

# BAY STATE EQUINE RESCUE, INC.

415 Hunt Road  
Oakham, MA 01068  
508-882-3704

[www.Baystateequinerescue.com](http://www.Baystateequinerescue.com)

## **ADOPTION PROGRAM**

### **4 Easy Steps To Apply for Adoption (please read carefully)**

- 1) This application consists of Sections 1,2,3 and Appendices A,B,C and D. Sections 1,2 and 3 are required. Fill out Appendices A,B,C and D only as needed. Please print clearly. Make sure you fill out every question that applies to you. Signatures are required. All test questions should be answered (please use references as needed). All items of your application are strictly private and we abide by all state and national privacy laws. This application will be kept as a historical record if you adopt, in the adoption horses file.

Appendix A: Definition of Experience level according to BSER.

Appendix B: Reference Form

Appendix C: Primary handler addendum, to be filled out when the primary handler/rider is different from the adopter (a child, a student, family members, customers, etc.)

Appendix D: Boarding Facility, filled out by the boarding facility manager or owner if planning to board your adoption horse (this is anyone not keeping the horse on the family farm on which you reside).

- 2). Return the completed application to us by mail at the above address. Keep a copy for yourself. Most applications take two weeks for approval. Sometimes delays as long as one month occur. We will do our best to get you approved as quickly as possible. We do not guarantee approval for the horse you are applying for. Approved adopters take priority over new applicants.
- 3). Send photos of your horse facility (barn inside and out, run ins, pastures, fencing and your farm animals.) Please send your entire application as one packet. If you need materials returned include a stamped self-addressed envelope.
- 4). Please include the \$100 non-refundable application fee with your application, made out to Bay State Equine Rescue, Inc. No application will be approved without the fee, references and photos.

## Adoption Application

1. All persons applying to adopt must answer the following questions about the adopter (defined as the person over age 25 who is employed and will be legally, physically and financially responsible for the horse). If this is a joint adoption, complete Appendix E.

1. Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name of the horse you are applying for: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who is the horse being adopted for? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How did you hear about BSER? \_\_\_\_\_

### Adopter's Personal Information

1. Adopter's full name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Adopter's age: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Full street address: \_\_\_\_\_
4. City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Number of years at this residence: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you rent or own your home? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Work # \_\_\_\_\_
8. E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Describe any health or physical issues that may interfere with the care of this horse: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Have you or anyone in your household had any incidence with the SPCA? If yes please explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Adopter's Work History

1. Adopter's profession: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Employer or company name: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Number of years with this employer: \_\_\_\_\_
5. If you are not employed explain how this horse will be financially supported.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If your current relationship with the equine bill payer changes how do you anticipate being able to financially care for the horse?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Horse History

1. Have you ever owned horses (as an adult where you are the primary care giver)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. If yes, how many horses have you owned as an adult? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long did you own your last horse? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the shortest time you have owned a horse ? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the longest time you have owned a horse ? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many years experience do you have with owning horses? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Would you consider yourself a beginner, intermediate or advanced handler?  
Please refer to Appendix A of this application \_\_\_\_\_
8. Would you consider yourself a beginner, intermediate or advanced rider?  
Please refer to Appendix A of this application \_\_\_\_\_
9. What riding/driving discipline(s) have you concentrated your study in?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What breeds of horses have you ridden consistently (minimum of 3 times per week for a year). \_\_\_\_\_
11. Have you ridden anything other than school or lesson horses? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Have you handled or ridden untrained or young horses? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Have you ridden hot breed horses? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, explain:  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. If you have never owned, how do you plan to get the training required to own a horse?  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. Have you ever sold or given away a horse? \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Have you ever had a horse euthanized? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, explain each situation:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. Have you ever had a horse die in your care or while you owned it? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
18. Has there been a break in your riding or equine training? \_\_\_\_\_ How long has the break been ? \_\_\_\_\_ How do you plan to refresh your skills? \_\_\_\_\_

Formal Training

Write a short paragraph explaining your training and experience.

