



We're so excited that you're considering adopting a horse rescued and rehabilitated by Freedom Reigns Ranch!

Our rescue horses have so much to offer- the only difference between a rescued horse and another is that a rescue horse was, at some point, let down by humans. They came our way by owner surrender, law enforcement seizure, or rescue transfer and we had the privilege of rehabilitating them back to health physically and mentally. We're proud to offer these beloved horses a home where they will continue to be cherished and loved and esteemed as the beautiful creation they are.

Each horse is unique and has their own preferences, likes, dislikes, and needs. Since we are not primarily a rescue organization (our first mission is our mentorship program for youth), we have a handful (usually 3-15) rescue horses come through our gates each year. We'd love to keep them all, but then we wouldn't be able to help more. Thank you for helping us rescue more horses by considering adopting a Freedom Reigns Ranch Rescue Horse.

We have two types of adoption:

1. Ownership Adoption: this is the type of adoption you're most familiar with in which the adopter completes an application process, is approved to adopt, meets the prospective horse, is approved to adopt that horse after meeting the horse, pays an adoption fee, and the ownership is then transferred from Freedom Reigns Ranch to the adopter. At any point should the adopter want to sell, rehome, relocate, give, change custody, or not be directly responsible for the horse's daily care (other than a boarding barn situation where adopter maintains ownership), the horse must come back to Freedom Reigns Ranch (this is often termed "right of first refusal" however takes it a step further in that the adopter is not allowed to sell, rehome, relocate, give, change custody without the new responsible party going through the same adoption process or the horse returning to Freedom Reigns Ranch.
2. Foster Care Adoption (often considered a "care lease"): ownership of the horse is maintained by Freedom Reigns Ranch and the person in custody of the horse is afforded all the usual rights of an ownership adoption but the horse belongs to Freedom Reigns Ranch. Horses in this category are either aged 25+ and/or have medical conditions that require special management, most are still rideable but due to their medical conditions or older age are given extra protection by Freedom Reigns Ranch covering major medical expenses should they arise in addition to annual vaccines and dental exam/float. Foster Care Adopters are responsible for the daily care including feeding, grooming, exercise, board at a facility or pasture maintenance suitable for equine, farrier, and non-major veterinary expenses (i.e. Minor emergencies like choke, colic exam, laceration, etc.). Adopter shall have free use of the horse in exchange for boarding and care of said horse for the duration of said horse's natural life time or until termination of Agreement and return

of said horse to Freedom Reigns Ranch. Whichever shall come first; so long as the terms of the Foster Care Adoption Contract are followed.

The type of adoption for each horse is listed. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis. These efforts are designed to protect the horses that we have nurtured back to health and love and to ensure they never end up in a situation that would require rescue again.

Adoption Requirements

These requirements are non-negotiable. We recognize that adoption from Freedom Reigns Ranch might not be for everyone, that's ok! Your perfect horse is out there and we'd be happy to refer you to other reputable organizations to consider. You will find that most reputable rescues have these same requirements.

Adopting a horse from a rescue often comes with additional stipulations in the contract. Our interest is first, foremost, and always the wellbeing of the horse. By the time a horse is ready for adoption dozens of volunteers have poured in hundreds of hours, and donors have given, on average, over \$6,000 to help bring the horse into health. These protections are in place to honor that dedication and the love and care that has been put into the life of each individual equine that comes through our gates. These stipulations are not to indicate any level of mistrust in you, the potential adopter, they are simply to provide the best possible protection for the life of each horse. Most people are already following these best practices.

