

Foster Care Information (Q & A) (2021)

Animal Guardians Horse Rescue is a Humane Society of the United States Safe Stalls Network Rescue and a member of The Homes For Horses Coalition. We hold high standards of professionalism and expectations of excellence from our Foster Caregiver homes. In fostering a homeless horse in need, you play an important and integral role in our organization.

Requirements for Foster Care Homes:

- Located within 20 miles of the rescue home office.
- Each horse on the property must have adequate shelter and turnout daily (individual or with compatible same gendered (no stallions) herd mates in no larger than 6 horses per herd in the pasture). Horses must not be stalled for longer than 18 hours in between turn out. No box stalls.
- Horses must be fed at least 2–3 times a day and monitored for good health and weight. Diet will be prescribed by AGHR & Vet.
- There must be no barbed wire fencing on the property that is accessible to horses. No single strand hotwire. Fencing must be in good repair, all t-posts must be capped for safety.
- Good mud / manure / soiled shavings management must be in place so horses are not forced to stand in mud / urine / manure, and endure excessive flies. Stalls and pastures / paddocks must be cleaned a minimum of 1 time per day. Fly control must be used.
- Willingness to hold horse for veterinary & farrier visits, & show horse to potential adopters as directed by the rescue.
- Fosters must sponsor the horse's hay, feed, shavings, grooming / barn supplies, first aid supplies, fly care, blankets / sheets, fly masks training aids. All tax-deductible & tax i.d. receipts provided monthly to the rescue with Foster Expense Reports and Horse Care Reports.
- Fosters will act as Ambassadors for the organization, assisting us with Fundraisers, Promotions, and Outreach.
- Fosters will work collaboratively with the Rescue Directors and Volunteers / Assigns, for direct horse care programming and Equine Assisted Learning community service programs.
- Directors will be given access to rescue horses upon request with a 24 hour in advance notice to the Foster for visits. Gates must remain unlocked for Rescue Directors to visit / view the horses and conditions.

Frequently Asked Questions about the AGHR Foster Program

1. Where are you located?

AGHR, Inc. is currently located in Simi Valley, CA, Ventura County. We prefer to keep all of our foster homes within a 30 minute (20 mile) drive of our office and they need to be on a property that's easily accessible year round by a truck with a horse trailer.

2. What are you looking for on a Foster property?

The safety and treatment of our horses is paramount to us at our Foster properties. That means that all Foster properties need to

have fences in good repair, with any t-posts capped and no accessibility to barbed wire. Horses must have access to shelters that are in good and safe condition. Manure should be picked on a daily basis and the property needs to have a good mud management plan in place. Horses must have access to fresh water in clean troughs or buckets. Hay and grain needs to be stored in a clean dry space where rodents do not have access to it. Pastures need to be free of any debris that could be injurious. AGHR, Inc. will conduct a site visit prior to approving a new foster home, as well as regular visits to our fostered equines with Directors, Volunteers, Veterinarians, & Farriers. Foster Caregiver is expected to allow the organization onto the property with 24 hour courtesy notice to the foster for scheduled visits. This is non-negotiable.

3. What length of commitment do you ask/require?

We require a 12 month minimum commitment to sponsorship, at least until the horse is adopted, or unless the horse is deceased, or the foster care property is destroyed by natural disaster, or abandoned by foreclosure or death of the property owner. Serious challenging situations may be considered on a case by case basis, if a fostered equine is not working on the property as intended. If the Rescue organization opts out of the foster care agreement contract due to inability to collaborate effectively with a foster caregiver, or abuse / neglect / breach of contract by foster caregiver, the rescue will give the foster a 48 hour notice to discontinue in the foster care agreement. If the foster opts out of foster care for any reason other than death of property owner or abandonment of the property due to natural disaster or foreclosure, the foster caregiver will give the Rescue organization a 30 day request, and this request may be accepted or denied, by Rescue organization's discretion. The Foster Caregiver understands that discontinuing foster care on his/her property does not dismiss the Foster from required sponsorship of this equine. So if the foster horse is moved to another property by Foster Caregiver's request (i.e. into a boarding stable), the Foster must continue to financially sponsor this horse for 12 months minimum agreement (i.e. boarding stable fees), or until the horse is adopted or deceased. This is non-negotiable, as the Rescue organization relies on a time frame commitment of sponsorship to care for its fostered equines. Some of our equines remain within our rescue for lifetime sanctuary placement on a case by case basis. This will be discussed with the Foster in advance and agreed upon prior to placing the horse within the Foster's care.

