



**North Carolina Therapeutic Riding Center**  
4705 Nicks Road, Mebane, NC 27302  
919-304-1009 [www.nctrcriders.org](http://www.nctrcriders.org)



Dear Potential Horse Donor,

Thank you for your interest in donating your horse to our program. The North Carolina Therapeutic Riding Center (NCTRC) is a 501(c3) non-profit organization and a Premier Accredited Center by PATH International (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, formerly NARHA). NCTRC exists to empower children and adults with physical, emotional, mental and social challenges to create active, healthier and more fulfilling lives through equine assisted activities and therapies. NCTRC could not do any of this wonderful work without our amazing herd of therapy horses. Currently 100% of our horses are donated or loaned by generous supporters in the community, and we are often looking for additions to our herd.

Enclosed in this packet you will find the following:

- Horse Donation Guidelines
- Horse Donation Selection Process
- Horse Donation Application

The members of our horse selection committee will review your application and make the best possible decision for both your horse and NCTRC. Please call if you have any questions regarding the donation process or if you would like to make arrangements to come and visit our facility.

While our screening process is a rigorous one, it is intended to ensure that the horses in our program are happy and comfortable in their very demanding jobs, and that donations to our program have the maximum impact in providing therapeutic activities to people with disabilities. Our horses are well-cared for and loved, and have a very special purpose in life. However, they are our "equine staff" and we depend on them to be able to offer quality programming and therapy.

Thank you,

Audrey Ganitopoulos  
NCTRC Program Director  
(919) 304-1009  
[audrey@nctrcriders.org](mailto:audrey@nctrcriders.org)  
[www.nctrcriders.org](http://www.nctrcriders.org)



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### HORSE DONATION GUIDELINES

Preferred Age	6 – 18 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.
Preferred 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 have a free moving, even and balanced stride with no physical issues that would cause the animal to be uncomfortable at the walk, trot or canter. Must be serviceably sound and comfortable without the need of expensive corrective shoes, feeds, supplements, or medications.
Condition & Conformation	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 beginning rider. Should be bombproof--doesn't spook very often. When/if he does, he typically plants all four feet and stops. Shortly after he's had a chance to investigate whatever spooked him, he immediately recovers and is able to continue with his work. Must NOT bite, kick, pace, crib or wind-suck.
Training	Must be completely saddle broke and trained. NCTRC 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 fantastic ground manners (NO pushing, nipping, head butting, rubbing, ignoring stop cues, etc).
Paperwork	Up to date on all shots, worming and Coggins. Has had teeth check and/or been 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 NCTRC reviewing the paperwork or considering a visit.



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## HORSE DONATION SELECTION PROCESS

### What it Takes to be a Therapy Horse

NCTRC seeks horses that will be useful for years to come in our program. A useful 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 must be able to walk at a therapeutic pace to stimulate their riders, as well as be able to maintain a steady trot during a portion of the lesson. Some riders will also be learning to canter, requiring a horse that is able to oblige.

Therapy horses are required to patiently tolerate being handled, groomed and tacked by many 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.

### Health, Soundness and Training

Because of the daily demands made on a therapy horse, we are unable to accept any horses with behavior issues, chronic health or back problems, soundness concerns or anything else that would limit their usefulness. We are also not able to accept green or untrained horses.

### Required Paperwork and DVD

All horses considered for donation must be proven healthy by submitting current medical records from your current veterinarian with your horse donation application. We also require a DVD or internet (i.e. YouTube) recording of your horse demonstrating the following: leading, grooming, tacking, mounting and being ridden at the walk, trot and canter in both directions. This is so that we can properly assess your horse before arranging a visit, as our staff's availability is constrained by programming demands.

### Horse Selection Committee Visit

Once the donation application, medical history and DVD or internet recording of your horse have been received, our horse selection committee will determine if a visit should be arranged. If so, we will schedule a mutually convenient time to visit the horse's location. An evaluation involving grooming, tacking, leading, riding and other exposure to typical aspects of a hippotherapy or 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, our horse selection committee will decide if your horse is a good candidate to enter into our 90 day trial period.

