

## ADOPTION APPLICATION

Date Received by ERA: \_\_\_\_\_

*Internal use*

All persons interested in adopting a horse from the Equine Rescue of Aiken are required to complete this application in full. Once completed, please drop off your application at the Rescue office, mail it to the Rescue, or email the application to: [aikenequinerescue@gmail.com](mailto:aikenequinerescue@gmail.com).

Applications will be reviewed and references contacted before scheduling a meet and greet. There will be a processing fee of \$25.00. We accept payment by check \_\_\_\_, money order \_\_\_\_, or cash \_\_\_\_. *(Your application will only be processed after payment is received.)*

*All adopters must be 21 years old or older and be financially and physically able to provide the proper care to the adopted horse. If you are under 21 years old, please include "parent information" in the Personal and Financial sections of this application.*

Any adopters that will be first-time horse owners must follow these guidelines:

- A. The horse must stay at the Equine Rescue of Aiken for the first 3 months for an extended trial period where the adopter and horse will be monitored and re-evaluated for compatibility.
- B. An established trainer must be involved with the adopter and horse for at least the first 6 months of ownership.
- C. After the 3-month trial period, the horse must be kept at a boarding facility with a knowledgeable equine manager.
- D. A young and/or green horse will not be adopted to first-time horse owners unless paragraphs A and B of this section are adhered to.

Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Horse/s interested in: \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL INFORMATION (Owner/Rider)

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTACT INFORMATION

4. Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

9. Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Employer Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Full-Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Part-Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Self-Employed: \_\_\_\_\_

13. How long have you been at your current job? \_\_\_\_\_

14. If employed at current job less than a year what was your last job and how long where you there? \_\_\_\_\_

15. If Self-Employed, please describe your profession: \_\_\_\_\_

16. What is your household's total annual income (circle one):

Under \$35K	\$35K-\$45K	\$46K-\$60K	\$61K-\$75K	\$76K-\$100K	\$100K & Up
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17. Will there be anyone helping you to pay for the care of the horse?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How much have you budgeted, annually, for the total cost to own your adopted horse?

(This includes board, feed, grain, vet, farrier etc.) \$\_\_\_\_\_.00 Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## HORSE EXPERIENCE AND HISTORY

19. What is your experience with horses?

20. Have you owned a horse before? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, when was the last time you owned a horse? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Do you currently own a horse? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, how many: \_\_\_\_\_ Please list the breed of each horse:

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22. Style of riding/driving that you practice: \_\_\_\_\_

How many years? \_\_\_\_\_

23. What breeds have you handled and ridden? \_\_\_\_\_

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24. Do you have experience training green horses? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain:

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25. Have you ever trained a young or green horse? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, did you receive help from a professional trainer or did you do it on your own? Please specify:

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26. Have you ever sold a horse? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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27. Are you still in contact with the person(s) you sold the horse to? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

28. Are you considering a mare for breeding purposes? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

29. If yes, what is your experience with breeding and foaling: \_\_\_\_\_

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30. How many mares have you bred and foaled? \_\_\_\_\_

## YOU AND YOUR POTENTIAL ADOPTION HORSE

31. Why do you want to adopt? \_\_\_\_\_

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32. Have you ever adopted before \_\_\_\_\_ If yes from where?

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33. Do you prefer a certain breed (please list) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
34. What qualities would you like to have in a horse (e.g., age, color, sex, size, temperament)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
35. What style and level of riding do you wish to achieve? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
36. What riding discipline is your primary focus? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
37. Are you willing to change your discipline goals to suit your adopted horse's needs?  
 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
38. How often do you want to ride/drive your horse?  
 Daily \_\_\_\_\_ Weekends Only \_\_\_\_\_ 4-6 Times Weekly \_\_\_\_\_  
 2-3 Times Weekly \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2 Times Weekly \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seldom \_\_\_\_\_ Never (companion horse only) \_\_\_\_\_
39. How would you rate your riding ability?  
 Beginner \_\_\_\_\_ Novice \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_
40. Do you have a trainer? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, please provide his/her name and contact information: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
41. Does your trainer have experience working with young or green horses? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
 If yes, how many years? \_\_\_\_\_
42. Will there be anyone else riding the horse? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If Yes, explain their experience:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
43. What would be your overall goal for the horse? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

44. If you have an unforeseen life event (e.g., loss of job, divorce, illness, pregnancy) what would your plan be for your adopted horse?

