

Serenity Adoption Policy:

Serenity Farm Equine Sanctuary’s primary responsibility is to ensure that our equine eligible for adoption are placed into a safe, forever-home with the means and the infrastructure to support them. Below is a description of the minimum requirements that we expect from our potential adopters. Serenity Farm Equine Sanctuary (SFES) reserves the right to deny adoption of any horse for any reason.

Financial Ability: Adopter is financially capable of caring for the horse. The adopter must assert on the application that they are financially capable of providing for the horse including the items listed below.

Shelter: Adoptee must provide the horse with adequate shelter in order for the horse to be protected from the elements. At minimum the shelter must be a three-sided structure in good repair. A tarp, carport or trees is not considered adequate.)

Fencing: Safe, secure fencing in good repair (no barbed wire). Metal T-Posts are dangerous but with caps and proper height, may be approved.

Feed: Sufficient hay, grains and supplements to maintain the horse in good health, and a free choice supply of clean, fresh water at all times. SFES will provide a nutritional program for each horse upon adoption. We discourage any change of feed for 3-months. The transition is stressful for the horse so, please, give them time to adjust before changing diet.

Access to a mud-free turnout: Horses must be turned out on a daily basis for 6 - 8 hours. A mud-management plan must be in place for winter months. We understand that Virginia sometimes experiences months of rain. In the fall, it’s unavoidable. Mud is inevitable but for the most part, it should be managed. Stables or other situations where horses are not turned out daily and/or they are kept in stalls for over 18 hours a day will not be considered. Paddocks and pastures must be free of debris or unsafe items.

Required veterinarian and Farrier care: include routine checkups, vaccinations, teeth floating, and emergency care. Additionally adoptee must provide regular farrier care and deworming. SFES will provide information on veterinary care, worming program and farrier care upon adoption. Horses at SFES are barefoot unless there is a need for corrective shoes.

First-time Horse Owners: If you haven't owned a horse for some time, consider yourself a first-time owner!    We welcome first time horse owners to apply for adoption. Because our first concern is the safety of the horse and the new owner, we strongly suggest that before you adopt you complete a horsemanship series that is offered through Serenity Farm Equine Sanctuary. This is a one-on-one period of instruction to help you experience the joys of equine, safely.

A first time owner must have taken or is planning on taking lessons and/or have the help of an experienced horse person before the adoption takes place.  Care, training, treatment and riding has changed a great deal over the past 10 -15 years.  We now understand a lot more about how a horse thinks and what works and does not work in terms of training.  Horses are much more sensitive than most of us recognize.  Make sure you understand horse and recognize common ailments and diseases so you know how to care for your horse properly. Nutrition is also very important.

Riding Style:  Most horses can adapt to Western or English. We train using Clinton Anderson’s “METHOD” and utilize a very loose rein. Horses can have difficulty readjusting to close contact or severe bits. When we use bits, we use snaffle bits. Most horses here are ridden bitless.

Special Needs Horses:  Occasionally, SFES will offer a special needs horse for adoption, semi-feral horses (to experienced adopters only) or an off-the track-Thoroughbred.  These horses require a special care to keep them in good health.  Adoptees must have a working knowledge of these horses to be eligible to adopt them.

**SFES Adoption Procedures and After Adoption Policies**

We welcome visitors anytime and encourage you to come out and meet our horses to see if one might be a candidate. However, prior to working with the equine, you must submit an Adoption Application.  The application can be found beginning on page 4 of this document. Our questions are designed to help you understand our expectations and safeguard each equine.

The application requires three personal references, only one of which may be a family member. Your references should be someone who can vouch for your horse experience such as a trainer, someone you ride with or if you don't have a reference for a horse, it should be people who can answer questions about your animal care.  Your veterinarian must be able to attest to your ability to properly care for the horse.

Site Visits: A site visit will be performed by a SFES representative prior to approval. The representative will meet with the adopter at the location where the horse will be kept assessing that all the above requirements are met. If the potential adopter lives over 75 miles from SFES we will contact an approved SFES representative in your area to do the site visit.  If we don’t have an approved representative available, we may not be able to adopt the horse to you at this time.  Horses may not be moved from their approved location or leased out to a third party without our approval during the first year after adoption. We are looking for adopters that will keep their horse on their property and interact with them as often as possible. They need that.