1. You are over the age of 18 and legally able to sign paperwork.
2. You have the financial means and ability to appropriately care for a horse. (The average emergency farm call bill usually starts at \$1,000 and quickly exponentially increases. Average board in our area ranges from \$850-2500/month. Average annual additional expenses including routine vet, farrier (trim, more if shod), and minor incidentals should be expected of approximately \$3,000-4,000 per equine).
3. Any horses in your direct care and/or the premise where horse will be kept are free and clear of any illnesses and have been for at least 6 months.
4. Any horses in your care and/or the premise where horse will be kept are of appropriate body condition (5-7). No horses are below a BCS 3, and those that are a BCS 4 are well conditioned/muscled and currently showing in disciplines that require a lighter frame. No horses over a BCS 7 unless they are on a permanent dry lot and history of care can be proven/the animal arrived as a BCS 7+. (Current, photos dated within one month must accompany application.)
5. Any horses in your care have current farrier, dental, vaccination, and FEC/worming protocols in place. (Documents must be accompany application.)
6. Vet, farrier, and equine dentist (may be vet) can provide a statement of your care of equines. (Contact numbers must be provided with application.)
7. Adopter has shown they can provide suitable high-quality forage year-round (grazing pasture and hay and/or dry lot with hay). And quality concentrated feed when necessary to maintain appropriate body condition.
8. Adopter has an understanding of appropriate equine care and basic equine emergency protocols. And has the ability to transport horse in an emergency (whether in their own approved, safe truck/trailer rig or has the contact of at least 2 friends who have the ability to do so with an approved, safe truck/trailer rig).

9. Appropriate fencing and pasture are maintained at your property. We do not permit barbed wire fencing in any equine enclosures other than a secure/tight 4 strand perimeter fence in which there are no equines or livestock on the opposing side. Every pasture/paddock must have appropriate shelter. (Photos of all areas must accompany application.)
10. Adopter does not keep or own a stallion or breed horses unless stallion/mares are papered, quality producing, showing animals. Mares are not kept at a barn where stallions are kept without appropriate and suitable professional facilities.
11. Horses will not be adopted to any individual or be permitted to be housed under the care of any individual (including a boarding facility owner or caretaker) with history of animal abuse or neglect, violent crime, sending horses to auction or to known horse traders or kill buyers, housing or showing "padded" Tennessee Walking Horses, participated in "horse tripping", or otherwise abusive or neglectful circumstances.
12. You are not adopting the horse as a resale or project horse unless you have completed the appropriate addendum paperwork and can prove suitability for training said horse. It is our desire that any horse adopted from Freedom Reigns Ranch be placed in their "forever home".

Steps to Adopt

1. Application: all potential adopters must complete an application (spouse may be listed on the same application as primary and must provide their unique signature on the application).
2. Requirements: you have met the requirements and they are verified by Freedom Reigns Ranch.
3. Approved to Adopt: Being approved to adopt means you have met the requirements to adopt a potential horse from Freedom Reigns Ranch.
4. Adoption Meeting: Once interest in a horse is expressed, potential adopters pay a \$25.00 commitment fee when they make an appointment to meet a potential horse. The commitment fee cannot be transferred to another equine or another appointment time without at least 24 hours advanced notice. It accounts for the time and effort our staff use to spend time with you during your appointment. (Appointments may be made by emailing horses@freedomreignsranch.com or calling 615-721-2550.) Freedom Reigns Ranch, it's staff or representatives reserve the right at any time to stop an adoption appointment or determine that the horse is not a good fit for the potential adopter. We have often spent several months and have seen each horse in a variety of situations. Please trust our judgement if we say that we don't think the horse is a good fit for you- our true desire is for you to have a great partnership with your horse and for both horse and owner to thrive!
5. If you and Freedom Reigns Ranch's representative determine that the partnership is a good fit, adoption paperwork is signed, the adoption fee paid, and arrangements formally made for bringing your new horse home! All contracts must be signed and adoption fees paid prior to the horse leaving Freedom Reigns Ranch's custody. There will be NO exceptions to this rule.
6. If adopter fails to pick up horse at agreed upon date and time and appropriate notice (a minimum of 24 hours) was not given, adoption contract becomes void and all fees become property of Freedom Reigns Ranch. Adopter must begin adoption process over. If adopter or adopter's transport arrive to pick up horse in a rig that is determined to be unsuitable for safe transport the above rule applies. Suitable trailers should have working lights, a safe floor, mats *AND* shavings for traction, free of any sharp edges, free of erosion/no areas rusted through to the point of exposure, and a suitable vehicle for towing the weight of trailer, horse, and any equipment and passengers.

