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Adoption Process

Trail of Hope Horse Rescue and Rehabilitation Center has a stringent adoption policy designed to ensure the continued health and well-being of each horse. Our goal is to work together with the potential adopter to create a happy and successful placement. We believe placement is for the life of the horse. If you do not support this belief we respectfully request you consider other options for obtaining a horse.

Trail of Hope (TOH) adopts horses only to homes within 2 hours drive from our facility in Colorado to allow for our initial inspection and follow-up visits. We can refer you to other reputable rescues if you live outside our placement area.

Before you complete an application...

- Carefully evaluate your need and commitment. Placement is for life!
- Understand your expenses. Horses can be very expensive. The cost of adopting the horse is only the beginning. There is the ongoing cost of worming, vaccinations, farrier, shelter/board, hay, feed, medications, training, lessons, tack, and possibly very large vet bills at times.
- Define your basic desires – gender, breed/type, functionality, age, color
- If this is your first horse, interview and hire your veterinarian, farrier, and trainer
- If you will board your horse, identify and confirm your boarding situation

When you believe you are committed to adoption...

- Fill out the application
- Attach a check for the application fee made payable to "Trail of Hope" for \$25.00 (nonrefundable)
- Submit your application to Trail of Hope

Placement...

- The adoption committee chairperson will call to verify your information and answer any questions
- Two adoption committee members will visit your facility for an inspection.
 - If, during the inspection, we find areas that are in violation of our regulations, we will advise you on how to bring them up to our minimum standards.
 - Failure to meet minimum standards will result in the rejection of your application.
- The adoption committee will match your application with the horse(s) that we have available for adoption.
- An adoption committee member will call you and ask you to come out for an evaluation visit with the identified horses.
- During the evaluation, we will assist you and observe you: leading, grooming, and possibly riding the Horse(s)
- If you are a good match, and decide that you have found the equine partner for you, the following actions occur:
 - Fill out & submit adoption contract
 - Adoption payment (we accept cash, cashier's check or money order payable to "Trail of Hope")
 - Set up time for transport of horse to your facility(\$30.00 hook up charge and \$1.00 per mile)
- If we feel your skills do not meet our minimum criteria for adoption, yet you are committed to learning we may offer our 30 day on-site horsemanship program. Ask a committee member for more details.

Follow-up and finalization...

- By signing the adoption contract you agree to the following terms
 - TOH will process the brand transfer and any other registration, and transfer the ownership to you.
 - Two unannounced follow-up visits will be made by TOH personnel to be sure the horse is doing well, the facility is kept up to our minimum standards, and you are both happy
 - No refund of adoption fee or expenses is provided in the case of your failure to maintain your contract requirements.

Annual report...

- A brief annual report is requested for the life of the horse.
- Each report must include a copy of veterinary care records, farrier records, and a current full-body photograph of the horse.

Remember that horse and applicant are matched according to your application and evaluation. Please fill out the application accurately and completely. If no horse is immediately available, you will be called periodically to see if you are still interested in adopting.

Please call Trail of Hope if there are any changes in your circumstances.

Thank you

The Staff at Trail of Hope Horse Rescue and Rehabilitation Center