



## Adoption Requirements

To adopt a horse through the GEMS Branded Equine Network, you will need to meet minimum requirements for companionship, housing, management and handling.

### **Companions**

- Because horses and burros are herd animals, we require that all Adoptees be maintained with a companion animal, namely, another horse, burro, mule, pony or miniature horse.
- If the animal is a female, it CAN NOT be used as a breeding animal, or exposed to intact stallions or jacks.

### **Space**

- Property must be zoned for equine and provide a suitable pasture or paddock space.
- Adopted animal must be provided with good quality feed, clean unfrozen water, appropriate shelter and housing that is cleaned on a regular basis and free of deep mud or manure.
- The space that you will be bringing an adopted animal to should have adequate space for exercise, attention and socialization to maintain the animal's health and happiness.

### **Fencing/Training Facilities**

- Safe and sturdy fencing materials should be utilized.
- Barbed wire can pose serious safety risks and should only be used where there is a large turnout pasture of multiple acres. Ideally, barbed wire fence lines should have a non-barbed top wire.
- It is recommended that t-posts used in a turnout pasture be capped.
- Barbed or high-tensile wire should be marked with brightly colored streamers or ties until the animal is familiar with them.
- Electric fencing may be used in turnout pastures and should be visible for the animals.
- Round pens and arenas must also be in good repair and be constructed of sturdy materials.

### **Shelter**

- Property where an equine is to be housed must have adequate shelter from wind, rain, snow, and heat.

- Shelters need to be constructed to provide sufficient space for each equine to turn around, lie down, move his/her head freely, 12'x12' is the minimum for the average 1,200 pound horse.
- The shelter should be a three-sided structure with a roof, well drained, adequately ventilated and accessible to the animal. The sides need to block the prevailing winds and protect the major body of the animal.
- Tarps are not acceptable.
- If an equine is stalled, he or she must be turned out in a suitable pasture for a portion of the day.

### **Handling**

- Adopter will abide by all anti-cruelty laws in any state of residence.
- Adopted horses/burros MUST NEVER be neglected, abandoned, or inhumanely treated.
- Adopters will have no charges or convictions of inhumane treatment to animals.
- The Adopter will not place the horse/burro with an abusive trainer or an unskilled rider unless such rider is being provided with professional riding instruction.

### **General**

- Professional medical, dental and hoof care will be provided according to this animal's needs.
- The Adopter is responsible for all expenses incurred for horse/burro care; there are no reimbursements from GEMS.
- GEMS must be notified immediately if the horse/burro dies.
- GEMS should be contacted prior to if the animal is being sold, traded or given away.
- In the event an Adopter cannot keep or chooses to sell, transfer or giveaway their animal, the Adopter agrees to give GEMS the first right of refusal to re-possess or purchase the previously adopted animal at a fair amount to be negotiated between both parties, but not to exceed the cost of adoption under the GEMS Adoption Contract.
- The animal must **NEVER** be sent to an auction.

### **Payment**

The adoption fee is paid at the time of adoption and completion of the contract. Cash, money order, or cashiers check made payable to the Great Escape Mustang Sanctuary. Adoption fees are not refundable.

## General Contact info:

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