

## ERL ADOPTION PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

### PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE FOR REFERENCE

It is the Equine Rescue League's (ERL) policy to attempt to place each horse in the home best *suited to the individual horse*. Horses adopted from the ERL cannot be resold, given away, or used for breeding. In addition, adopted horses cannot be relocated from the original, approved facility without the permission of the ERL.

- Before a horse can be adopted from the ERL, the following procedures must be followed:

- Complete and return an Equine Rescue League Preliminary Adoption Application. To received an application, send a self-addressed, double stamped business-size envelope to **The Equine Rescue League, PO Box 4366, Leesburg, VA 20177**

- **Please allow 7 to 10 days for the ERL to receive and review the application. After that time, please call the ERL at (540) 822-4577 to schedule an appointment for a personal interview and tour of the farm.**

- If the personal interview is satisfactory and if the ERL has a potentially suitable horse at the time, the ERL will schedule an appointment to evaluate the potential adopter's facilities. No facility using barbed wire will be approved. In addition, the ERL will conduct interviews of the references provided by the potential adopter on the Preliminary Adoption Application.

- Upon satisfactory completion of the above, the ERL will schedule a minimum of five (5) working sessions with the potential horse to determine if there is a suitable match.

- Upon completion of the five sessions, it will be determined whether or not the horse and potential adopter are compatible. The ERL may at that time require additional sessions and will approve or deny an adoption. The ERL reserves the right to deny adoption for any reason in its sole discretion, and is not obligated to state any reason for such denial.

- When all requirements and preliminary adoption procedures have been satisfied, the ERL will require the following at the time of adoption:

- Payment in full of a non-refundable adoption fee which is based upon each individual horse and set by the ERL's sole discretion.

**Date application mailed to ERL: \_\_\_\_\_**

If it is determined, based on the Application and personal interview, that ERL has in its custody a horse suitable for the potential adopter, the procedure outlined to the left will be followed. **Listed below are excerpts of some terms of the Adoption Agreement.** *Please read and think about them carefully before proceeding with the adoption process. If you cannot agree to these terms, adoption may not be the best option for you.*

1. The Adopter will, at his own expense, provide the adopted Animal with adequate and proper quantities of wholesome feed and water; safe and adequate shelter; proper and adequate exercise; appropriate hoof care and veterinary attention.
2. The Adopter agrees to advise the ERL of the place where the Animal will be kept, then further agree(s) that a representative of the ERL may make unannounced visits at any time to any location where the animal is located to confirm that proper care is being provided.
3. The Adopter agrees that the Animal will not be moved to any facility for stabling, training, or general care without the prior approval of the ERL. The Adopter further agrees that the Animal will not be sold, leased, or otherwise transferred without prior approval of the ERL.
4. The Adopter agrees that the Animal will not be used for breeding or racing purposes.
5. In the event that the placement does not work out for any reason, or in the event that the Adopter is unable or unwilling to care for the adopted Animal, ERL requires that the Animal be returned to ERL. The Animal will be transferred to ERL without charge or liability for expenses incurred by the Adopter.
6. The Adopter agrees to notify ERL in the event of the death of the Animal.
7. The Adopter further agrees that in the event that ERL determines that there has been a material violation of the terms of this Agreement including, but not limited to, failure to provide adequate care, failure to allow access for an on-site inspection, or by moving the Animal without prior approval or that ERL is notified of the Adopter's involvement with a humane society or animal control agency resulting in a warning or citation for the inhumane treatment of any animal. Adopter will be in breach of this Agreement and ERL may recover immediate possession of the Animal.
8. If such event takes place, the ERL may enter any property where the Animal is located and take immediate possession of the Animal with no liability. At such time, the Adopter's rights shall terminate and the Adopter agrees that he shall have no cause of action or claim against the ERL, its officers, directors, staff, or volunteers regarding such removal and termination of rights.

The ERL is a nonprofit organization that supports the responsible use of working, sport, and pleasure horses and ponies. Our goals are to prevent the neglect and abuse of any horse or pony, offer educational programs to the community and provide rehabilitation and adoption for those animals who need our services.

**Equine Rescue League • PO Box 4366 • Leesburg, VA 20177 • (540) 822-4577**

[www.equinerescueleague.org](http://www.equinerescueleague.org)



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**EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE**

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**EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE**  
**PRELIMINARY TERMS FOR ADOPTION OF E.R.L. ANIMALS**

It is the Equine Rescue League's (E.R.L.) policy to attempt to place each horse in the home best suited for the individual horse. In addition, horses adopted from the E.R.L. cannot be resold, given away, or used for breeding. The horse cannot be relocated from the original, approved facility without the permission of the E.R.L.

