

# THE EQUINE PROJECT

## Adoption Policy

The Equine Project offers an adoption program for those who qualify. The terms and conditions are addressed below.

Adoption Fee: Many of our horses approved for adoption, need extensive care. Therefore, we require an adoption fee of three months care to ensure that you can afford to provide the horse with the same level of quality care necessary. Furthermore, our adoption fee varies depending on the horse.

Site Visit and Required Care: The Equine Project will perform a site visit before the horse can leave the property. We also retain the right to visit the horse any time. We require the following criteria to be met:

1. **Feeding & Nutrition:** You are responsible for feeding (must ensure that the horse receives the appropriate amount of nutrition based on the age and condition of the horse). This includes any supplements, vitamins, hay, and grain as required by the horse's medical record. The horse's weight and condition is to be kept between moderate 5 and fleshy 7 as per the Henneke Scoring System. The horse is to have access to fresh water at ALL times, (i.e. in the winter months, the water source should be free of ice). The water buckets are to be scrubbed at a minimum of once per week. All feed bins are to be clean and free of contaminants (i.e. mold, feces, rodents, insects, etc.).
2. **Fencing / Shelter:** Your facility must be fenced. The Equine Project will not be responsible for securing your property in any way. Barbed wire is not considered safe for horses; any liability for any injuries related to improper fencing shall rest with the adoptee. You are also responsible to ensure that the horse has shelter from the weather. If the horse is stalled, the stall must be cleaned, and the horse must be turned out for exercise daily. If the horse is pastured only, ensure the horse has ample room for regular exercise.
3. **Hoof Care:** You will be responsible for keeping the horse's feet in healthy condition. This includes a mandatory trimming every 6-8 weeks and shoes if the horse requires them.
4. **Veterinary Costs:** You are responsible for all veterinary costs related to your horse. The Equine Project will disclose any regular veterinary maintenance that the horse requires before the animal leaves the property, but you will be responsible for continuing its care.
5. **Riding:** We must approve the type of riding you will be doing to ensure that it is appropriate for your new horse. Using your tack, we will ensure the gear is fitted properly for the horse. After each ride, the horse must be "cooled" and brushed until the horse displaces no signs of saddle marks. The horse must always be kept in appropriate weight and condition for riding.\*
6. **Basic Care:** Basic Care is your responsibility. Grooming to be accomplished at a minimum of once per week. Use your horse blanket as often as necessary especially when the weather moves to freezing temperatures. Preventative maintenance such as worming, bathing, clipping and dusting provided as needed.\*

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## Additional Terms and Conditions:

1. We retain partial ownership in **ALL** adopted horses.
2. You may not under any circumstances sell, auction, give away, transfer, or dispose of any adopted horse without the approval of the Equine Project **OR YOU WILL BE PERSECUTED FOR THEFT TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.**
3. If The Equine Project finds that you have mistreated, disposed of, put down, slaughtered, or abused your horse **YOU WILL BE PERSECUTED FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.** If the adopted horse has a life threatening illness or injury and must be put down, we require written proof from a licensed veterinarian.
4. You must notify the Equine Project before moving your horse to a new location. In an emergency situation (examples would be flood, fire, etc.), you may move the horse at your discretion but we must be notified within 24 hours.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand my responsibilities and will abide by the terms and conditions listed in this document. If at any time, the Equine Project finds the horse neglected in any way, we retain the right to take possession of the horse and you will be held liable for any cost associated with rehabilitating and re-homing the horse.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & Date (Adoptee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & Date (The Equine Project)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\*For all information related to basic care, riding, grooming, tack, and fitting please refer to the 4H manual at [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h7933](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h7933).