

## STEPS With Horses

### Equine Adoption Agreement

This equine adoption agreement ("Agreement"), is entered into on this day \_\_\_\_\_ between S.T.E.P.S. With Horses, a 501c3 non-profit (STEPS") and \_\_\_\_\_ ("the Adopter"). This Agreement is made for the equine known as \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_, Color \_\_\_\_\_, Sex \_\_\_\_\_. STEPS is a 501c3 non-profit, entity that provides Equine Assisted Counseling and Therapeutic riding. Adopter has been approved to adopt the above named equine through STEPS.

#### The Adopter agrees to the following terms and conditions set forth in this agreement:

1. Adopter shall pay to STEPS an adoption fee of \$1.00.
2. Adopter represents that:
  - a) Adopter is not a first-time equine owner;
  - b) There will, at all times, be other equines at the location where the adopted equine will be located;
  - c) Adopter equines will not be bred
  - d) Adopter will provide updates (photos, vet records) for three or more years
3. Adopter shall comply with the Standard of Care contained herein. STEPS reserves the right to conduct site inspections without notice if it believes an equine is in danger. Adopter shall allow STEPS to enter Adopter's premises where equine is located and to inspect the equine and premises in order to verify compliance with this agreement. A minimum of 24 hours' notice will be given unless we have reason to believe equine is at risk.

**Standard of Care:** STEPS equines shall, at all times, have a clean, safe shelter, minimum of three sides, run in type, safe fencing, no barbed wire, safe enclosure free of debris and equipment, high quality hay and feed (when needed), free choice clean water, in addition to any pond or natural water source, mineral block, annual vaccinations and six month boosters as advised by veterinarian, to include West Nile in TX and other areas with a dense mosquito population, rotational worming or fecal testing under the advisement of veterinarian, routine farrier trims every 6-10 weeks, vet care when needed, emergency vet care when needed, annual floating of teeth. Equine cannot be euthanized for any reason except in an emergency situation as determined by a veterinarian. Every attempt will be made to notify STEPS before euthanasia. STEPS will be notified immediately if any of these Standard of Care guidelines are in jeopardy. Our primary concern is the well-being of the equine.

4. Adopter shall treat equines with kindness and compassion at all times. No harsh bits or tie downs are allowed. Adopter accepts the equine "as is" and "with all faults". Equines may not be bred, left untrained, beaten, or abused.
5. Adopter agrees to notify STEPS if the equine will be housed at any other location than provided below. Adopter agrees to provide STEPS of address or phone number changes.

6. Adopter is bound not to sell the equine for slaughter or allow the equine to be sold, transferred, released, or otherwise placed into possession of any person or organization that will cause or allow the equine to be sold at auction for slaughter.
  
7. Should the Adopter decide to re-home the equine, our organization must grant approval of any individual or organization intending to take possession of the equine for any reason prior to the equine being placed into the possession of such individual or organization, including being provided written notification of the name, address, and telephone number of any individual or organization intending to take possession of the equine for any reason.
  
8. Adopter can return an equine to our organization free of charge
  
9. The terms of this Agreement will be binding on any future individual or organization taking and/or possession of the equine for any reason.
  
10. If there is a breach of this agreement by Adopter then:
  - a) Upon request, the adopted equine will be returned to STEPS
  - b) A fine of up to \$5000 may be imposed for breach of this Agreement which includes abuse or neglect to the equine, failure to notify STEPS of the equine's stabling location, or attempted unauthorized sale or transfer of ownership. STEPS has the right to pursue legal action and collect all fees and costs upon breach of this Agreement.
  
11. STEPS, its employees, agents, Board, or volunteers shall not be liable for any damages or injury caused to Adopter or any third person by the equine after the Adopter has taken delivery of the equine.

This contract is to ensure and protect the equine's happiness, health, and safety.

Adopter Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Stabling Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 STEPS With Horses

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Adopter

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