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Check all that applies regarding formal training and/or experience the adopter and the primary handler (if applicable) has in the following areas.

| <u>Experience</u>             | <u>Adopter</u> | <u>Primary Handler</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Equine Clinics                |                |                        |
| Technical equine Schools      |                |                        |
| Employment in Equine industry |                |                        |
| 4-H Horse Club<br>Pony Club   |                |                        |
| Riding/Driving Lessons        |                |                        |
| Organized Horse Events        |                |                        |
| Horse Shows                   |                |                        |
| Breeding Experience           |                |                        |
| Equine College Undergraduate  |                |                        |
| Equine college Graduate       |                |                        |
| Instructor Qualifications     |                |                        |

Check all areas the adopter has formal training in or enough experience to administer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ De-worming
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Vaccinations
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Pulling shoes
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Advice to farrier or vet regarding the needs of your horse.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Wrapping legs
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluating and treating problem hooves
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Preventing colic
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Treating colic
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Preventing founder
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Treating founder
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Preventing puncture wounds
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Treating puncture wounds
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Preventing abscesses, thrush, etc.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Treating abscesses, thrush, etc.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Preventing and treating rain rot
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Identifying lameness and traveling problems.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Treating leg injuries and lameness
18. \_\_\_\_\_ Keeping weight on a horse
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Proper progression for putting weight on a skinny horse
20. \_\_\_\_\_ Working through health issues with horses
21. \_\_\_\_\_ Fitting equipment to different horses
22. \_\_\_\_\_ Building confidence in horses
23. \_\_\_\_\_ Longing a horse
24. \_\_\_\_\_ Determining jobs a horse would be good at
25. \_\_\_\_\_ Ground training horses
26. \_\_\_\_\_ Training horses for specific disciplines
27. \_\_\_\_\_ Training with young horses
28. \_\_\_\_\_ Transitional training for horses changing jobs. Ex. Race horses
29. \_\_\_\_\_ Working through issues with your horse
30. \_\_\_\_\_ Acclimating a horse to a new environment
31. \_\_\_\_\_ Handling mares and foals
32. \_\_\_\_\_ Handling stallions
33. \_\_\_\_\_ Imprinting foals
34. \_\_\_\_\_ Instructing riding or driving lessons
35. \_\_\_\_\_ Transporting horses
36. \_\_\_\_\_ Competitions

## Adopter and the Adoption Horse

1. Is the adopter also the primary handler and rider? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is the adopter the primary care giver? \_\_\_\_----- If no, you will need to have the Boarding Facility Addendum filled out by the facility manager.
3. What is the weight of the heaviest rider for this horse? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the planned use of the animal, please be specific.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What characteristics are you looking for in a horse?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Please list all acceptable characteristics if the "perfect" horse is unavailable.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. When you are away from home for an extended period of time, what arrangements do you have for the care of the horse?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Is everyone in your family committed to having this horse, committed to the work and finances involved in its care? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the maximum hours per day the horse will be worked? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many hours per week will the horse be used? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is the approximate number of hours you will spend with the horse daily?  
Summer \_\_\_\_\_ Winter \_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you have a trainer? \_\_\_\_\_
13. If yes, what is the trainer's name? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What is the trainer's phone number? \_\_\_\_\_
15. How many horses do you currently own? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Why are you looking for a horse?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. Will this horse be used as a school horse? \_\_\_\_\_
18. If so, what riding level will the students be? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Will any lessons include handicapped riders? \_\_\_\_\_

## Equine Transportation

1. Will you provide your own transportation for this horse? \_\_\_\_\_
2. If yes, what type of horse trailer will you use? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the size, age and condition of this trailer?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Is the driver an experienced livestock hauler? \_\_\_\_\_  
BSER can refuse any transportation you may provide and will deliver the horse for a pre-determined fee.

References. BSER will contact your references listed here. Please inform the listed references of this application. No relatives.

Vet name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Farrier name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Horse-related reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## Section 2.

Answer these questions if the horse will be kept/boarded at your residence. If you are boarding this horse at a different location fill out Appendix C and return it with your application.

### Your Facilities

1. What is the name of your farm/stable: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Write out directions to your farm from the nearest interstate in Massachusetts.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you rent or own this farm? \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many acres of fenced flat clear cut pasture is used for equine turn out? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Describe your fence height, condition and construction material.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Is there a shelter located in the pasture available to this horse at all times? \_\_\_\_\_
7. If no, how many hours per day will the horse be in this area? \_\_\_\_\_
8. If yes, describe the size and condition of the shelter available to the horse.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How many animals will be sharing this shelter at one time? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you have a barn that will be used on a daily basis for this horse? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Is the barn and the pasture shelter one structure or different structures? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Will the adoptive horse have its own individual stall? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What are the dimensions of the stall? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What are the dimensions of the barn? Include ceiling height.  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Animals on This Property

1. Has anyone on your farm/stable ever been accused or convicted of inhumane treatment of animals?
2. If yes, explain. \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many horses do you have stabled on this property? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What other large animals live on this property. Type and number.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the maximum number of large animals you will have living on this property? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the use of each of your other horses? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How often do you use these horses? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many hours per week do you spend with each of your horses? \_\_\_\_\_
9. When in turnout do you have any extremely Alpha horses? \_\_\_\_\_
10. When in turnout do you have any extremely submissive horses? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Explain how you handle this situation and how you will handle the adoptive horse in this situation.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you feed the horses in the pasture? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What is your procedure for feeding in the pasture?  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. What is the average number of hours per day the horse will be turned out? \_\_\_\_\_

