

RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOSTER CARE

The following policy outlines the expectations and responsibilities of foster care homes participating in the New Start Standardbreds program. These guidelines are designed to ensure the safety, well-being, and successful placement of all horses in our care.

1. INTAKE REQUIREMENTS

At the time of intake, foster care homes are required to:

Provide Detailed Information:

Complete and submit an intake report within 7 days, including:

- Physical condition (weight, coat condition, hoof condition).
- Any visible injuries, scars, or medical concerns.
- Behavioural observations (temperament, reactions to handling).

Obtain Initial Veterinary Assessment:

Schedule and provide a vet evaluation if required by the adoption program.

Submit Visual Documentation:

Provide clear, high-quality photos and videos of the horse at intake, including:

- Full-body shots from multiple angles.
- Close-ups of legs, hooves, and any specific injuries or features.
- Short videos of the horse moving (walk, and trot if applicable)

2. ONGOING DOCUMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

Foster homes are expected to maintain and update information about the horse throughout its stay. This includes:

Bi-Weekly Updates:

Submit updates every two weeks, including:

- Observations of health, weight, and temperament changes.
- Progress on training, rehabilitation, or behavioural adjustments.
- Any new concerns or achievements.

Monthly Photos and Videos:

Provide updated photos and videos monthly, ensuring the following:

- Photos include full-body and detailed close-ups, as needed.
- Videos show the horse moving and demonstrate any new skills, training progress, or behavioural changes.

Immediate Incident Reporting:

Notify the program immediately in the event of:

- Illness, injury, or any medical emergency.
- Behavioural issues that may affect placement suitability.

3. COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

Placement Coordination:

Foster homes must actively support placement efforts by providing requested information, photos, and videos in a timely manner.

Availability for Home Visits:

Foster homes must be available to schedule meetings between potential adopters and a horse.

This includes:

- Scheduling convenient times for potential adopters to meet and interact with the horse.
- Allowing adopters to observe or try the horse under controlled and safe conditions.
- Providing honest insights about the horse's personality, behaviour, and suitability for the adopter's needs.

Transparency:

Maintain honest and open communication with program representatives about the horse's progress, challenges, and readiness for adoption.

4. STANDARDS OF CARE

Foster homes must adhere to the program's care standards, which include:

- Providing safe, clean, and secure housing.
- Ensuring regular access to fresh water, quality feed, and necessary supplements.
- Maintaining appropriate grooming, farrier, and veterinary care.
- Engaging in regular handling, exercise, or training as appropriate for the horse's needs and capabilities.

5. PROGRAM SUPPORT

The adoption program will provide foster care homes with resources and support, including:

- Guidance on care and training tailored to the horse's needs.
- Access to program veterinarians or farriers, if applicable.
- Assistance in addressing behavioural or medical concerns.