



## Donating Your Horse to a PATH Intl. Therapeutic Riding Center

*"From the very first time she got up on the horse, there was a bubble of laughter and joy. It is something I will never forget."*

This is just one example of the many ways horses are contributing to the lives of thousands of children and adults with disabilities throughout the world. Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International Member Centers depend on the generosity of horse owners to acquire horses and ponies for therapeutic riding programs. Today, more than 4,500 caring and devoted horses of many different breeds, ages and sizes are serving individuals with disabilities.

Many horses are donated to PATH Intl. Centers because owners outgrow them. Some are retired competitors whose owners want them to lead less

strenuous lives. And some horses are donated because the owner's tax credit is more of a benefit than selling the horse. Whatever the reason for the donation, each horse must meet a PATH Intl. Center's needs and pass a trial testing and training period before he is mainstreamed into the program.

### **Considerations**

Horses are selected based on specific needs of a center's students and the types of services the center offers. No single type of horse can fill all the possible roles in therapeutic riding. The most talented horse's skills are lost if his abilities do not fit a center's present needs. When contacting a PATH Intl. Center regarding the donation of a horse, be prepared to share the horse's background and health records. The following are important factors in deciding if a horse is suitable for therapeutic riding:

**Size** - In general, mounts averaging 14 to 15 hands in height are the most useful for the majority of riders. However, there are also times when a horse of 16 hands or more is needed to carry tall or heavy riders.

**Age** - The age range of mounts may vary from five or six years to 20 or more. The most likely

prospects are between eight and 16 years.

**Health** - Centers will want to check the health of the horse. No center has the time or money to spend nursing a sick or lame horse. A full health and soundness examination is usually requested.

**Soundness** - This is a major consideration upon which the safety of the rider depends. Centers are very cautious in accepting a horse with any history of major lameness (navicular, ring bone, arthritis, etc.). A rider with a disability does not need a horse with a disability.

**Gaits and Manner of Going** - A good mount for riders with disabilities is one that moves forward easily and freely, picking up its feet and responding readily to voice commands. In therapeutic terms, the horse's movement gives direct input to the rider's body.

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Horsemanship  
International  
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## Horse Donations:

At HorseBuds TRC therapeutic riding program we know that it takes a very special horse to do this very special job.

### The Job Description

One fundamental quality of a therapeutic horse is the ability to be comfortable with a wide range of people. More than 50 volunteers currently assist in the programs, and clients can be kids or adults, some using canes or wheelchairs. The horses have to deal with a lot of different noises, and riders that might have balance problems or behavior problems.

The riding tasks can also be unusual. Participants may ride backward or sideways, some clients need full support — that means someone leading the horse and someone on each side of the horse — some circumstances are not very natural for a horse.

Horses retiring from another career, such as show jumping or trail riding, can make good therapy horses, but our organization generally doesn't use older horses as some people expect, since it's actually a very physically demanding job. The best age range for horses entering a therapeutic riding program is between ages 7 and 15 to ensure maturity and longevity in the program. The horse must be in good health, free of vices and ailments that would cause high maintenance.

In a regular setting, riders can balance themselves and can carry their weight, but in therapeutic riding this is not always the case, so it's important that the horse is 100 percent sound and physically fit. Program horses keep physically fit with an exercise schedule in order to get the kind of workout they don't get in lessons, and close attention is paid to their nutrition, health and saddle fitting. In addition, of course, the horses are kept up-to-date with all vaccinations and farrier and veterinary care.

Horses accepted as donations to the program must first go through a trial period (up to 90 days) and a legal written agreement must be signed by the legal owner of the horse and HorseBuds TRC. After the allotted time trial period, and if the horse is accepted into the program, legal transfer of the ownership of the horse can be made to Horsebuds TRC.

***Please fill out the Horse Profile so consideration for your horse donation can be ascertained.***

## Horse Profile

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Registered: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Gaited? \_\_\_

Horse Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse Owner's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of location of the horse: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ text yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a brand inspection/proof of ownership in your name? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

How long have you owned the horse? \_\_\_\_\_

## Personality

Likes: \_\_\_\_\_

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Dislikes: \_\_\_\_\_

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Rate your horse's personality on a scale from 1-10. 1 being calm; 10 being spirited \_\_\_\_\_

Is this horse safe for independent riders (beginners)? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you describe your horse as sensitive, over-reactive, tolerant or pushy? (This is helpful for matching riders to horses for the Wild About Horses program.)

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Does your horse do any tricks? \_\_\_\_\_

### Issues/Special Care

Issues: \_\_\_\_\_

Soundness Issues: \_\_\_\_\_

Chronic allergies or conditions? \_\_\_\_\_

Joints injected? no \_\_\_ yes (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Special pads: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Good with Bareback: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

Good with Farrier: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Special Shoes: no \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Medications/Supplements/Special feed \_\_\_\_\_

Spook history: \_\_\_\_\_

Colic history: \_\_\_\_\_

Worms easily: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Foundered: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Laminitis: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

Bites: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Kicks: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

History of Pulling back when tied: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

Stable vices such as cribbing, wind sucking, weaving, pacing, etc.: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

Past Injuries to horse or rider: \_\_\_\_\_

### Grooming/Tacking

Issues (Likes/Dislikes): \_\_\_\_\_

Stands Quietly: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Can be ridden safely in a halter: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

Western Saddle/size \_\_\_\_\_ Pad used \_\_\_\_\_

English Saddle/size \_\_\_\_\_ Pad used \_\_\_\_\_

Type of bit used: \_\_\_\_\_

## Health History

Present diet: \_\_\_\_\_

Present living conditions (pasture/stall, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Teeth Floated? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_ Sheath cleaned? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_

If gelding, age castrated \_\_\_\_\_ If mare, bred before? \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian Name and Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Farrier Name and Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include history of any injuries or past, present health concerns.**

**Please attach Regular Veterinary Care Record and latest dates of the following:**

Rhino/flu (date) \_\_\_\_\_ EWT/Encephalitis (date) \_\_\_\_\_ Coggins (date) \_\_\_\_\_

West Nile (date/brand) \_\_\_\_\_ Rabies (date/brand) \_\_\_\_\_

Deworming (date/brand) \_\_\_\_\_

## Training

Past Issues: \_\_\_\_\_

Western Saddle \_\_\_\_\_ size \_\_\_\_\_

English Saddle \_\_\_\_\_ size \_\_\_\_\_

Special pads: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Bareback: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

How many months professional training initially? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of training: \_\_\_\_\_

Experience of the horse: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Neck Rein: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Direct rein: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Snaffle bit: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

Ties: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Lunges: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Drives: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

Good Parade horse: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

Walk, trot, and canter both directions? yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

Can be ridden **without** other horses present? \_\_\_\_\_

Can be ridden in a group without issues? \_\_\_\_\_

Trailers and Loads and Unloads Quietly: yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

Stands quietly at mounting block: yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

Ground Manners: \_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_ Average

Why do you want to donate your horse to HorseBuds Therapeutic Riding Center?

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