Resale Policy: SFES’s mission is to find permanent, forever homes for our horses. We realize that there are times when adoptees can no longer keep their horse. SFES’s policy is that adopters may not sell, lease, trade or give the horse to another party without written permission from us. Serenity Farm Equine Sanctuary has first right of refusal no matter the situation.  If the adoptee feels they have found a suitable home, SFES must approve the home.  Prospective owners must meet our adoption criteria for SFES to approve the request to re-home the horse and we will ask the new owner/guardians to sign an adoption contract. If a suitable home cannot be found, the owner can relinquish the horse to SFES.  To be clear, we are not preventing you from selling, leasing or re-homing the horse but we want to be assured that the horse will not end up in the same situation that initially brought it to SFES...

No-Breeding Policy: The horses that come to Serenity Farm Equine Sanctuary have been abandoned, unwanted or have been seized or relinquished.  Usually this is a result of the previous owner’s inability to care for the horse or the horse no longer fits their needs.  There are over 150,000 horses going to be slaughtered from the US every year and until there are homes for every horse Serenity Farm Equine Sanctuary will not approve the breeding of any of our horses. Therefore, the adopter must contractually agree not to breed any of our adopted mares and all stallions and colts will be gelded before being offered for adoption.

Visits by Serenity Farm Equine Sanctuary staff after Adoption:  Adoptee agrees that SFES may visit the horse from time to time without notice.  You may also be contacted from time to time to get an update on the horse.  If the horse passes on, adoptee needs to advise SFES.

Our Sanctuary reserves the right to remove the horse if the horse is not being cared for properly or the horse’s environment does not meet Serenity’s standards.  This right will be in force for the rest of the horse’s life.

To Begin

1. Check out our [available horses](https://www.serenityequinesanctuary.org).

2. Contact Rhondavena or Bill at Serenityfarmequinesanctuary@gmail.com to meet the horse you're interested in and submit a pre-adoption application (downloadable just click on the name adoption application on the left hand side at the bottom of this page). Please fill out all fields and let us know if you have questions or difficulty with the form. Again, you cannot ride or manage the horse without being identified as an “approved adopter”.

3. We invite you to include property photos to expedite the process. If you live more than 50 miles from our farm, current pictures of your facility are required. Pictures must include shelter areas, stalls, turnout and fences.

4. Your application will be reviewed, and you will be contacted to let you know if you are tentatively-approved.

5. At that time we may make an appointment for you to come to spend more time with the horse so we can determine if you are a good fit for each other. We require multiple visits with observed interaction over a 30-to-90-day period depending upon the horse and how much you’d like to learn while working with the equine before SFES will offer final approval. This is to do all that we can to ensure a successful adoption.

6. A site visit is performed before final approval.  If we are delivering, and you have provided good information prior, we may consider the delivery the site visit.

7. Once fully approved, you pay your adoption fee and sign our legally binding adoption contract.

At this time the horse is formally adopted and may be transported to its new home.

Any horse unable to be taken directly to its new home at the time of adoption (when the adoption fee is paid) can board at Serenity for a prorated boarding fee based on our monthly costs, which is currently $300. Boarding is limited and not a permanent arrangement. Specifics are based on SFES’s current status and will be detailed in your adoption contract. If the fee is not paid at the time of adoption, the fee is due when the horse is picked up or delivered. The boarding fee does not include veterinary care, farrier services or other incidental costs.  We are unable to accept trades in lieu of an adoption fee. We prefer cash, check or money order for the adoption fee, but will accept PayPal. PayPal fees will be added to the adoption cost.

SFES will call references and complete a background check for all potential adopters.