Before a horse can be adopted from the E.R.L., the following procedures must be followed:

1. Complete and return the enclosed Equine Rescue League Preliminary Adoption Application and this signed cover letter.
2. Please allow 7 to 10 days for the E.R.L. to review the application. After that time, please call the E.R.L. at 1-(540) 822-4577 to make an appointment to go over the application and to schedule a tour of the farm.
3. If the personal interview is satisfactory and if the E.R.L. has a potentially suitable horse at the time, the E.R.L. will schedule an appointment to check the potential adopters facilities. In addition, the E.R.L. will also conduct interviews of the references provided by the potential adopter on the Preliminary Adoption Application.
4. Upon satisfactory completion of the above, the E.R.L. will schedule a minimum of five (5) working sessions with the potential horse to determine if there is a suitable match.
5. Upon the completion of the five sessions, it will be determined whether or not the horse and the potential adopter are compatible. The E.R.L. may at that time require additional sessions, and will approve or deny any adoption. The E.R.L. reserves the right to deny adoption for any reason in its sole discretion, and is not obligated to state any reason for such denial.

When all requirements and preliminary adoption procedures have been satisfied, the E.R.L. will require the following at the time of final adoption:

1. Completion of a permanent Adoption Contract with such terms and conditions as E.R.L. may, in its sole judgment and discretion determine.
2. Payment in full of a non-refundable fee which is based upon each individual horse, and set by the E.R.L. in its sole discretion.
3. Upon final adoption of a horse, the adopter is responsible for the transportation arrangements from the E.R.L. farm to the adopters facility in a manner acceptable to the E.R.L.

4. The E.R.L. reserves the right to conduct unscheduled follow-up checks on the adopted horse and the facility at the E.R.L.'s discretion. Upon placement of a horse, the adopter is required to submit to the E.R.L. an annual health statement from the adopter's veterinarian and farrier.

Thank you very much for contacting the E.R.L. We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

\_\_\_\_\_  
E.R.L. Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have read and understand the above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Potential Adopter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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**EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE**

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**EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE  
PRELIMINARY ADOPTION APPLICATION**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do You?

Rent \_\_\_\_\_ Own \_\_\_\_\_ Live with parents \_\_\_\_\_

Landlord's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Landlord's phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(If renting, please attach a copy of lease)

2. Will the horse be kept on your property? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, describe the breed and sex of horse(s) there, if any, and the area and shelter to be provided. Please include a photograph. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Type of fencing: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of acres: \_\_\_\_\_

If NO, please give address and description of boarding/training facility: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Manager/Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Will there be other horses? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you own a horse now? \_\_\_\_\_ How many: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
If you have owned horses previously, please explain what happened to them. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What specific type of horse are you interested in? \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed preference: \_\_\_\_\_  
Range of training: \_\_\_\_\_  
Intended use of horse: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pleasure \_\_\_ Companion \_\_\_ 4-H \_\_\_ Show \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_  
Approximate height and weight of rider(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of people in family: \_\_\_\_\_ Number and age of children: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Briefly describe your level of expertise in the following areas: \_\_\_\_\_  
Riding: \_\_\_\_\_  
Handling: \_\_\_\_\_  
Training: \_\_\_\_\_  
Working with young or unbroken horses: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who will be responsible for the horse's: \_\_\_\_\_  
Feeding: \_\_\_\_\_  
Training: \_\_\_\_\_  
General care: \_\_\_\_\_  
Their age and expertise level: \_\_\_\_\_
7. How much do you anticipate spending yearly for feed, farrier care, veterinary care and board? \_\_\_\_\_  
How often do you feel a horse should be de-wormed? \_\_\_\_\_  
How often should they receive farrier care? \_\_\_\_\_  
How often should they have their teeth floated? \_\_\_\_\_  
What types of vaccinations should a horse receive? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Please tell us why you would like to adopt a horse: \_\_\_\_\_

9. If you move in the future, what do you plan to do with the horse? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Who will care for the horse when you go out of town? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Who is, or will be, your veterinarian? \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Farrier: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Have you ever been issued a warning/citation, or been convicted for humane violations?  
If so, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Please indicate when it would be convenient for us to do a property /barn check:  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Please provide three references:  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

15. I/WE CERTIFY THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS  
CORRECT AND TRUE.  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed application and signed cover letter to:

Equine Rescue League  
P.O. Box 4366  
Leesburg, Virginia 20177