

**RETURN TO FREEDOM  
FOSTER CARE APPLICATION**

Please read the Foster Care Procedures carefully before completing this application as foster care of a wild horse is a significant commitment of time, money and energy.

It should be duly noted the instinctive protective mechanisms of wild horses are significantly more pronounced than that of the domestic horse. As a result of their finely tuned protective mechanisms, wild horses will respond to pressure much more readily and assertively than domestic horses. Their responses to pressure may include kicking, biting, rearing and striking out in an effort to protect themselves from a perceived threat. Anyone who is involved in the handling and training of a wild horse should be aware of this fact. Return To Freedom requires that any handler or trainer become proficient in Natural Horsemanship procedures and techniques utilized in working with young or unstarted horses.

Due to the unique nature of wild horses, we regret that we are unable to accept applications from individuals under the age of 18. An application may be submitted by the parent or legal guardian who thereby agrees to be fully responsible for the horse's welfare.

**Prospective Foster Care Giver Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different from above):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Work): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

California Driver's License #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Years with employer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal References:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Experience with Horses**

What is your experience with horses? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously owned a horse? Yes/No If "yes", for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of horse do you currently own or did you own? \_\_\_\_\_

Please state: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Acquired: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of

Time Owned: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you still own the horse? Yes/No If you no longer own the horse, do you know where he/she is now? Yes/No

Please explain why you no longer have your horse:

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What discipline did you use your horse in? \_\_\_\_\_

What training methods and/or philosophies did you use? \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you changed any of your training methods and /or philosophies?

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Have you attended any classes or clinics regarding the care and training of horses?

Yes/No

If yes, which classes and/or clinics have you attended?

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Why do you want a wild horse?

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Do you have experience with wild horses? \_\_\_\_\_. If so, please describe:

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Please describe the method you will use to train your wild horse:

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**Care and Feeding:**

Please describe your feeding routine (type of feed etc.):

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Please describe your exercise and/or training routine:

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Please describe your pasture/paddock maintenance routine:

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Will your horse be alone or will he/she have the companionship of other horses? Yes/No  
Who will be responsible for caring for the horse? (Please indicate age and experience level)

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Who will be responsible for the horse's care in the event you are sick or are away on vacation?

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Do you have sufficient time and income to support a horse on a long term basis? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe what you anticipate your daily routine would be in caring for an interacting with your horse?

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Type of animal you are requesting, please circle:

Gender: Stallion, Mare, Mare with Foal, Gelding.

Age: 1-5 Years, 5-10 Years, 10 Years or older.

How do you plan to use your animal?

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Does the appearance of the animal matter to you? Yes/No

Will you accept an animal with physical problems? Yes/No

Will you accept an animal that cannot be ridden? Yes/No

Who will use the horse if it is to be ridden?

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(Indicate height, weight, and if a child, state age).

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Please give level of riding experience of each rider. To ensure the safety and compatibility of horse and rider, please provide as much useful information as possible. (i.e years riding, horseback riding lessons, experience with young, green horses, etc.)

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Are you working with an instructor? Yes/No

Name of Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Riding Discipline (i.e. Western, English, etc.)

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Name of Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Farrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the location of where the horse is to be kept.

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Where will your horse be kept? Please circle: Stall Corral Paddock Pasture

Please describe your paddock/pasture maintenance routine.

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Do you have fresh water available at all times? Yes/No    Water Source: (Circle One)  
Creek    Lake    Water Trough

Do you have at least 400 square feet for each animal you are applying for?

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What type of fencing do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

Fence Height: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there adequate drainage in the paddock or pasture during the rainy season?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide specific directions to the location where the horse will be kept.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide photo of actual location where horse will be kept.

Do you own the place where the horse(s) will be kept? Yes/No

If renting facilities, please have the following portion completed by your landlord:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, *state that I own the property legally known as,*  
Name of Property Owner

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Street Address

*in the County of \_\_\_\_\_, in the state*  
*of \_\_\_\_\_.*

*And give my permission to have horses(identified by an approved foster care agreement)*

*maintained on my property.*

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ (Printed)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan to transport the horse(s)?

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Please describe the type of trailer you will be using to transport and the distance you will be covering:

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Are you prepared to meet all costs involved in transporting your horse?

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I fully understand that I am legally responsible for horse(s) that I foster pursuant to the Return to Freedom Foster Agreement and I have read and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the Terms and Conditions of Return To Freedom's Foster Care Giver's program.

I understand that the use and control of horses is a hazardous activity. If I am accepted as a Guardian, I release and indemnify Return to Freedom and its agents of all liability from damages to persons or property caused by the horse(s) in my custody, care and control.