### 90 Day Trial Period and Financial Responsibility

Our 90 day trial period has been developed to best ensure that the right horses are accepted into our program. This time may be reduced if a horse progresses quickly. NCTRC accepts financial responsibility for the board, feed and farrier visits during the trial period. NCTRC 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 and from NCTRC as required. NCTRC can provide information for local horse haulers, if access to a trailer is not available (costs for hauling are the responsibility of the owner/donor). 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 90 day trial period agreement may be terminated by either party, for any reason, by giving 24 hour notice to cancel the agreement, and by scheduling an appointment with an NCTRC staff member for the removal of the horse during our regular business hours. 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 mutually agreed upon and signed by NCTRC and the owner/donor.

### **Completion of the 90 Day Trial Period**

After successful completion of the 90 day trial period, the horse will be accepted into the program and the final donation paperwork will be completed, with NCTRC assuming full ownership of the horse.

### **Loan vs. Donation**

NCTRC will consider a long term loan of a horse, rather than a donation, if that better suits your wishes for the horse.

### **Tax Deductions**

NCTRC is not qualified to place a value on your horse for a tax deduction and is unable to provide owners/donors with the required tax forms. If the value of the horse is considered to be more than \$5000, owners/donors are to support their claim with a written appraisal by a qualified independent expert that must be accompanied by the IRS form 8283. The owner/donor is responsible to locate their own equine appraiser and make their own arrangements for a tax deduction. NCTRC is responsible only to acknowledge the donation by signing a complete 8283 form and issuing a donation receipt.

### **Horse Retirement/Removal from the Program**

To remain in our program, horses must be able to perform their jobs and stay useful. Horses that are no longer useful 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 NCTRC.

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
- NCTRC 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.



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### HORSE DONATION APPLICATION

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Equine's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_

Age/DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you owned the horse? \_\_\_\_\_

Current location of the horse: \_\_\_\_\_

Riding Style/Training: \_\_\_\_\_

Farrier Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Farrier Visit: \_\_\_\_\_ Shoes on: FRONT BACK BAREFOOT Corrective? \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Do give NCTRC permission to discuss your horse's medical records with your vet? YES NO

Any lameness or soundness issues? Previous injuries or medical issues? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list a brief health history (including any soundness issues, laminitis, colic, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Current Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Past Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last vaccinations: \_\_\_\_\_ (please attach a copy of the vet records for the most recent full round of vaccines).

Date of last NEG Coggins test: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Type last Deworming: \_\_\_\_\_

**HORSE DONATION APPLICATION (Cont.)**

Type of feed and amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of supplements and amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Current turnout schedule? \_\_\_\_\_

How is the horse to catch? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the horse's role in a herd (dominant, aggressive, passive)? \_\_\_\_\_

Vices/Bad Habits (cribbing, weaving, etc)? \_\_\_\_\_

Manners when stabled: \_\_\_\_\_

Lead: \_\_\_\_\_ Groomed: \_\_\_\_\_ Tacked: \_\_\_\_\_

Ridden in Arena: \_\_\_\_\_ On Trail: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your horse safely: Cross Tie – YES NO Lunge – YES NO Load – YES NO Clip – YES NO

If no, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

URL Link for video (if not submitting a DVD): \_\_\_\_\_

Why would you like NCTRC to have this horse? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in loaning your horse, rather than making a donation? YES NO

Would you like your horse returned to you if it becomes unable to do its job, or when its time to retire? YES NO

Are you interested in underwriting the expenses for your horse during the trial period? YES NO

***I have read the complete horse donation packet and understand the 90 day trial period.***

Signature of Owner/Donor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit the filled out form and DVD to:

NCTRC Program Director  
4705 Nicks Road  
Mebane, NC 27302  
919-869-1410 (Fax)

We will review the form and contact you if your horse sounds like an appropriate match for our program. Thank you for considering us for this very generous donation!