



IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE RE-HOMING A HORSE:

Finding a new home for a horse is not always an easy job and various equine facilities play a role in providing care or finding new owners for horses. Whether an owner is searching for the perfect retirement farm, looking to find their horse a new job in therapeutic riding or in the mounted patrol, or if they are in need of placement with a rescue or sanctuary, there are questions every owner should ask before giving up care and control of their horse.

1. Does the organization subscribe to accepted guidelines for operating such facilities, such as the "Care Guidelines for Rescue and Retirement Facilities" prepared by the American Association of Equine Practitioners?
 - a) For Thoroughbreds, is the organization accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance?
2. Is it an entity exempt from federal tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code?
3. Does it file IRS Form 990 and forms required by the state? Will the facility provide copies?
4. Does it have a mission statement and a board of directors? Who are they?
5. How long has the organization been operating?
6. If it is a facility that will use the horse, how will it be used?
7. Will the facility allow you to walk the property, including entering barns?
8. Does the facility appear to have adequate feed (hay, pasture, grain) for the number of horses on the property?
9. What are the physical characteristics of the facility, including barns, pastures, shelters, and fencing? Does the facility have ample room for horses to graze and/or move about? Do the horses have adequate shelter?
10. Is the organization's agreement with the owner for free lease or donation or something else?
11. Will the horse stay at the facility or be placed into foster care? If the facility uses foster care, how are foster homes screened?
12. Does the organization have an agreement regarding the use, boarding, or care of the horse?
13. If it is an organization that adopts horses out, what are the requirements for adoption? Does the facility follow up with the new owners to ensure the horse is being properly cared for?
14. Does the organization have a policy against breeding or restrict the horse's use in any way?
15. What is the organization's post-adoption policy on breeding and use?
16. If this is an adoption facility, are stallions gelded upon entry and before adoption?
17. What becomes of the horse when the adopter or the user no longer wants the horse? Will the organization automatically take the horse back?
18. Will the organization advise you before your horse is transferred to a new owner?
19. Can the original owner ask for the horse back?
20. Will the facility provide routine and emergency veterinary, dental, and farrier care?
21. Does the facility provide training/re-training for the horse?
22. Can owners visit their horse at the facility? Can owners visit the horse at an adoption home?
23. Any welfare charges been brought against the organization?
24. Does the facility euthanize horses that cannot be placed? If so, will the facility notify the owner beforehand?