4. Can I foster a horse to ride?

As a general policy, we do not Foster out rideable horses. The majority of our Foster horses are non-rideable companion horses or seniors in retirement sanctuary placement with the Rescue organization. For liability reasons, we prefer to keep our rideable horses monitored by professional and pro-bono trainers. Some Foster Caregivers may be qualified to ride, but not all of them. This will be addressed on a case by case basis. It depends upon the horse and the Foster, the physical abilities and background training on our horses varies. Our vet and farrier will clear rideability prior to assigning a riding "job" to our horses. Many of our Fostered horses do bond with their families and allow themselves to be leadline ridden with small children, even at a senior age. However, liability and medical insurance is the responsibility of the foster.

Also, if the horse is available for adoption, then the Foster will be asked to join us in our Training Program to keep the horse's training consistent and prepare the horse for appropriate and pre-approved saddle and tack prior to riding. The Foster will assist in promoting the horse to the public and determining whether or not the Fostered horse will be promoted as a riding partner or companion horse only. It is important that the Foster Caregiver understand and agree to comply with the rules and regulations set

forth by the rescue to avoid unnecessary regression of the horse's current training skills, healthy, and soundness, for safety and liability purposes. Foster Caregivers are held accountable for the total life quality of the horse at all times.

Fosters are not permitted to lease out, sell, rehome, or lend the fostered equine to anyone other than designated rescue recipients. Fosters are not permitted to breed, race, rodeo, jump, gallop, or otherwise misuse a rideable fostered horse at any time for any reason. Any & all designated riders must be pre-approved by the rescue and on the Foster's liability waiver forms. No minors under the age of 18 are permitted to handle or ride the fostered equine without supervision of the Foster Caregiver as parent/guardian of the minor participant. All minor participants must wear a safety helmet at all times around the fostered equine, whether or not riding the equine, for protection to head and general safety & liability purposes. Riding the Fostered equine is a privilege and responsibility, not the "right" of the Foster Caregiver. Any and all riding must be pre-approved and designated with restrictions by the rescue Directors in advance. Any mishandling, misuse, or improper riding of this Fostered equine calls for breach of contract and legal repercussions to Foster Caregiver. Rescue volunteers visiting the Foster Care property are not permitted to ride any horse on or around the premises at any time. This includes pro bono professional "trainers" or paid "trainers" without prior notice to, and approval from, the rescue Directors. Foster Caregiver needs to understand that some of our horses are sound, healthy, and strong enough to be ridden, but have suffered horrible abuse and neglect, and emotionally do not want to be ridden which poses liability and safety risks to horse & human. The rescue is not responsible for irresponsible, disrespectful, or malicious acts of riding or handling by Foster Caregiver and his/her assigns. The rescue makes no guarantees or warranties on the behavior, health, or soundness of the horse for riding purposes. The rescue will do its best to match appropriate horses with appropriate Fosters, but riding is never guaranteed.

5. How do you decide on which horse I will foster? Can I choose a horse to foster?

While we are always open to listening to your preferences, usually the Foster is matched by need, the property, and your ability & experience level. Some of our horses require a greater level of care and some require more expertise in handling, rehabilitating, retraining, desensitizing. We do our best to match our horses to homes that can offer them the greatest growth and progress for adoptability. We also consider gender, size, and age preferences and will work to find a good match to your existing horses and for your personal level of skills and expertise.

Potential Foster Caregivers are encouraged to come and meet the horses we have available for Foster Care placement and choose one that best suits their personality-horseness compatibility and environment. If none of our current horses are a good match for the potential Foster Caregiver, we are always in need of placements for shelter horses on euthanasia deadline or privately owned horses in need of rehoming. Potential Fosters are encouraged to meet alternate horses in person and let the Rescue Directors know if you are willing to Foster a new horse through our program. We will consider an in-take for some horses if there is a good Foster Care match for that equine. It is important to remember, providing foster care is a 12 month commitment in sponsorship and time / care for your fostered equine, whether or not you want to adopt him / her. It is NOT by any means a "trial period" for adoption.

