

HKS Rescue & Rehab
Rehoming Policy
Version Date: 6/27/2012

General Guideline for the Rehoming Process

- Hidden K Stables Rescue & Rehabilitation (HKS R&R) sets forth the following general timeline guidance for the rehoming process, to be monitored by the Training Committee and as needed by the Board of Directors (BOD).
- 1. Equine is determined ready or near-ready for rehoming.
- 2. Marketing and advertising is initiated by the Training Committee, and a Rehoming Liaison will be determined.
- 3. Individuals may come for an unofficial, but supervised, 'meet & greet' and discussion with Rehoming Liaison.
- 4. If interested, individuals may schedule a trial ride either at the time of the meet & greet or separately.
- 5. After the meet & greet, individuals may complete their application and formal reviewed ride.
- 6. Completed applications will be reviewed and receive a decision in the fashion set forth by the rehoming policy.

Qualifications for Horse Readiness for Rehoming

- Horses/ponies will be determined ready for rehoming by the Training Committee, Executive Director and Veterinarian and will be expected to fulfill the following basic qualifications:
- 1. The rescued equine will be fundamentally safe to handle on the ground, at a minimum by an experienced handler, without excessive aids. For example, the rescued equine must be able to be tacked/untacked, groomed, stand for the farrier, led, etc.
- 2. The rescued equine will have achieved at a minimum a balanced walk, trot and canter and must be fundamentally as safe as possible for what is an inherently dangerous sport.
- 3. The rescued equine will have an honest appraisal of skill level and the level of rider ability needed for successful partnership and rehoming from at least 2 members of the training committee and from the Executive Director with the goal of making sure that the horse and rider skill level match is appropriate and so that the horse is marketed as honestly as possible.

Rehoming Planning

- The head(s) of the Training Committee, Executive Director and Veterinarian will determine when the rescued equine is near readiness for rehoming and will notify the BOD to begin marketing horse for rehoming within 2-3 months from the time of notification.
- 1. Advertising must be explicit when the horse is not yet ready for rehoming and will need to mention the sponsorship to rehoming option.

2. The Training Committee will be responsible for developing a Rehoming/Marketing Plan and for receiving approval for funding for said plan from the BOD (i.e. entry fees for horse shows, transport, advertisements, etc.)
3. All Rehoming Fees will be set by the Training Committee in conjunction with the Executive Director, with the approval of at least one member of the BOD. This fee will be based on the current level of training and the potential of the equine.

Rehoming

- Potential Homes
 1. Potential homes for the rescued and rehabilitated equine must demonstrate at a minimum:
 - a. Safe fencing
 - i. In no circumstances will barbed wire fencing be considered acceptable. Options for safe fencing include wood, plastic, hot-tape and multiple other types of fencing.
 - b. Appropriate shelter/Nourishment
 - i. At a minimum, a 3-sided shelter must be available at all times for the equine.
 - ii. Clean water sources must be available at all times and sufficient and appropriate feed must be available. Appropriate facilities must be present for storage of feed.
 - c. Companionship
 - i. Due to the nature of horses as herd animals, appropriate companionship must be available.
 - ii. Based on the equine the type of appropriate companionship may vary, and the level of companionship (i.e. another equine only v. farm animal such as goats, llamas etc.) will be determined by the Training Committee.
 - d. Pasture/Facilities
 - i. An appropriate amount of grazing/turn-out land must be available; this may vary based on the number/size of animals already in the owner's possession.
- Rehoming Application
 1. Potential rehoming applicants are welcome and encouraged to schedule an appointment to view the rescue horse with a member of the BOD or Training Committee prior to their official ride for the application; during this visit if they and the supervisory individual feel it is appropriate, they may witness a demonstration ride (if a rider is available) and may also have a trial ride separate from and not related to the supervised ride required for application review. A waiver must be completed prior to the ride and helmets and appropriate riding gear must be worn as noted below.
 2. All potential homes must be prior horse owners or have attended the Prepurchase Class as scheduled by HKS R&R; if the primary rider is not the purchaser, the primary rider must also attend the Prepurchase Class. If no classes are scheduled,

