



HORSE ACCEPTANCE GUIDELINES

Age	10 – 20 years of age; horses and ponies outside of this age range are considered on a case by case basis.
Gender	Geldings preferred, mares accepted, NO stallions.
Height	13.0 – 15.2 hands high; horses over this height make sidewalking difficult; taller horses are considered on a case by case basis, but rarely fit the needs of our programming.
Soundness	Must be sound at the walk and trot, with a free moving, even and balanced stride. Prefer serviceably sound at the canter for schooling purposes. Although we are willing to provide maintenance (therapeutic shoeing, medications, supplements, etc), horses that will not incur this additional expense are preferred.
Condition	Must be in good physical condition—ideally is currently in a regular conditioning routine. Horses that come from a pasture life with limited handling are generally not good candidates for our program.
Temperament & Vices	Must be calm, quiet, and react positively to human interaction. Horse should be even-tempered, safe and predictable. Must be trustworthy while being led and when being ridden by a beginner rider. Should be not spook very often, be able to handle off balance riders, sidewalkers and items moving overhead. Must NOT rear, buck, bite, kick, pace, or crib (unless controlled with a halter).
Training	Must be completely saddle broke and trained. SoléAna Stables is not able to accept green or untrained horses. The horse should be responsive to his rider’s cues, but not overly sensitive or overly reactive to a leg or rein cue that may not always be subtle. Should have be able to stand for farrier, stand for saddling and be fine being saddled from either side.
Health	Up to date on all shots, deworming and Coggins. Has had teeth checked and/or floated within the last year and a farrier visit within the past 6 weeks. It will be the responsibility of the owner/donor to bring all of this up to date prior to SoléAna Stables reviewing the paperwork or considering a visit. Will be required to pass a vet check by a vet of our choice.



HORSE SELECTION PROCESS

What it Takes to be a Therapy Horse

SoléAna Stables seeks horses that will be helpful for years to come in our program. A helpful horse is one that is calm, healthy, sound, well trained and has excellent ground manners. Therapy horses may work up to three hours a day, five days a week. They are required to patiently tolerate being handled, groomed and tacked by different people throughout the day, as well as be accepting of the many activities going on throughout a lesson. They are often surrounded by a leader, two sidewalkers and an instructor while being ridden by an unbalanced and unskilled rider, as toys are passed about the horse, and music plays in the background.

Required Paperwork and Video

All horses considered for donation must be proven sound by submitting current medical records from your current veterinarian with your horse donation application. *We also require a video recording of your horse demonstrating the following: leading, grooming, tacking, mounting and being ridden at the walk, trot and canter in both directions so we can properly assess your horse before arranging a visit.* We realize that this is a significant time investment for the owner, however, as a nonprofit funded by donations, we must be conscious of honoring our donors by using the staff time that they fund absolutely as efficiently as possible.

Horse Selection Committee Visit

Once the donation application, medical history and video recording of your horse has been received, our horse selection committee will determine if a visit should be arranged. If yes, we will schedule a mutually convenient time to come out to the horse's location. An evaluation involving grooming, tacking, leading, riding and other exposure to typical aspects of a therapeutic riding session will be performed. Usually this evaluation lasts about an hour to an hour and a half. Someone with previous knowledge and comfort working with the horse should be available for the duration of the evaluation. After this visit, if your horse is a good candidate, a pre-purchase exam will be done by a veterinarian of our choice. SoléAna Stables will cover the cost of the exam and any required x-rays. If the veterinarian concludes that the horse is sound and a good candidate for our program we will enter into our 60 day trial period.

60 Day Trial Period and Financial Responsibility

Our 60 day trial period has been developed to best determine that the right horses are accepted into our program. This time may be reduced if a horse progresses quickly. SoléAna Stables accepts financial responsibility for the board, feed and farrier visits during the trial period. SoléAna Stables will cover any necessary veterinary care up to \$500 during the trial period; additional veterinary fees incurred will be the responsibility of the owner/donor. The owner/donor must accept full responsibility to haul their horse to the pre-purchase exam and to SoléAna Stables after pre-purchase exam if horse is a good candidate for our program. Owners/donors are always welcome to come by and visit their horse during the trial period by making an appointment during our regular business hours.

While on trial, the horses will be exposed to all common facets of our program which will include toys, balls, music, loud noises, sudden movements, wheelchairs, walkers, mounting blocks, various mounting techniques, being ridden by balanced/unbalanced riders, as well as additional sensitizing and desensitizing as needed.

The 60 day trial period agreement may be terminated by either party, for any reason, by giving 24 hour notice to cancel the agreement. Owner/donor agrees to receive the horse back and will assume responsibility to pick up the horse. If the horse is not picked up by the owner/donor please read *Horse Retirement/Removal from the Program* to know what steps will be taken.

In certain instances, an extension to the trial period may be justified and required to ascertain the appropriateness of the horse. In this event, a new contract with a revised trial end date will be agreed upon and signed by SoléAna Stables and the owner/donor.

Completion of the 60 Day Trial Period

After successful completion of the 60 day trial period, the horse will be accepted into the program and the final donation or lease paperwork will be completed. SoléAna Stables particularly appreciates loans/leases of qualified horses, so that donated funds are not used to maintain horses that are retired from the program. In the case of donations, SoléAna Stables assumes full ownership of the horse. In the case of a loan or lease, SoléAna Stables will, at SoléAna Stables' expense, name the owner of the horse as additional insured on SoléAna Stables' liability policy, to provide additional protection to the owner of the horse.

Horse Retirement/Removal from the Program

To remain in our program, horses must be able to perform their jobs and stay helpful. Horses that are no longer helpful to the program are first offered back to their previous owner/donor. If the owner/donor is unable or unwilling to take back ownership of the horse, the equine may be sold to a loving home, transferred to another therapeutic facility, be sent to a quality retirement pasture or may be euthanized humanely. All decisions are made with much thought and examination as to what is best for the equine and SoléAna Stables.

Possible reasons for program removal are:

- Health, injury or soundness issues rendering the equine unable to perform its job
- Inappropriate, unsafe behaviors such as bucking, rearing, biting or kicking
- Unable to cope with the daily pressures of the job
- SoléAna Stables must reduce herd size for financial reasons

Note: The information provided in this packet is not intended as legal or financial advice. It is intended to assist you in your decision to determine whether or not your horse is a good candidate for becoming a therapy horse.