



## ADOPTION PARTNER CRITERIA CHECKLIST WORKSHEET

The Right Horse Initiative™ is a collective of equine industry and welfare professionals and advocates working together to improve the lives of horses in transition. A program of the ASPCA®, our goal is to massively increase horse adoption in the United States. Partnership in The Right Horse is based on philosophical alignment as it relates to adoption and behaviors, policies and procedures which partners will employ to work towards this shared goal. The behaviors, policies and procedures are detailed below. The purpose of this checklist is to help organizations in the Warm-Up Ring create their training plan and track their progress to become a Right Horse partner. Please visit [www.therighthorse.org](http://www.therighthorse.org) for resources related to each item.

Right Horse Adoption Partners will:

<b>Status</b> <i>(In progress/ Accomplished)</i>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
		1. Share a desire to increase adoptions. Understand that the more horses are adopted out, the more horses can be saved. This means:
		a. Offering horses as available for adoption.
		b. Being open, responsive and transparent with the public.
		c. Actively welcoming adopters to your organization and adoption opportunities.
		d. Being willing to innovate and try new things in the spirit of helping more horses.
		2. Have a collaborative spirit and willingness to work with other adoption organizations
		a. Respect differences of opinions and methods among partners and other industry groups who are Right Horse partners (and otherwise).
		b. Engage in polite, respectful conversation including written, verbal and social media communication.
		c. Be willing to share and receive ideas, best practices, tactics and strategies.

		d. Be open to considering transferring horses to and from other organizations.
		3. Participate in Equine Welfare Data Collective (EWDC) data surveys twice a year.
		4. Meet the following organizational requirements:
		a. Your organization must be either a governmental organization or a 501(c)(3) organization. All 501(c)(3) organizations must be organized under the laws of a state and may not be unincorporated. Your organization must be in good standing with the secretary of state in the state where it is incorporated.
		b. A majority of your board must be independent both from your organization and from one another. For example, a majority should not be paid employees of the organization. Similarly, a majority should not be members of the same family. Ideally, the board is made up of individuals that will provide unbiased checks and balances to assure the organization is keeping true to its mission and vision and in full compliance with financial, legal, and other organizational requirements.
		c. Compensated board members must not serve as board chair or treasurer.
		d. Unless you are an entirely foster-based organization, the land where your organization is located and equines are maintained must either be owned by your organization or your organization must be on the land pursuant to a valid lease. This is important because it ensures that the equines have safe harbor.
		5. Maintain a high standard of equine care, including:

		a. Facility is clean and safe.
		b. A disaster plan is in place.
		c. A clear, written euthanasia policy is in place.
		d. Stallions are gelded as soon as possible.
		e. Training, farrier, veterinary and dental care are routine and tracked.
		6. Transfer legal ownership to adopters within a year of adoption.
		7. Utilize an adoption matching program to help assure adopters have transparency regarding the equines' health, training level and behavior and good matches are made between the right adopter and the right horse.
		8. Employ contracts, adoption policies, procedures and applications that are clear, transparent and free from unnecessary barriers to adoption. Policies should:
		a. Allow adoptions to qualified adopters out of state.
		b. Provide a support system and ability to work with new adopters/owners.
		c. Prohibit or limit breeding of adopted equines.
		d. Allow equines to be used in a lesson/therapy program or other working home, if appropriate for the equine.
		e. Allow the adopter to make decisions regarding housing, veterinary and farrier care, feeding, and other management decisions (ie not requiring pre-approval for moving, veterinary procedures or choice of practitioners) so long as the adopter

		provides for the health and well-being of the equines.
		9. Offer a lifetime safety net for adopted equines and be willing to take returns at any time
		a. Have follow-up procedures that are supportive and helpful but not excessive or overly burdensome to adopters.
		b. Request that adopters notify the organization and provide new owner's contact information if the equine is rehomed post-adoption.
		c. Allow other options for rehoming besides returning to the organization.
		10. Microchip all equines.
		11. Source equines from owner relinquishment, law enforcement, BLM or other wild horse source, stray or directly from auction. We ask partners to refrain from purchasing from "kill pens/bail outs."
		12. Embrace positive adoption language:
		a. Recognize the power of language to affect the public perception of horses and use positive language accordingly when describing adoptable horses.
		b. Utilize The Right Horse glossary, which can be found on <a href="http://therighthorse.org">therighthorse.org</a> , for suggestions on language that promotes equine adoption.
		13. Use My Right Horse to promote adoptable equines.
		a. Keep listings up to date.
		b. Provide quality photos, videos and transparent information.
		c. Be responsive to inquiries from potential adopters.