If you are interested in adopting one of our rescues, please complete this adoption application form, send it your veterinarian and your references and will make a site visit prior to finalizing any adoption agreement. If your facility is over 50 miles, you may attach pictures to this application - Pictures must include shelter areas, stalls, turnout, and we will contact you to make an appointment for a personal visit. Please be aware that horses adopted from Serenity Farm Equine Sanctuary cannot be sold, privately, via broker or auction, nor can they be bred. If circumstances arise wherein you need to rehome your adopted horse, contact us. We do not know the entire history of all of our rescue horses. We do our best to share with you our observations but cannot guarantee health, soundness, trainability, or appropriateness for a specific discipline.

**Application Form**

Applicant’s Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_State:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Zip:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Which of our horses are you interested in? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is your experience level? Beginner\_\_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate\_\_\_\_ Advanced\_\_\_\_\_

What type of riding will you do, or do you intend this horse to be a companion or pasture pet?

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Will the horse have access to? (Check all that apply)

Acreage: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Loafing Shed/Run-in\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Stall\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other equine: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address where horse will be located:

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City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_State:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Zip:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you worked with this Veterinarian? \_\_\_\_\_\_

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Telephone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Telephone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Telephone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E mail: ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### **1. Do you live alone or with family?**

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#### **2. Do you have children? Do you plan for them to ride this horse?**

#### ** Yes No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

#### **3. Who else will interact with this horse and how?**

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#### **4. Does everybody in your household agree with this adoption?**

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#### ** Yes No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

#### **5. Does anyone in your household have allergies or asthma?**

#### ** Yes No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

#### **6. Who will be the primary caretaker?**

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#### **7. Are you prepared to care for this horse for 10-15 years?**

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#### **8. Who will care for your horse if you become ill or unable to do so?**

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#### **9. Why do you want to adopt a horse?**

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#### **10. Have you owned horsed in the past? If so, elaborate.**

#### ** Yes No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

#### **11. Do you own your property or rent?**

#### ** Own  Rent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

#### **12. Have you housed equine at your property in the past?**

#### ** Yes No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

#### **13. How will you provide water?**

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#### **14. How do you plan to introduce a horse to your place?**

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#### **15. Do you ride Western or English or both?**

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#### **16. How long have you ridden? Did you take lessons? Do you take lessons? Where?**

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#### **17. Will there be times daily that no one is on the property?**

#### ** Yes No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

#### **18. How will you prepare for vacations/trips?**

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#### **19. How often will you exercise your horse? (exercise isn’t necessarily riding)**

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#### **20. Do you have enough time to interact regularly?**

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#### **21. Did you ever have to surrender horse or pet to a pound or a shelter?**

#### ** Yes No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

#### **22. Do you currently have any other pets?**

#### ** Yes No If yes, what? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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#### **23. Will you stay up to date with immunizations?**

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#### **24. How often will your horse receive hoof care and how often will your horse see a veterinarian?**

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#### **25. Are you able to cover all the vet expenses?**

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#### **26. Do you have a $ limit for vet visits?**

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#### **27. Do you have a preferred gender?**

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#### **28. Do you have a preferred age?**

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#### **29. What traits are you looking for?**

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#### **30. Are there any behaviors that would be unacceptable to you?**

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#### **31. How do you plan on training your horse?**

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#### **32. Will you hire a professional trainer?**

#### ** Yes No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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#### **33. What if you have to move to a new place?**

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#### **34. What if your family situation changes?**

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#### **35. Do you travel a lot?**

#### ** Yes No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

#### **36. Under what circumstances would you give up an adopted equine?**

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#### **37. What will you do if you can’t keep an adopted equine?**

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#### **38. Would you consider adopting an equine with a disability?**

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#### **39. Are you willing to have a SFES representative to inspect your home?**

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#### **40. How did you hear about our Sanctuary?**

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Do you have any further questions? If so, please email us: serenityfarmequinesanctuary@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest in adopting. If you are a qualified adopter, you will have the opportunity to handle and/or ride the horse you consider. We will demonstrate first and ensure that you know that particular horse’s cues, talents and eccentricities. Before handling or riding, adopters must demonstrate horsemanship skills or be willing to learn. We are more than happy to teach and provide up to 2 months of lessons for your horse free of charge. If you don’t need them, you will complete a skills test.

…just want to do the best for each horse and each adopter!!!