
SEIZURE OF EQUINE

This policy outlines the circumstances and procedures for reclaiming a horse under New Start Standardbreds' care when an adoption agreement is breached or when a boarding facility invokes the Innkeeper's Act. The goal is to protect the welfare of the horse and ensure adherence to the terms of the adoption agreement.

1. CIRCUMSTANCES FOR SEIZURE

Adoption Agreement Breach

A horse may be seized if the adopter breaches the terms of the adoption agreement, including but not limited to:

- Failure to provide adequate care (e.g., nutrition, medical attention, shelter).
- Use of the horse for unauthorized purposes, such as racing or breeding.
- Transfer, sale, or lease of the horse without prior written consent from New Start Standardbreds.
- Neglect, abuse, or any conditions that compromise the horse's welfare.

Invocation of the Innkeeper's Act

If a boarding facility invokes the Innkeeper's Act due to unpaid boarding fees, the organization will act to protect the horse's welfare and recover possession of the horse.

2. PROCEDURES FOR SEIZURE

Investigation

Notification: Upon receiving a report or observing conditions that warrant seizure, the organization will notify the adopter or facility in writing, outlining the concerns.

Investigation: The organization will investigate, which may include:

- Visiting the property where the horse is kept.
- Consulting with veterinarians, equine professionals, or witnesses.
- Reviewing any relevant documentation, such as vet records or boarding invoices.

Resolution Attempts

Adoption Agreement Breach: The adopter will be given an opportunity to address and rectify the breach within a specified timeframe (maximum: 7 days).

Innkeeper's Act: The organization will attempt to resolve disputes with the boarding facility, including negotiating payment plans or other arrangements to secure the horse's release.

Seizure Action

If the breach or dispute remains unresolved, the organization will take action to reclaim the horse:

- **Adoption Agreement:** The adopter forfeits their rights to the horse, as stipulated in the adoption agreement.
- **Innkeeper's Act:** The organization will coordinate with legal counsel to resolve the situation and ensure the horse's welfare is prioritized.

Transport will be arranged, and the horse will be relocated to a safe facility under the organization's care.

3. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The organization will act in compliance with applicable local, provincial, and federal laws during the seizure process.

Legal counsel may be consulted to ensure proper procedures are followed, especially in cases involving the Innkeeper's Act or disputes over horse ownership.

4. COMMUNICATION

The adopter or facility will be notified in writing of the seizure, including:

- The reasons for the seizure.
- Any outstanding obligations or conditions for potential resolution.
- The organization's plans for the horse's future care and rehoming.

5. POST-SEIZURE PROTOCOLS

Immediate Care: If required, the horse will be assessed by a veterinarian and provided with necessary care, including medical treatment, nutrition, and rehabilitation.

Evaluation: The organization will determine the next steps for the horse, which may include rehoming or placement in a foster program.

Financial Recovery: In cases involving the Innkeeper's Act, the organization may pursue legal or fundraising avenues to recover costs associated with the seizure.

6. PREVENTION AND MONITORING

Follow-Up Checks: Adopters agree to periodic follow-ups as part of the adoption agreement to ensure ongoing compliance.

Communication: Open lines of communication will be maintained with adopters and boarding facilities to address concerns proactively before escalation.

This policy ensures the welfare of Standardbred horses and protects the integrity of New Start Standardbreds' adoption program by addressing breaches of agreement or disputes involving the Innkeeper's Act.