



## Horse Lending Criteria

The horses at The Painted Turtle Equestrian Center are the true heroes of our program. We choose very special horses to perform with the highest degree of patience, love, and ability. Our horses provide our campers with an enjoyable and safe experience and the opportunity to achieve something they may have never done before.

The ideal therapy horse is sound, has an unflappable temperament and an unlimited heart. Our horses have included show horses, school horses and family pets and have had diverse backgrounds that have included police work and stunt work. Therapy horses must tolerate being crowded by groups of people (a rider, two side walkers, a leader, and the instructor); unsteady riders who may inadvertently pull on the reins; a lot of noise and action around them, and being groomed several times a day with riders and volunteers/staff touching and leaning over them. Therapy horses may carry riders who are unable to mount from the grounds and need to use a mounting ramp. This process involves fitting the horse tightly between two stationary objects (the mounting ramp and mounting block) with an unstable rider and 2-3 people around to assist.

We match each of our riders to the therapy horse that best fits their riding needs. Each horse has its own personality, movement, and strengths. We utilize many different breeds of horses in our program. Because we use the movement of the horse as a teaching tool, it is important that our horses do not limp, short step, and are not or lame in any way (all of our horses must be serviceably sound). In selecting a horse for our riders, even the horse's frame is taken into consideration. Narrow horses are good for riders who have limited ability to separate their legs. . A wide-based horse is good for riders who need a larger base for balance.

If you have a horse (or horses) that you would like to donate to The Painted Turtle Equestrian Center, please contact us. Please read our therapy-horse criteria below to see if your horse fits the bill! If you think your horse meets our criteria, please fill out the "Horse Profile" form attached and return to us as soon as possible.

Each horse donated to The Painted Turtle Equestrian Center must:

- Be serviceably sound
- Be well trained under saddle
- Have ground manners: grooming/standing/shoeing
- Have full and complete vision
- Have a solid, strong back and be physically fit
- Be forgiving of an inexperienced and unbalanced rider
- Be between 8 and 20 years of age (age exceptions can be made depending on the horse)
- Be comfortable around a variety of people
- Be comfortable at a tie rail by themselves or next to other horses
- Be comfortable with "side-walkers"

All horses must be up to date on all vaccinations. We cannot accept horses that have chronic health issues.

If The Painted Turtle Equestrian Center initially approves a horse being offered for donation or lease, the horse will be brought to the facility for an initial trial period of 90 days to ensure that the horse fits into the program and meets the above criteria. The Painted Turtle Equestrian Center will execute a written agreement with the prospective donor to document the details of the trial period.

On behalf of all of our campers, thank you for your interest in placing your horse at The Painted Turtle Equestrian Center. It is only through the generosity of people like you that our campers can achieve remarkable accomplishments and experience the joy of riding a horse!

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