### Stabling Practices

1. Do all the horses share the same pasture? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Will all the horses be turned out together? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you turn out stallions or colts with other horses? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the maximum number of horses that will be turned out in this pasture at one time? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the size of this pasture? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you blanket horses? \_\_\_\_\_
7. If yes, under what circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Are your horses brought into the barn during winter nights, summer days and inclement weather? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Are there any busy roads bordering your facility? If yes, what steps have you taken to protect the horses? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you feed grain and hay on a daily basis? \_\_\_\_\_
11. How do you determine how much feed each horse gets? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Describe the type, name brand of concentrated feeds and type of hay including protein % you will provide. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Explain the watering system provided for each horse. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Section 3

#### Statements of Understanding

1. Do you understand that horses require daily exercise, regular worming and farrier care. Each horse requires at least one clear-cut acre of fenced, flat paddock/pasture. Each horse requires at least 20 gallons of fresh water per day and high quality, clean, dry, nutrient dense hay. Grain must be provided as needed.
2. Do you have the required facilities, the desire to have a life-long companion, the financial backing, the mental, physical, family stability and the time required to commit to the above tasks and everything required to keep a horse in good health?
3. Do you understand that the adoption requires an application fee of \$100, payable at the time of application and is non-refundable regardless of approval status?
4. Do you understand that horses live beyond 20 years and sometimes into their 40's and that this is a long-term commitment?
5. Do you understand as an adopter it is your responsibility to get to know your adoptive horse fully in order to protect it and to protect the people handling or riding it? It can take as much as 6 months for a horse to acclimate to a new environment and you must give the horse every opportunity to get to know you and its new environment before expecting it to perform for you.
6. Do you understand that BSER horses are rescue horses? Their backgrounds are questionable, their abilities are questionable and each horse should be thoroughly checked by a veterinarian who specializes in the area of discipline that you are planning to use the horse for? Do you understand BSER does not have the funds to fully evaluate each horse to determine training level and physical abilities?
7. I understand that BSER may visit this adoptive horse and request copies of care records including, coggins, vet records, farrier records, dental records, training records, illnesses and injuries. I agree to release these records upon request.
8. I understand that horses adopted from Bay State Equine Rescue, Inc. have no guarantee regarding training level, soundness, temperament, or general condition.
9. I understand that no horse from BSER can be bred at any time, under any circumstances. NO BREEDING is allowed.

10. As an adopter I assume full responsibility for any personal injury, property damage or death caused by an adopted animal in the adopter's care, and agree to hold harmless and indemnify Bay State Equine Rescue, Inc., all of its volunteers, all of its property owners, and all persons associated with the rescue program.
  
11. I understand it is my responsibility to know my limitations regarding time, money and riding ability and I will be truthful and forthright in my preference for an adoption horse.
  
12. I understand that the adoptive horse will be a part of my family and I can not pass it on to another care provider. I must notify BSER of any change in boarding stables for my adoptive horse. In the unlikely event that I can no longer keep this horse it must be returned to Bay State Equine Rescue, Inc. and I must assume all costs involved in this relocation.
  
13. I promise that this application is true and factual and I understand that any false statements can result in immediate removal of all the adoption horses from my facility and can also result in legal action against the me by the Bay State Equine Rescue, Inc and/or its legal representative. I have enclosed the \$100 application fee. I have read and understand the adoption contract for adopters and agree to abide by it. I understand that if BSER has any questions or discrepancies in my application I may need to provide further documented information.

Bay State Equine Rescue, Inc. Pledge

I pledge as a member of the Bay State Equine Rescue, Inc. that the care of my adoption horse and all other animals will be paramount and that I will always set an example for all people in the care of animals. I will not quit on my adoption horse when things get tough or difficult, and that if the horse should ever have to return to Bay State Equine Rescue, Inc. I will make sure it returns in better shape and condition than I received it. I understand the mission of Bay State Equine Rescue, Inc., to improve equine integrity, and I will do my part to uphold this mission.

Signature of Adopter \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix A – Determining experience level**

A beginner rider/handler is defined as any person who meets the criteria for one of the following:

1. A person who has not ridden at least 3 times a week for the past three years.
2. A person who has ridden only lesson or school horses, or horses at a trail riding company.
3. A person who cannot canter comfortably.
4. A person who cannot answer basic equine care questions.
5. A person who has not had formal riding training, or training in the handling or caring of horses.
6. A person who does not meet the criteria for an intermediate rider/handler.

