

REHOMING – TAKING ON A “RESCUE” HORSE OR PONY

There is a considerable misunderstanding that all horses and ponies taken from rehoming centres and charities such as Horse Rescue Scotland must have something so wrong with them that they are wholly unsuitable for those owners looking to purchase.

In our opinion, this view is totally misguided.

Only a very small percentage of the horses and ponies we have dealt with over the years would qualify under the Equine Code of Practice as being “welfare cases”. The vast, vast majority will come to our attention only because of a serious and life-changing event in the life of the owner rather than the equine!

We have rehomed horses and ponies of every type and from ages ranging from 10 months to 31 years.

We have rehomed Swedish Warm Bloods to miniature Shetlands and we have rehomed horses and ponies from Orkney to Dumfries. Athletes to Companions.

When you show an interest in taking on a horse or pony from Horse Rescue Scotland you can rest assured that there will be full transparency and you will be told all that we know about the horse and pony concerned, its provenance, medical history, current condition and capabilities – or lack of capabilities and known problems and issues.

Horses and ponies considered or flagged up as “dangerous” or with severe behavioral problems will be assessed by us and most usually by a recognised, independent equine expert that we trust.

If a horse or pony takes your interest, we would positively encourage you to have your own vet carry out the assessment suited to your own intended purposes.

But please bear in mind that we are not horse dealers and we are not selling you a new horse or pony. We always advocate caution when taking on any new horse or pony whether sourced from a “Rescue” or from a private vendor.

Horses and ponies are a bit like children – they don’t come with guarantees of perfection!

INITIAL CONTACT

If you are interested in rehoming a horse or pony the starting point is to contact us directly and express your interest. It is as simple as that. You can use the contact form on our website or you can email us your details at contact@horserescuescotland.co.uk

But here are some pointers that we will ask you to consider:

- Do you have previous experience as the owner of a horse and pony? A complete lack of experience won’t necessarily be to your detriment but we will need to be satisfied that you have the requisite knowledge about keeping and maintaining an equine or will be working with someone who has.
- Do you have the financial means to keep a horse or pony? We won’t ask you to provide detailed financial evidence of your disposable income but we will advise that, on average, a horse or pony will cost about £3,500 a year to keep at livery, feed and vet, shoe and care for. That is a lot of money to find. If your horse or pony develops a serious illness or sustains an injury take it from us that this can be a very expensive process. A trip and overnight stay to one of Scotland’s two veterinary hospitals will set you back at least £1,500.00.
- Where do you intend to keep your horse or pony? We are only prepared to rehome horses and ponies to people resident in Scotland and you will be expected to keep your horse or pony within Scotland.

- Will I be subject to interview and possible inspection of the facilities where I intend to keep my horse or pony? Yes you will. Especially if you intend to keep your horse or pony on private land and not at a recognised commercial livery.
- If successful, you will become the fully-vested owner of the horse or pony concerned and the legal owner and keeper. You will be legally responsible for the welfare of your horse and pony and liable for any damage caused by your horse and pony to Third Parties – we always recommend that new owners take out both veterinary fees and liability insurance. It's not compulsory, but it's highly recommended.

When we are notified about a horse or pony that becomes available, we will contact you directly if we believe there is a good chance that horse or pony available might be suitable for you.

We will provide as much information as possible about the horse, its provenance, capabilities and condition and then invite you to come and meet the horse or pony concerned. There is a very good chance that you will also get to meet the current owner as well.

FEES AND CHARGES

We do not charge fees to individuals who rehome horses or ponies. If an individual who is rehoming a horse or pony contacts you about paying them, please let us know.

We do, however, invite individuals to donate a contribution to our charity to help defray our running costs and meet the expenses of the charity so we can continue our work.

Horse Rescue Scotland has no paid staff but we do have standing charges for livery, liability insurances and other costs associated with the charity.

We have variable costs such as vet fees that we meet from our general funds and sometimes they are very considerable.

We suggest a donation that reflects the price that you would have been prepared to pay had you bought your horse or pony on the open market – safe in the knowledge that 100% of your donation will be dedicated to continuing our work.

ANY QUESTIONS?

If you would like to enquire further about rehoming a horse or pony from Horse Rescue Scotland, please email us at contact@horsesrescuescotland.co.uk

All contacts from enquirers are treated with respect in the strictest confidence. You will not be committed to any course of action and nor will you be asked to pay any money by way of a “deposit” or as an “expression of interest”.