

## EQUINE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

The Foster Care Program offered by Hope In The Valley Equine Rescue and Sanctuary, Inc. has been developed to give individuals and families the opportunity to sponsor a rescued equine from our facility. These animals that have suffered from hunger, neglect, and abuse, need to receive the proper veterinary care and rehabilitation in an environment that offers them safety and security. Foster homes can provide a horse with individual attention and affection. This also allows a special relationship to develop between the horse and its foster family, making a difference in the animal's self-confidence and attitude. As a foster family, you will be able to groom your horse, feed him special treats, and just spend time making him feel loved and wanted.

Foster homes help place the horses in permanent homes. No one knows a horse better than the person that feeds it daily, grooms it regularly, and interacts with it routinely. Foster homes provide valuable input when matching applicants with horses, and are encouraged to participate in the process.

Foster homes must provide for the horse's expenses while in their care. This includes routine veterinary care, farrier, feed, worming, and boarding expenses. All expenses incurred while fostering a HITVERAS horses are tax deductible.

Veterinary care may be obtained through the HITVERAS veterinarian. If distance limits, the foster home may employ their preferred veterinarian but must submit a report to HITVERAS for updating the horse's file.

All horses will be initially vaccinated, EIA tested, and wormed prior to placement, if the situation allows for this. In some cases, time is not an option and a horse must be relocated quickly. If time prevents prior vaccination before delivery to the foster home, veterinary care will be provided for at the time of delivery. The horse in foster will be up to date on everything and would not pose a liability to any horses already in the foster home's care.

Foster homes are able to specify the type of horse they would prefer to work with. Obviously placing a yearling with someone who is not comfortable with the actions of younger horses would not be a good environment for the horse or the foster home.

When a horse is placed in foster care, the foster home has the first right to adopt once the horse becomes available. The foster home will have two weeks from the available date to make their intentions known and then the horse will be made available to the general public.

All foster homes must be pre-approved for fostering an equine belonging to HITVERAS before they are placed in the database of approved foster homes maintained by the rescue. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age with no history of animal abuse or neglect.