\_\_\_\_\_

45. When would you like to adopt? \_\_\_\_\_

46. Are you interested in a specific horse? \_\_\_\_\_

## BOARDING OR PRIVATE FACILITY INFORMATION

47. Please provide the name, address, and phone number of the boarding facility or private farm where the horse will stay: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

48. Who owns the facility? \_\_\_\_\_

49. Do you live at the facility? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

50. Do you currently board at this facility or have you in the past? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Please specify:

\_\_\_\_\_

51. Will the manager/owner of the stable be willing to sign our "Boarding Agreement"? This form states that they will contact the Equine Rescue of Aiken about late board payment or improper horse care. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

52. If you DO NOT live at the facility, what is the monthly board fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

What does it cover? \_\_\_\_\_

53. If you live at the facility, what do you anticipate the monthly board will be?

\_\_\_\_\_

54. How many horses are currently at the facility? \_\_\_\_\_

55. Will the horse have a stall or run-in? Yes / No What are the exact dimensions?

Stall Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Run-In Size: \_\_\_\_\_

56. How many stalls are in the barn? \_\_\_\_\_

57. If your horse will have a stall, how many hours per day do you plan to have him/her stalled? \_\_\_\_\_ Hours per day

58. How often and how many hours per day will your horse be turned out? \_\_\_\_\_ hours.

59. Who will be responsible for turning out your horse? \_\_\_\_\_

60. Does the facility have pasture(s)? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, how many acres? \_\_\_\_\_

61. What type of fencing surrounds the pastures/paddocks? Explain in detail (type of material, number of rails/strands, height) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

62. How many other horses will the horse be turned out with? \_\_\_\_\_ Are mares and geldings kept separate or mixed? \_\_\_\_\_

## CARE & FEEDING INFORMATION

63. How many times per day will your adopted horse be fed? \_\_\_\_\_ Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

64. Who will be responsible for feeding the horse? \_\_\_\_\_

65. Where will the horse be fed? Stall \_\_\_\_\_ Pasture \_\_\_\_\_

66. If fed in the pasture, how will you ensure the horse is receiving the proper and required amount of feed?

67. What type of grain and hay will the horse be fed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

68. Based on your experience, how much grain and hay per day do you think the horse will need? \_\_\_\_\_

69. Will your horse have access to grass pasture? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

70. How often will you de-worm your adopted horse? \_\_\_\_\_

71. What annual vaccinations will your horse receive? Please list: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

72. What is your planned farrier schedule? \_\_\_\_\_

73. What is the name and phone number of your farrier? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## REFERENCE INFORMATION

532 Glenwood Drive | Aiken, SC 29803 | 803-643-1850 | [AikenEquineRescue.org](http://AikenEquineRescue.org)

74. Please provide the name and contact information for the veterinarian that has been to the facility where the horse will be kept. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*The veterinarian office must have you or your boarding facility as a current client. Please specify who the current client is.*

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

75. Provide the name and phone number of 2 PROFESSIONAL NON-FAMILY references that are experienced with horses and are aware of your horse experience and have been to the facility:

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Verified By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Verified By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

76. Please provide 2 Personal References one family member and one nonfamily member.

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Verified By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Verified By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **ADOPTION CONTRACT INFORMATION**

77. Have you read the "Adoption Contract" and agree to the terms and rules governing adoptions from the Equine Rescue of Aiken? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

78. Do you understand and agree that the adopted horse is **NEVER, under any circumstances, to be raced, sold at any auction, sold to a horse dealer or sold to the Amish?** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

*The Equine Rescue of Aiken reserves the right to pursue legal action towards the adopter should this occur.*

BY SIGNING OR TYPING YOUR FULL NAME BELOW, YOU CERTIFY THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE PROVIDED ON THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE.

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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



## AIKEN EQUINE RESCUE

### RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

*(Indemnification Included)*

WITNESS THIS AGREEMENT this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by and between **Equine Rescue of Aiken, Jim Rhodes and Debbie Rhodes** hereinafter referred to as OWNER and

\_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter referred to as RIDER/VISITOR.