6. Can I use my vet and farrier? Who will pay for it?

Foster Caregivers are required to pay for emergency veterinary visits to their property which are caused by due negligence of the Foster, with the exception of necessary humane euthanasia, which is covered by the rescue. The rescue prefers to use its own Vets and Farrier as often as possible, but the Foster may be asked to hold the fostered equine for appointments. Other Vets & Farriers must be pre-approved by the rescue and if used without pre-approval by the Rescue Directors, then the Foster will pay for the service at the time of service. Fosters will not be held accountable for predisposed conditions the horse may have which impact quality of life or are terminal conditions. All medical records will be disclosed to, and agreed upon by, the Foster prior to signing a Foster Care Agreement Contract. The rescue will pay for ONE annual Vet visit for teeth / sheath checks and services, annual spring vaccinations, and will provide dewormer to the horses. The rescue will pay for farrier services.

All charitable contributions are tax-deductible and go directly to the care of our horses. In order to receive a tax-deduction, fosters are encouraged to get quotes for service in advance, send a donation to the rescue for those specific care necessities, and provide receipts for services rendered by Vets and Farriers after the services as proof of expenditures. Rescue prefers to pay the Vet and Farrier directly from donations gathered from the Foster. This keeps record-keeping accurate for tax-deduction purposes. But we understand that some Vets and Farriers demand payment on site at the time of service. All expenditures made by the Foster for the fostered horse are tax-deductible when the foster provides receipts to the rescue. It is the Foster's responsibility to provide receipts in a timely manner, in order to receive a monthly tax-deductible receipt for expenditures spent on the rescue horse they are fostering. Fosters are required to keep records on data charts provided by the rescue for adoption purposes. This includes all vaccines, dewormer, veterinary visits, farrier visits, supplements, feeding, thrush treatment, 1st aid treatment, & emergency care. Emergency colic treatment / surgery is covered by the rescue, except in the case of due negligence by the foster (i.e. Foster feeds diet other than prescribed by the rescue & rescue veterinarian – Foster allows for grazing on lush grass and the horse founders or colics – Foster allows the horse out of the gate and the horse eats opened feed bags which are not secured as required by the rescue, etc.).

Emergency vet bills for avoidable emergencies or breach of contract / neglect / abuse, are the responsibility of the Foster Caregiver, and reporting emergencies is required within 24 hours of the incident. No exceptions. It is critical that each foster understand and agree to the prescribed feeding, veterinary, & hoof care regiment dictated by the rescue Directors, Vet, Trainer, Farrier working with the fostered equine, in order to avoid unnecessary emergencies arising to the fostered equine. The rescue will do it's best to make appointments convenient for the Foster Caregiver, but this may not always be possible. The Foster Caregiver understands this and will make him/herself available for flexible Vet and Farrier services, emergency Vet calls, necessary humane euthanasia.

7. Who pays for feeding costs and who does the feeding?

Fosters are required to sponsor & provide all hay, feed, pellets, rice bran as prescribed by the rescue / Vet. All charitable contributions are tax-deductible with receipts after purchase. AGHR, Inc. will attempt to secure outside sponsors, donations, and fundraisers to alleviate this expense from the foster caregivers. That is not guaranteed, but we make every effort to help. When we do receive donations, they will be distributed evenly between all boarded rescue horses first, and then split the remaining funds between all foster caregivers for our horses' use. Fosters may also contribute by making direct donations to the rescue, with which

the rescue will purchase supplies monthly for the horse. This is also tax-deductible. The rescue prefers foster caregivers to stack & store their own hay & feed separated from that of the fostered equine. All feed & hay must be stored in a covered area, away from rodents, dust, and rain, and reasonably secured to avoid insect infestation. Hay & feed destroyed by insects, rodents, and rain is the responsibility of the foster to replace in a timely manner; and no reimbursements are given for due negligence on feed storage.