Adoption Policies

Initials: _____

Date: _____

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7. Adopter may not sell, rehome, place temporarily (unless in case of temporary emergency not to exceed 72 hours without knowledge given to Freedom Reigns Ranch via email to horses@freedomreignsranch.com) or permanently the horse in another person's care (other than a boarding barn in which adopter retains full ownership and use), or no longer keep horse in their custody. The horse **MUST** come back to Freedom Reigns Ranch if adopter no longer desires to keep custody and full care of the horse (unless in the case of a boarding facility or boarding arrangement in which adopter retains full ownership and use, or in the case of emergency not to exceed 72 hours without knowledge given to Freedom Reigns Ranch.) Violation of this policy will result in a fine including all costs associated with locating, securing, transporting, caring for, and bringing horse back to Freedom Reigns Ranch and rehabilitating the horse if needed including, but not limited to vet, farrier, dentist, training fees, transportation, lawyer/legal/attorneys fees and court costs.

8. Adopter agrees that horse will never be subjected to abuse or neglect.

**“ABUSE” as defined by USEF and for the purposes of this contract: any intentional action, neglect, or cruel training practice that causes a horse unnecessary physical pain, injury, fear, or distress. It ranges from active physical violence and malicious harm to the failure to provide basic daily care like food (to maintain appropriate body condition) , water, and veterinary treatment.*

Active Physical Abuse is defined as:

Excessive force: Hitting a horse with hard objects or striking its head.

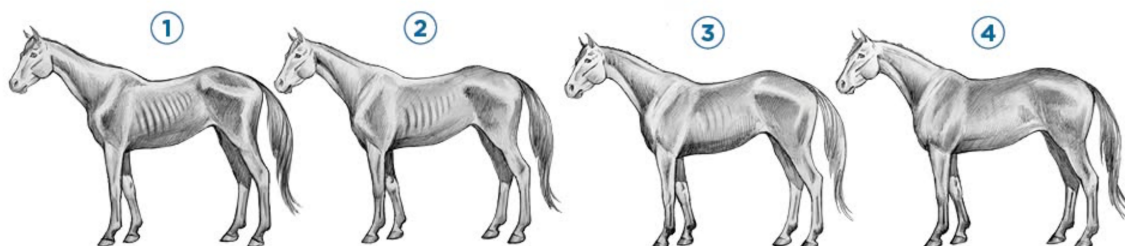
Whip and spur misuse: Excessive whipping (4 times or more within immediate sequence), beating (hitting with a blunt object, including a closed fist more than once in sequence), or using sharp spurs that cause bleeding or raw skin.

Tack injury: Jerking or sawing on the reins with harsh bits to cause cuts in the mouth or on the tongue.

Exhaustion: Riding, lunging, or driving a visibly lame, injured, or exhausted horse.

****“NEGLECT” as defined for the purposes of this contract: the failure to provide a horse with basic necessities like food, clean water, proper shelter, and medical or farrier care to maintain appropriate body condition (not below a BCS 3, not above a BCS 7), soundness (no overgrown, cracked, or curling hooves that cause pain or lameness, trim cycle should never exceed 10 weeks and it is recommended to keep horse on a 4-6 week trim cycle based on needs), living conditions (no unsafe living conditions or lack of protection from extreme weather), and health (providing appropriate dental care, no open wounds, severe illness, or parasite infestations left unattended).*

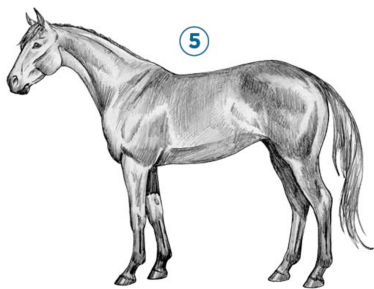
For purposes of Body Condition Scoring, the Henneke Scale is used and Body conditions are as follows:



Initials: _____

Date: _____

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BCS 1: Backbone, ribs, hips, neck, and pelvic bones are prominent. Little fatty tissue discernible. Even BCS 1 horses can appear to have a “belly”. A horse should never be in this condition. Emergency.

BCS 2: Hips, tailhead, withers, shoulders and part of pelvic bone are discernible and angular. Slight “shelf” appearance along spine. A horse should never be in this condition. Intervention required.