For good and valuable consideration received, and in return for the use, today and on all future dates of the property, facilities and/or services of OWNER, the RIDER/VISITOR and his or her heirs, assigns, and representatives hereby agree as follows:

1. Inherent Risks and Assumption of Risk. The undersigned RIDER/VISITOR acknowledges there are inherent risks associated with equine activities such as described below, and hereby expressly assumes all risks associated with participating in such activities. The inherent risks include, but are not limited to the propensity of equines to behave in ways such as, running, bucking, biting, kicking, shying, stumbling, rearing, falling or stepping on, that may result in an injury, harm or death to persons on or around them; the unpredictability of equine's reaction to such things as sounds, sudden movement and unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals; certain hazards such as surface and subsurface conditions; collisions with other animals; the limited availability of emergency medical care; and the potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or others, such as failing to maintain control over the animal or not acting within such participant's ability.

RIDER/VISITOR acknowledges that horses, by their very nature are unpredictable and subject to animal whim. RIDER/VISITOR assumes all risks in connection therewith, and expressly waives any claims for any injury or loss arising therefrom. RIDER/VISITOR agrees to abide by and follow OWNER's rules and regulations, which shall be posted and/or available upon request. RIDER/VISITOR further acknowledges that the behavior of any animal is contingent to some extent upon the ability of RIDER/VISITOR. RIDER/VISITOR assumes all risks therefor and warrants a full and fair disclosure of RIDER/VISITOR's abilities has been made to OWNER.

RIDER/VISITOR expressly releases OWNER and any representatives, agents, employees, officers, shareholders, and or directors of OWNER from any and all claims for any injury or damage of any kind, even if caused by negligence (if allowed by the laws of this State) by OWNER, or OWNER representatives, agents, employees, officers, shareholders and directors, whether or not related to any equine activity. RIDER/VISITOR acknowledges OWNER is either an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional.

#### **WARNING**

**Under South Carolina law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in an equine activity resulting from an inherent risk of equine activity, pursuant to Article 7, Chapter 9 of Title 47, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976.**

2. RIDER/VISITOR agrees to release, hold harmless, indemnify and defend OWNER and any representatives, agents, employees, officers, shareholders and directors of OWNER from and against any and all claims, demands, causes of action, damages, judgments, orders, costs or expenses, including attorney's fees, whether actually incurred

or not, which may in any way arise from or be in any way connected with RIDER/VISITOR's use of or presence upon the property of OWNER and the facilities located thereon.

3. In the event RIDER/VISITOR is using RIDER/VISITOR's own horse, or any other horse(s) not owned by OWNER, RIDER/VISITOR warrants said horse(s) shall be free from infection, contagious or transmittable diseases and that the horse is not a known kicker, biter or otherwise unusually dangerous. OWNER reserves the right to refuse access or use of any horse upon the premises that does not appear to OWNER to be in good health or is deemed dangerous or undesirable.

4. This Agreement is intended to be a complete release of liability and hold harmless by RIDER/VISITOR in favor of OWNER and any representatives, agents, employees, officers, shareholders and directors of OWNER. However, should any action be brought by RIDER/VISITOR against the aforementioned, it shall be brought within one (1) year of the incident or accident giving rise to said claim. RIDER/VISITOR agrees that damages shall be limited to \$250 for property damage, actual expenses incurred, and a maximum of \$10,000 for damages such as pain and suffering to the extent liability for any of the foregoing is not deemed to have been released according to the general release RIDER/VISITOR is giving through this agreement.

5. RIDER/VISITOR agrees to waive the protection of any applicable statutes in this jurisdiction whose purpose, substance and/or effect is to provide that a general release shall not extend to claims, material or otherwise, which the person giving the release does not know or suspect to exist at the time of executing said release.

**RIDER/VISITOR hereby voluntarily enters into this Release of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement with OWNER, understanding that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement is a waiver by RIDER/VISITOR of any and all liability(ies) OWNER and any representatives, agents, employees, officers, shareholders and directors of OWNER may now have, or might ever have, to RIDER/VISITOR:**

**RIDER/VISITOR**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

If a minor, person representing himself/herself to be the lawful Guardian under this Release of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement:

Minor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Minor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Parent/Guardian for RIDER/VISITOR

Date \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER Acknowledgement: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_