An intermediate rider/handler is defined as a person who meets all of the following criteria:

1. A person who has ridden at least 3 times a week for the past 3 years.
2. A person who can answer basic equine care questions.
3. A person who has ridden other than lesson, school or trail horses.
4. A person who can canter comfortably.
5. A person who has had formal training in riding, handling or caring of horses.
6. A person who can ride through a buck, shy or spook and can execute the emergency dismount.
7. A person who does not meet the criteria for an advanced rider/handler.

An advanced rider/handler is defined as a person who meets all the following criteria:

1. A person who has ridden at least 3 times a week for the past 5 years.
2. A person who is experienced in daily equine care for the past 5 years.
3. A person who has successfully trained a horse.
4. A person who can solve a horse's training problem.
5. A person who has had formal training in riding, handling and caring for horses.
6. A person who can handle a horse in a difficult situation and can execute the emergency dismount.

## Appendix B – Reference Checks

In order to expedite your application approval process, send this to your listed references to complete and return to BSER. It can be attached to an email and sent to [info@BayStateEquineRescue.com](mailto:info@BayStateEquineRescue.com) or mailed to Bay State Equine Rescue, Inc. Application Committee, 415 Hunt Rd., Oakham, MA 01068

Reference check for \_\_\_\_\_ (adopters name)

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the above named applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

In what capacity did you know this person? \_\_\_\_\_

Check all statements that apply to your relationship with the applicant.

\_\_\_\_\_ in the past year I have seen socially/professionally in a horse environment.

\_\_\_\_\_ have seen handle animals, feed, train, ride/drive, handle health care issues.

\_\_\_\_\_ Have seen applicant with animals on several occasions

\_\_\_\_\_ Consider the applicant a close friend.

\_\_\_\_\_ Consider the applicant a professional acquaintance

\_\_\_\_\_ Can attest to the emotional stability of the applicant. (Demonstrates a consistent, content, positive attitude.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Can attest to the personal stability of the applicant. (Has a home, steady job, family stability.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Can attest to the financial stability of the applicant. (Is able to financially provide the proper care for this horse.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Can attest to the safety and cleanliness of the equine facilities of the applicant.

\_\_\_\_\_ Would leave your animals in this persons care for long term.

\_\_\_\_\_ Feel certain this applicant would provide regular vet/farrier care for the equine.

\_\_\_\_\_ As a professional horse person, I believe this applicant has the understanding, training and desire to care for, train and provide an adopted horse a healthy, happy life.

\_\_\_\_\_ As a work reference, I can say the applicant is honest, stable and caring person who demonstrates love of animals.

Please use this space for additional comments regarding the applicant.

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

By signing this form, you attest that these statements are true and factual to the best of your ability and you are not related to the applicant.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Appendix C – Primary Handler Addendum

Answer these questions only if the primary handler is different from the adopter.  
For example: a parent adopts a horse for a child under age 25.

1. Full name of primary handler: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Primary handlers age: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Height & weight of primary handler \_\_\_\_\_ wt. \_\_\_\_\_ ht.
4. How many years of equine handling/care experience does the primary handler have? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Address (if different from adopters address) Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Number of years at residence: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone # \_\_\_\_\_
8. E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Social security number: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Drivers license number: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Does the primary handler reside at any other address during the year? \_\_\_\_
12. If yes: Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Will the horse move with the primary handler? \_\_\_\_\_
14. If yes, full address of the horses boarding facility:  
Stable Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Is the primary handler classified as a beginner, intermediate or advanced horse handler/rider according to Appendix A of this application?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix D – Boarding Facility**

To be filled out and signed by the adopter and boarding facility manager/owner and the individual providing daily care to the horse.

If the horse is going to be boarded, how far is the stable from the applicants home?  
\_\_\_\_\_ work? \_\_\_\_\_

Stable Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Owners Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Barn Managers Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions to the stable from the nearest interstate or route:

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

How many horses live on this property? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the maximum number of horses allowed at this facility? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the use of these horses? \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours per day is a responsible person available at the stable? \_\_\_\_\_

Will this horse be provided water freely? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain the feeding and exercise program this horse will be provided with:

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

Will this horse have shelter? \_\_\_\_\_ Size of shelter: \_\_\_\_\_

Will this horse have an individual stall of its own? \_\_\_\_\_

If no, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Under what circumstances will the horse have shelter? \_\_\_\_\_

Will this horse have turnout? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain the size of pasture and the number of horses in the space at one time: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain fence height and construction materials:

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

Are there any other animals kept at this facility? If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Barn/Stable Veterinarian

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

Barn/Stable Farrier

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