- it will be the responsibility of HKS R&R to provide appropriate education in a timely fashion so as not to delay rehoming.
3. Homes within the local area (as set forth within the Rescue Policy) will be given priority, but homes outside of this area will be considered if they are an excellent match with the ability and potential of the equine.
 4. All potential applicants are encouraged to have a supervised ride of the rescued equine prior to submission of an application; a formal supervised ride is required for application approval. Riders must sign both the Hidden K Stables and the HKS R&R Waiver in order to ride. Helmets are required regardless of age, as is appropriate riding gear including long pants and closed-toed shoes (no tennis shoes) for the purposes of trial rides and all rides on HKS R&R horses.
 - a. Potential new owners may bring their trainer to these trial rides.
 - b. Either the Rehoming Liaison or a member of the Training Committee must be present for all rides.
 - c. Rides must be scheduled with appropriate advance notice.
 5. Potential homes must submit and complete an application for approval, which may include but not be limited to the following:
 - a. A minimum of 3 references, not to include family members. One of these must be a veterinarian.
 - b. Trainer contact information must be provided.
 - c. Copy of government-issued identification.
 - d. List of all currently owned animals and their veterinary/care records.
 - e. List of all equine experience.
 - f. Voluntary information will include annual household income.
 - g. A description of their plans for the adopted horse (i.e. further training, plans for competition, desire for type of riding) as well as the future plans of the rider (i.e. going off to college, planning move, etc.).
 - h. A site visit will be scheduled for the potential new home, if the horse will not be boarded at Hidden K Stables after Rehoming. If for some reason a site visit is not feasible prior to the adoption of the equine (such as distance from the physical location of the rescue if the horse is rehomed out of the local area) the potential new home must provide any and all additional documentation as requested by the BOD, such as photographs or additional resources.
 - i. Documentation of a formal supervised ride by an approved HKS R&R Training Committee member or Liaison with notes regarding riding ability and horse-rider compatibility.
- Application Review
1. Applications will be processed in the order received.
 2. A member of the Training Committee and a member of the BOD will be assigned to each application.
 3. The applicant will be notified of application status within 2 weeks of completion of the application and any supplemental materials requested.
 4. Approval

- a. Once an application is approved, it is effective for the horse under consideration, and if a different horse is of interest, the application must be modified as appropriate and re-evaluated as it is the goal of the rescue to develop a good match between horse and rider.
- b. Once an approval is issued, the applicant will have 7 days from the date of approval to confirm that they will be Rehoming the equine of interest.
- c. If they have not issued a decision by that time, if there are other applicants, they will then have the right to decide on the equine(s) available for Rehoming, in the order their applications were received.
- d. If an applicant is approved but decides, for any reason, not to proceed with the Rehoming of a specific equine, their application remains valid as-is for 60 days from the date of approval. After this, an updated or new application may have to be completed as requested by the BOD.
- e. Once an approved applicant has elected to rehome the equine, they will have 7 days to complete the remainder of the paperwork and take possession of the equine unless alternate arrangements are made. At that time they may either pursue board at Hidden K Stables if space is available or pay for transport of the equine to their facility. Hidden K Stables may provide transport upon request for their standard fee at their discretion. If the new owner wishes to board their horse at Hidden K Stables, they will be responsible for pursuing that with the owner of Hidden K Stables, independent of HKS R&R.

5. Denial

- a. The BOD reserves the right to deny an application for any reason during the initial site visit and application review, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Unsafe or inadequate fencing or facilities.
 - ii. Failure to properly care for or vet current horses.
 - iii. Observed lack of connection (i.e. poor match) between horse and prospective rider or lack of adequate rider ability for the horse they are seeking to rehome.
 - iv. Inadequate financial capability.
 - v. Any other reason which may jeopardize the health, welfare, or potential of any of our rescue horses.
- b. Any applicant issued a denial is entitled to an explanation by HKS R&R.
 - i. If the applicant wishes, they may pursue the rectification of any delinquencies to the satisfaction of HKS R&R, however, the rectification of any initial delinquencies does not in any way guarantee that the current or future application will be approved.
 - ii. If the delinquency is a lack of connection between horse and rider, they may transfer their application to another horse who may be a better match, if one is available and ask for consideration for that equine instead.

Rehoming Options

- Sponsorship-to-Rehoming Program

1. The sponsorship-to-rehoming program is an option designed for individuals who have an interest in a particular horse, and wish to obtain first rights for purchase of the rehabilitated equine.
2. The potential new home may contact the HKS R&R Training Committee and BOD about becoming a “Rehoming Sponsor” of a particular rescue horse.
3. In this instance, they will assume all or a portion of the costs of the care of the equine (not to be less than half of the total monthly cost of care), including board, veterinarian fees, shoeing/farrier costs, etc. per their agreement with the rescue.
4. If they so choose, they may elect to pursue instruction and lessons on the rescue horse they are sponsoring, but those lessons must take place at Hidden K Stables under the instruction of a member of the barn staff or Training Committee with appropriate lesson fees paid to Hidden K Stables per their current rates (these monies will NOT go to HKS R&R, but instead to barn staff that are providing their time for teaching). Due to liability concerns and the specificity of each horse’s Retraining Plan, no off-site individuals will be allowed to give lessons, though an individual’s trainer, if off-site, will be allowed to observe and give their opinions on the equine.
5. When the horse is determined ready to rehome, a portion of the donation given by the sponsor will be deducted from the Rehoming Fee, typically up to 50% of the total donations given or 50% of the Rehoming Fee, whichever is lesser. (for example, if someone has donated \$800 as a Rehoming Sponsor, and the Rehoming Fee is \$3500, \$400 would be deducted from the Rehoming Fee. If someone has donated \$2000 as a Rehoming Sponsor and the Rehoming Fee is \$1500, a total of \$750 would be applied to the Rehoming Fee.)
6. When an individual enters into the Sponsorship-to-Rehoming program, they understand that they will not be able to purchase the equine until it is deemed appropriate for Rehoming by the Training Committee, which may be commensurate with the rider’s level of experience (for example, a very experienced rider may be allowed to Rehome a relatively inexperienced horse, but a beginner rider may be required to wait longer until the horse-rider safety is felt to be as optimal as possible). If at any point, the Sponsor decides to discontinue the program, they will forfeit the monies to that point as a donation to HKS R&R.
7. It is the responsibility of HKS R&R and the Training Committee to provide the potential Sponsor with as accurate of a best-guess timeframe for Rehoming as possible. Horses will not be offered for the program if they are felt to be more than 6 months from Rehoming.