8. Can I claim this on my taxes?

All expenditures made for anything related to the rescue are tax-deductible. Fosters must track their expenses and keep receipts. With monthly receipt records provided from the Foster to the Rescue, we will provide the Foster with monthly tax-deductible receipts. We will provide the Foster with a letter at the end of the year that states you've been fostering on our behalf and designating the date range. Services such as bodywork, training, chiropractic are not tax-deductible unless pre-approved by the rescue organization.

It is advised to keep accurate records of separate hay, feed, shavings, & supplies purchased on a separate receipt for the Fostered equine only. In this way, the Foster can show that he/she did not purchase these supplies for his/her other equines on the property, which is not tax-deductible. Please be aware, the rescue can only provide tax deductions for supplies specifically purchased for the Fostered equine with proof of receipts. (i.e., If the Foster chooses to purchase sheath cleaning ointment and perform this service him/herself, on all geldings, there is no proof that this service was done on the Fostered equine and there is no proof that the ointment was purchased specifically for the Fostered equine – and therefore it is not tax-deductible). Mileage for rescue purposes (i.e. attending our trainings to assist with your Fostered equine, picking up hay to deliver for your Fostered equine, assisting with transport for your Fostered equine, etc.) is tax-deductible at the standard federal mileage rate per mile for “charitable purposes”. Again, receipts for fuel and accurate records of mileage must be provided in order to receive a tax-deductible receipt. As always, please consult your tax preparer before claiming any deductions.

9. What if it doesn't work out?

While we hope that everybody can offer at least a year commitment, we understand that circumstances do change. In the event that you no longer wish to foster a horse for AGHR, Inc., we ask for 30 day notice of request to move the horse. The request will go to our Board of Directors for review. If we find adequate rationale for moving the fostered equine, we will do so. Please understand that although our Foster Care Agreement Contract may subside upon your request, our Sponsorship Contract will not. Fosters may remove the fostered equine from their property, but our Rescue organization depends upon a contracted number of months to house this horse and rehabilitate the horse for adoptions or retirement sanctuary purposes. Therefore, the Foster Caregiver is NOT released from his/her responsibility to sponsor the horse in an off-site placement.

Besides becoming an unnecessary financial hardship on the Rescue organization, moving horses between multiple foster care homes is simply bad for the horses. Horses become attached to their new “owners” and other equine friends, and often thrive a lot more in a private home / family setting where they receive individualized care & attention. Therefore, it is emotionally and physically difficult for rescue horses to adjust to multiple moves in short time periods. Therefore, our screening process is more extensive to be sure the horse will be correctly matched with the Foster prior to contracting. If we do not feel the horse will be a good match for the

Foster, we may decline the offer to Foster that particular horse, but will keep the Foster Caregiver's screened and approved application on file in order to foster a different equine. We don't want Foster Caregivers to change their minds after placement has been made. Especially if the horse is in our rescue for permanent residence with our rescue as a retiree in sanctuary placement. So, although the Board of Directors may agree to remove the horse from the Foster Caregiver's property upon request of the Foster Caregiver, we are unable to release the Foster from his/her obligation to continue sponsoring the horse, at least until the horse is adopted or deceased. This is non-negotiable and to be considered carefully when contracting with the Rescue organization as a Foster Caregiver. This is a commitment taken seriously and not lightly. The Rescue organization will do everything in its power to accommodate for the Foster Caregiver, support the Foster Caregiver, and assist in offsetting expenditures for the Foster Caregiver. But this Foster Care placement is being made as an Annual Time & Sponsorship Commitment, unless the horse is adopted or deceased before that time.

10. Can the Foster Caregiver adopt the fostered horse? Is the adoption fee waived?

If the Fostered horse is, or becomes, available for adoption, then the Foster Caregiver is given the option to adopt the Fostered equine. There is no adoption application and screening required of the Foster Caregiver since he/she was already screened and approved as a Foster Caregiver. There is, however a separate Adoption Agreement Contract & forms that must be filled out by the Foster Caregiver for adoptions purposes. The adoption fee is not waived to a Foster Caregiver. However, the rescue takes into account the level of sponsorship and care that the Foster has given to this horse over time, and may offset the costs of the adoption fee. The more the Foster sponsors the horse over time, the lower the adoption fee at the time of adoption to the Foster.