I authorize you to verify all references, including veterinarian, trainers, farriers, landlord, employers, etc. named in this document. I also authorize you to perform a credit check and/or background investigation on myself or the proposed, named legal foster Care Giver.

Applicant does hereby warrant that the answers given in the "Return to Freedom Foster Application" are to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, true and correct.

Due to the extensive costs involved in providing medical care (immediate medical needs, vaccinations, etc.), routine maintenance and feeding, Return to Freedom respectfully requests a *Minimum* Foster Fee of \$500.00 per horse. This fee is non-refundable after two weeks or in the case of repossession due to breach of contract.

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(Print Name)

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Signature

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Date



# **RETURN TO FREEDOM**

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The following terms apply to all wild horses fostered under "Return To Freedom" Terms and Conditions.

1. I hereby agree to abide by and comply with the following terms and conditions set forth herein. I understand and agree that failure to comply with these terms and conditions will result in the revocation of my right to maintain foster care over the horse(s).
2. Foster Care Givers are legally and financially responsible for providing proper care and shelter. They are to guard and protect horses in their care from being subject to malicious harm or endangerment, negligence, harassment or outright abuse.
3. "Abuse" as used herein shall mean physical aggression, the withholding of food or water, shelter and/or emotional neglect. Horses shall be provided with suitable equine companions.
4. Foster Care Givers agree to treat the horse with kindness, humanely and with dignity and respect at all times.
5. With the exception of Horse shows and exhibition, Horses are not to be used for commercial purposes and are not, therefore, to be placed with riding schools, horse rental programs (riding stables), or breeding programs.
6. Foster Care Givers agree to NEVER to use the horse for bucking stock, horse tripping or any such event.
7. Foster Care Givers agrees to NEVER send the horse to auction or slaughterhouse.
8. Foster Care Givers are responsible, as provided by State law, for any personal injury, property damage, or death caused by animals in their care, for pursuing horses that escape or stray, and for cost of recapture(s). Foster Care Givers also indemnify Return To Freedom as provided by State law, for any personal injury, property damage, or death caused by animals in their care, for pursuing horses that escape or stray, and for cost of recapture(s).
9. Return to Freedom retains the right to inspect at any time the premises where the horse is being kept.
10. Foster Care Givers shall not transfer horse(s) for more than ten (10) days to another location or to the care of another individual without the prior approval of an authorized representative of Return to Freedom.
11. Thereafter, the horse may not be moved without advanced written thirty (30) days notice to Return to Freedom and a written approval from Return to Freedom.
12. Foster Care Givers will not sell or transfer guardianship of the horse without express written authorization from Return to Freedom.
13. Should circumstances arise where the Foster Care Giver is no longer able to care for the horse, Return to Freedom is to be immediately notified. Return to Freedom reserves the "Right of First Refusal" and horse will be returned to the sanctuary at Foster Care Giver's expense.
14. In the event the Foster Care Giver locates a prospective "replacement" Foster Care Giver, Return to Freedom retains the right to screen all potential Foster Care Giver candidates and retains the exclusive authority to extend acceptance or declination of new Foster Care Giver. The new Foster Care Giver must agree to all terms and conditions of foster care and care.
15. In the event the Foster Care Giver can no longer care for the horse, the horse shall be returned to Return to Freedom's care, custody and control. The Foster Care Giver agrees to pay all costs involved in transporting the horse back to Return to Freedom.

16. In the event the need to terminate the equine's life due to serious injury or illness, such act must be done in, and only in a human manner. Saving unusual and emergency conditions, the horse's life must be taken exclusively at the hands of a licensed veterinarian by tranquilizers and lethal injection.
17. Foster Care Giver shall immediately notify the authorized representative of Return to Freedom within 24 hours via telephone, e-mail or fax of discovery of an horse's death, theft or escape and shall provide a Veterinary Certificate stating the cause of death within three (3) days. The Foster Care Giver shall be responsible for any expenses incurred on the death of the horse and it's subsequent legal disposal.
18. Failure to comply with these terms may result in the cancellation of the agreement, and immediate repossession of the horse(s) and disapproval of requests for guardianship of additional horses. In addition, violation of any term of this agreement will be subject to applicable state laws.
19. Return to Freedom and Foster Care Giver agree that all disputes concerning the Terms and Conditions shall be resolved by either arbitration or litigation. Return to Freedom maintains the right to select which method shall be used to resolve the dispute. This shall not preclude Return to Freedom from seeking court intervention to protect the safety and well being of the horse if arbitration is unsuccessful or ineffective.

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Signature of Foster Care Giver

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Date