- Conventional Rehoming

1. In the more traditional sense, we welcome individuals who are a good match for long-term rehoming who become aware of our rescued via marketing and word of mouth.
2. In this instance, the potential new owner will be responsible for the entire Rehoming Fee without any discount, as set forth by the Training Committee and BOD.
3. Due to liability concerns, no horses will be allowed to go on an off-site trial unless payment has been received in full by HKS R&R. In this instance, if the

potential new home wishes to pursue an off-site trial, payment will be received and held by HKS R&R for the duration of the trial, not to be more than 2 weeks. If the horse is injured while in the care of the potential new owner, the Rehoming Fee will be forfeited in total to HKS R&R for the care of the equine. If at the end of the trial, the potential new owner does not wish to pursue Rehoming, the amount will be refunded minus a \$250 processing fee.

Rehoming Follow-Up

- In order to facilitate the continued health and well-being of the rehomed equine, HKS R&R will continue to monitor the equine for the first 3 years after rehoming.

- If at any point the equine is felt to be in danger or be receiving inadequate care, HKS R&R will attempt to pursue rapid rectification of any deficiencies. If this does not occur to the satisfaction of the Rescue, the ownership of the equine may revert to the Rescue and the equine may be returned to the rescue facilities if appropriate; in addition, if at any point deficiencies in care are noted, this may extend the traditional 3-year follow-up plan and may delay transfer of formal ownership of the equine.

- The routine follow-up schedule is as detailed below:
 1. On-site arranged visits (and/or by photo/video) will occur at 3 month intervals for the first 6 months.
 2. Following this interval, photo/video evaluations in combination with telephone discussions, and on-site visits if indicated or if there were any prior deficiencies, will occur at the 1 year, 2 year and 3 year marks. It will be the responsibility of the new owner/home in notifying the Rescue of updated contact information.
 3. At the 3 year mark, HKS R&R will relinquish any vested interest in Rehomed horses as long as the other requirements for Rehoming have been met to the satisfaction of the BOD, though it will continue to be the responsibility of the new home to notify the Rescue of any intent to sell or rehome the equine.
 4. The new home must notify the Rescue of the death of the equine at any point after the equine is Rehomed.

Rehoming Return

- It is the goal of HKS R&R to develop functional, productive equine citizens and to place them in permanent homes. However, the Rescue is aware that unfortunate and unpredictable events occur, leading to the inability of the new owner to care for the rehomed equine. As such, HKS R&R has set for the following requirements for the return of a prior rescue to the organization.
 1. Immediate Return
 - a. Immediately following the initial rehoming, if the new owner determines that the rescued equine is a poor fit, and that they will not be an appropriate permanent home, they may contact the BOD about the return of the equine.
 - b. This must be done within 90 days of the initial Rehoming.

- c. The equine must be in the same state of health under which it was adopted. Depending on the duration of the adoption and the health of the equine, the BOD may determine if any amount of the Rehoming Fee will be refunded. At a minimum, 25% of the Rehoming Fee will be retained by HKS R&R for the purposes of continued care of the equine.
2. Delayed Return
- a. Hidden K Stables Rescue and Rehab will accept the return of prior Rescue equines that have been adopted out in the following circumstances:
 - i. Inability to care for the equine due to severe financial distress.
 - ii. Death or disability of the new owner.
 - iii. By special approval of the BOD upon petition of the new home.
 - b. It is the responsibility of the owner to notify the Rescue as soon as there is an anticipated or possible need for an equine to return to the Rescue, so that if at all possible, the Rescue can work with the new home to maintain the rescued equine in that home.
 - c. Hidden K Stables Rescue and Rehab will accept the responsibility of the return of the equine for the first 3 years after rehoming, as during that time the equine remains the property of Hidden K Stables Rescue and Rehab. After the 3 year term is completed, the equine is no longer the property of Hidden K Stables Rescue and Rehab, and the Rescue will only be able to accept the return of the equine if there is both space and funding within the rescue to care for the equine.
 - d. Return Due to Financial Distress
 - i. Due to limitations placed upon the rescue, and the desire of the rescue to continue to fulfill its' original mission, limitations must be placed upon the return of equines. The care of equines has a huge potential to be expensive, and potential homes must be aware of this. At no point should the rehomed equine be returned for 'convenience.'
 - ii. At the time of return, the equine must be productive and able to fulfill the original mission statement of the organization if space is available.
 - iii. If the horse does not meet these criteria, it will be the responsibility of Hidden K Stables Rescue and Rehab to assist in finding an alternate home for the equine if at all possible.
 - iv. The owner must provide documentation of severe financial distress to the satisfaction of the BOD.