Adoption fees are often set by the amount of expenditures the rescue puts into the fostered equine, balanced by the age, rideability, health & soundness status, registry status, and behavior of each equine. Adoption fees typically range between \$350 and \$800, but may go as low as \$150 or as high as \$2000, depending upon the equine, level of training provided by a professional trainer, expenditures, age, & registry. In general, the more the Foster Caregiver sponsors, the less the adoption fee will be on that particular equine.

Adoption of the Fostered horse is not mandatory. If the Foster Caregiver chooses to adopt a different equine through AGHR, then the Foster must fill out an adoption application for an alternate horse. The purpose for this is so the rescue can determine the compatibility with another horse and determine whether or not adoption will be approved for an alternate horse. Foster Caregivers are welcome to foster one rescue horse, while adopting a different one simultaneously. Many Fosters choose to adopt their Fostered equine, but not all of them.

Fosters are, regardless of their own level of commitment to adoption, required to serve our rescue as "Adoptions Ambassadors" for our adoptable horses. Fosters are required to provide photos, video clips, updates, and promotions for our fostered equines available for adoptions, and help us with adoptions outreach & showing the horse to potential pre-screened and approved adopters. There are no "free" horses given, nor traded, with Fosters for adopted equines. This is for the safety of our horses and the ethical and moral responsibility of our rescue to collect an appropriate adoption fee for each equine adopted out. Adoption fees apply to Foster Caregivers the same as the general public, though they may be lower.

1.) Applicant Must be 18 Years or Older.

a.) Full Name: _____

b.) Address: _____

c.) Email: _____

d.) Day Phone: _____

e.) Evening Phone: _____

f.) Cell Phone: _____

g.) Do you currently own any horses? ___ yes / ___ no

h.) Describe your horse experience:

1.) Length of time: _____

2.) Training received: _____

3.) Type of handling / riding: _____

4.) Knowledge of horse care / nutrition / hoof care / rehabilitation: _____

5.) Do you own or rent the property where the fostered equine will be kept?

___ own / ___ rent / ___ boarding stable

6.) How long have you owned / rented / boarded at the property?

7.) Number of horses currently on the property: _____

8.) Number of stalls / shelters available: _____

9.) Number of acres in pasture / turn out: _____

10.) Types of available shelter on property (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> box stall | <input type="checkbox"/> tie stall | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 sided run in shed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> run in shed, no sides | <input type="checkbox"/> metal carport | <input type="checkbox"/> tarped carport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> trees | <input type="checkbox"/> half shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> pipe corral with cover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no shelter / open pasture | | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ |

11.) Types of fencing on property (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> hot wire | <input type="checkbox"/> hot tape | <input type="checkbox"/> hot rope |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand | <input type="checkbox"/> field fencing | <input type="checkbox"/> wire mesh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wood rail or pole | <input type="checkbox"/> pipe corral | <input type="checkbox"/> vinyl fencing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> metal pipe | <input type="checkbox"/> t-posts used | <input type="checkbox"/> barbed wire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ | | |

12.) Where will the horse be primarily kept? _____

13.) How many hours of turn out a day will the horse receive?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 4 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 to 6 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 to 12 hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> all day | <input type="checkbox"/> all day & night | <input type="checkbox"/> no turn out / stall only |

14.) Is there a winter mud management plan in place? yes / no

15.) Please describe the steps taken to reduce mud at your facility:

16.) Describe your feeding program (include types of feed, frequency of Feeding, whether horses are fed individually or in a herd, Supplements & treats, colic prevention): _____

17.) Name & Contact Phone Number for your Equine Vet & Farrier:

18.) Name & Contact Phone Number for your Resident Barn Care Staff & Trainer: _____

19.) Name & Contact Phone Number for your Hay/Feed Company:

20.) Name & Contact Phone Number for 2 Personal References who can Vouch for Your Ability to Care Properly for a Rescue Horse In Need:

Applicant Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

Please fill out this Application completely and return it to us as promptly as possible. You may scan and email it to us as an attachment to:

animalguardianshorserescue@gmail.com

Or mail it to us at: Animal Guardians Horse Rescue, Inc.

P.O. Box 941494, Simi Valley, CA 93094

Please also email us 4 current photos of the property where you will foster this horse, as well as any other current horses / animals on this property -

animalguardianshorserescue@gmail.com