



Questions to Ask When Re-homing a Horse

“Care, and not fine stables, makes a good horse.” – Danish Proverb

Did You Know? Horse rescues open and close their doors almost daily, and there is no single accrediting body to ensure the quality of their care.

Finding a new home for a horse is not always an easy job and various professionals or equine facilities help play a role in providing care and/or finding a new home for horses in transition. Whether an owner is searching for the perfect retirement farm or looking to find their horse a new job in therapeutic riding, there are questions every owner should ask before giving up care and control of their horse.

To ensure that your horse is placed with an individual or organization best suited to the horse's needs, please consider asking the following:

1. Does the facility subscribe to accepted guidelines for operating the facilities, such as the American Association of Equine Practitioners' *Care Guidelines for Rescue and Retirement Facilities*?
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 facility been operating?
6. If it is a facility that will use the horse, how will it be used?
7. Does the facility have ample room for horses to graze and/or move about?
8. Will the horse stay at the facility or be placed into foster care? If the latter, how are foster homes screened?
9. Does it have an agreement regarding the use, boarding or care of the horse?
10. If it is a facility that adopts horses out, what are the requirements for adoption?
11. Does the facility follow up with the new owners to ensure the horse is being properly cared for?
12. Does the facility have a policy against breeding or restrict the horse's use in any way?
13. What is the facility's post-adoption policy on breeding and use?
14. If this is an adoption facility, are stallions gelded upon entry and before adoption?
15. What becomes of the horse when the adopter or the user no longer wants the horse?
16. Will the organization advise you before your horse is transferred to a new owner?
17. Can the original owner ask for the horse back?
18. Will the facility provide routine and emergency veterinary and dental care and farrier needs?
19. Does the facility provide training/re-training for the horse?
20. What are the physical characteristics of the facility, including barns, pastures and shelters?
21. Can owners visit if they wish?
22. Have any welfare charges been brought against the facility?
23. Does the facility euthanize horses that cannot be placed? If so, will the facility notify the owner beforehand?

24. Are potential new owners interviewed or do they have to submit to a background check?
25. Does the facility appear to have adequate feed (hay, pasture and grain) for the number of horses on the property?
26. What is the overall appearance of the facility?
27. Do they have a regular veterinarian and will they give you their contact information?