional mini, the minimum space requirement will increase by 500 square feet per mini. You must have a dry lot (no grass) paddock available to put the minis in as needed. Too much grass can cause health issues in minis such as founder, metabolic issues and obesity. Occasionally there are exceptions depending on the specific horse's needs. A sense of freedom to move is extremely important to a horse's mental state and we are adamant that all our horses get that on a daily basis.



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## Adoption Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ \* *Must be 18 years or older to adopt without a parent.*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Farrier Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farrier Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been charged with Animal Cruelty?  Yes  No

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Will the horse to be stabled on your property or boarded out? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of acres the horse will be pastured on: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of horses on this property (including boarders): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current horse owner?  Yes  No If yes, how many years? \_\_\_\_\_

How many horses do you currently own? \_\_\_\_\_

If no, have you owned a horse in the past? \_\_\_\_\_ For how long? \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please note that it is an adoption requirement that your adopted Dorset Equine Rescue horse always has a compatible equine companion to be turned out with.**

Are you willing to commit to making sure the adopted horse always has an equine companion to be turned out with throughout their life?  Yes  No *Continued...*

If boarded out, name of stable or boarding facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of boarding facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number of boarding facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner of boarding facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number of owner of boarding facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Is shelter provided for the horses?  Yes  No

Number & size of stall(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Number & size of run-in shed(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*(Note: Most of our horses only require a run-in shed, but some horses may need a stall depending on their individual needs).*

Type of fencing the horse(s) will be turned out in: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of time turned out: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you looking to adopt a riding horse or a retired pasture companion? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe what purpose your adopted horse will serve in your lives: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the type of horse you are seeking: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the horse's name that you are applying to adopt (a current list of our available horses can be found on our website)? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I have read and agree with the adoption requirements (please initial): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_