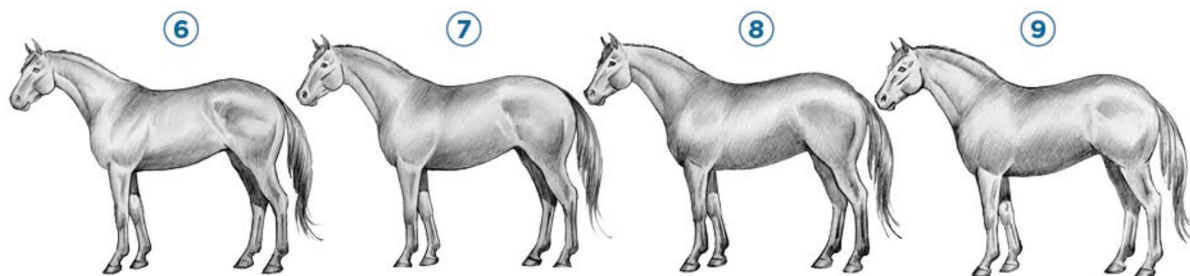
BCS 3: Hips, spine, withers and shoulders appear slightly angular but still have fat covering. Point of hip bones visible. Individual vertebrae cannot be identified. A horse should not be in this condition unless recovering from illness/injury and actively moving toward a BCS 4.

BCS 4: Slight ridge along spine. Ribs are slightly discernible, and easily palpated. Point of hip not discernible from visual inspection.

BCS 5: Back is flat, hindquarters rounded. Hip bones are not discernible but can be palpated. Ribs can be felt but are not discernible to the eye. Withers are rounded and little/no concavity to the neck.

BCS 6-7: May have slight crease down back. Spongy feel over ribs, fat around tailhead and fatty deposits beginning alongside of withers, behind shoulders, and along neck.

BCS 8-9: Cresty neck, lack of clear definition in throat latch, fat pads on body. A BCS of 8-9 can be equally as dangerous as a BCS 1. Immediate management must be established to prevent laminitis, founder, and other conditions from metabolic distress.



9. Freedom Reigns Ranch reserves the right to repossess any adopted equine/equine formerly owned by Freedom Reigns Ranch that has been adopted out or fostered by any individual that is below a BCS 3 or over a BCS 7, or has neglected hoof care (defined as having not been trimmed/reset by a professional farrier in excess of 10 weeks), or has rain rot/skin/fungal infection covering more than half of photographable surface as viewed from directly above the withers or from any side angle as evidenced by scabs, hair loss, or coat matting with sebum, or is determined to be neglected by a veterinarian, department of agriculture agent, sheriff or police, or any law enforcement or equine professional qualified to make determination of neglect under TCA 39-14-211(1(a,b,c)).
10. Adopter shall allow Freedom Reigns Ranch to enter Adopter's premises where the equine is located and inspect the equine and the premises in order to verify compliance with adoption contract if there is reason to suspect noncompliance with adoption policies.
11. Follow Up: for the first year, adopter will provide the following within the first 10 days of each March, July, and October:
 - A. Photographs of the horse (each side, topline, face)
 - B. Photograph of horse's hooves
12. For the life of the equine, adopter will submit current photographs and an update on the horse within the month of April to horses@freedomreignsranch.com
13. If horse passes away, adopter shall notify Freedom Reigns Ranch within 24 hours. If electing humane euthanasia in a non-emergency situation, adapter will notify Freedom Reigns Ranch at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled vet appointment. Adopter agrees that euthanasia (unless in the case of emergency in which a veterinary professional cannot get to

the horse in a timely manner to prevent suffering) will be administered as heavy sedation, followed by lethal injection from a licensed veterinary professional.

With a clear understanding of each and all of the aforementioned conditions, policies, and obligations, we invite you to complete the information below and email to us at horses@freedomreignsranch.com to start the application process:

Adopter Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Adopter Signature: _____

Spouse Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Spouse Signature: _____

Address: _____

Address where horse will reside:

Barn Name (if applicable): _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

If electing a Pre Purchase Exam:

Name of vet: _____ Office: _____

Initials: _____

Date: _____