
INTAKE ASSESSMENT

The Intake Assessment Policy ensures that every horse entering the New Start adoption program is thoroughly evaluated to determine its immediate needs and create a tailored plan for care and rehoming. This policy applies to both the organization and foster care homes responsible for the horse.

1. INTAKE ASSESSMENT POLICY FOR THE ORGANIZATION

The organization is responsible for conducting an initial intake assessment for every horse entering the program. This includes:

A. Intake Documentation

Complete an Intake Form that captures the following:

- Horse's name, age, gender, and tattoo or microchip information.
- Previous owner's information, if available.
- Known medical history, training background, and temperament.
- Reason for surrender or rescue.

B. Veterinary Examination

Ensure a licensed veterinarian evaluates the horse within 30 days of intake to document:

- Overall health and body condition score (BCS).
- Any existing injuries, illnesses, or medical concerns.
- Vaccination, deworming, dental care, and farrier needs.
- Recommended treatments or further testing (e.g., Coggins test).

C. Behavioural Assessment

Conduct a preliminary evaluation of the horse's behavior and temperament, including:

- Comfort with handling (grooming, leading, etc.).
- Reactions to new environments, people, or other horses.
- Any behavioural challenges (e.g., aggression, anxiety, fear).

D. Visual Documentation

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

- Full-body shots from both sides.
- Close-ups of any visible injuries or distinguishing features.
- Videos of the horse at a walk, and trot (if possible).

E. Record Storage

Store all intake documentation, photos, and videos in the organization's central database for future reference.

2. INTAKE ASSESSMENT POLICY FOR FOSTER CARE HOMES

Foster care homes play a critical role in continuing the intake process once the horse arrives at their facility. They are expected to:

A. Immediate Observations (Upon Arrival)

Complete a Foster Intake Form within 48 hours of the horse's arrival, detailing:

- The horse's physical appearance and behaviour upon arrival.
- Any visible signs of stress, illness, or injury.
- Initial observations of the horse's temperament and behaviour.

B. Ongoing Monitoring

Monitor the horse closely during the first two weeks for:

- Signs of illness or injury that may not have been apparent during intake.
- Behavioural adjustments or emerging issues (e.g., nervousness, aggression).
- Eating and drinking habits.
- Report any concerns or changes to the organization immediately.

C. Veterinary Follow-Up

- Arrange for a vet check if instructed by the organization or if new health concerns arise.
- Provide updates to the organization on the horse's health and any treatments or medications administered.

D. Visual Updates

Submit updated photos and videos within one week of the horse's arrival to:

- Highlight any changes in physical condition.
- Document how the horse moves and interacts in its new environment.

E. Communication and Reporting

- Maintain open communication with the organization by providing regular updates on the horse's health, behaviour, and progress.
- Be proactive in reporting any issues, injuries, or signs of distress.

3. QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS

Quarantine is required only for horses coming from an unknown background or situations where health and vaccination status cannot be confirmed. In such cases:

- The horse must be quarantined for a minimum of 30 days in a separate area away from other horses.

Biosecurity measures must be followed, including the use of:

- Separate grooming tools, feed buckets, and water sources.
- Protective clothing, gloves, and boots for handlers.

Observations during the quarantine period should include:

- Monitoring for signs of contagious diseases or parasites (e.g., fever, nasal discharge, coughing, or diarrhea).
- Checking for external parasites like lice or ticks.

If the horse's health and vaccination history are known and verified, quarantine is not required. However, all new arrivals should still be closely monitored during their first two weeks in care to ensure their well-being.

4. INTAKE GOALS

The intake process aims to:

- Ensure the horse's health, safety, and comfort in its new environment.
- Collect all necessary information to facilitate proper care, training, and eventual adoption.
- Create a clear record for transparency and to support the horse's future placement.

This policy ensures that every horse entering the program receives consistent, high-quality care from intake to adoption.