

BECOMING A FOSTER HOME

This policy outlines the procedures for foster applications, screening, and agreements within the New Start Standardbreds Adoption program. It also details the types of foster care offered and the associated costs covered by the program.

1. FOSTER APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Submission: Prospective foster homes must complete and submit the Foster Application form available on our website.

Initial Assessment: Applications are reviewed to match applicants with suitable horses based on experience, facilities, and resources.

Interview and Home Inspection: Selected applicants undergo an informal interview process to ensure a safe and appropriate environment for the horse.

2. SCREENING CRITERIA

Experience: Prior experience with horse care, particularly Standardbreds, is preferred.

Facilities: Adequate shelter, space, and fencing are required to ensure the horse's safety and well-being.

Resources: Ability to provide necessary food, basic medical care, and socialization.

Commitment: Willingness to adhere to the program's standards of care and participate in regular check-ins.

3. FOSTER CARE AGREEMENTS

All approved foster homes must sign a Foster Care Agreement outlining responsibilities, care standards, and terms of reimbursement.

4. TYPES OF FOSTER CARE AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

The program offers various foster care arrangements to cater to the diverse needs of horses and foster homes:

Short-Term Foster Care

- **Duration:** Up to 3 months.
- **Expectations:** Engage the horse in groundwork and under-saddle basics 1-2 times per week.
- **Reimbursements:** Up to \$300/month for hay, grain, supplements, and farrier services. Veterinary care is fully covered.

Long-Term Foster Care

- **Duration:** Up to 12 months.
- **Expectations:** Provide ongoing shelter, food, basic medical care, and socialization.
- **Reimbursements:** Up to \$200/month for hay, grain, supplements, and farrier services. Veterinary care is fully covered.

Specialized Foster Care

- **Scope:** For horses requiring rehabilitation, stall rest, or those with behavioural challenges (e.g., stallions).
- **Expectations:** Provide tailored care and training to address specific needs.
- **Reimbursements:** Up to \$400/month for hay, grain, supplements, and farrier services. Veterinary care is fully covered.

Retirement Foster Care

- **Scope:** For older or retired horses unsuitable for riding or rehoming due to age or health issues.
- **Expectations:** Offer a comfortable and loving environment for the horse's remaining years.
- **Reimbursements:** Up to \$150/month for hay, grain, supplements, and farrier services. Veterinary care is fully covered.

Emergency Foster Care

- **Scope:** For horses displaced due to neglect, abuse, or other emergencies.
- **Expectations:** Provide immediate shelter and care until permanent arrangements are made.
- **Reimbursements:** Up to \$350/month for hay, grain, supplements, and farrier services. Veterinary care is fully covered.

5. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND TAX RECEIPTS

Foster homes that cover part or all the specified costs are eligible for tax receipts corresponding to the amount contributed. Foster homes may also receive a percentage of the adoption fee.

6. MONITORING AND SUPPORT

The program offers ongoing support to foster homes, including regular check-ins, training resources, and assistance with any challenges that may arise.

7. TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

Either party may terminate the Foster Care Agreement with reasonable notice – a minimum of 45 days' notice is requested unless in emergency situations. In all cases, the program will arrange for the horse's relocation.