



Heartland Therapeutic Riding, Inc. Horse Acquisition Profile Form – Initial Data and Screening

Date of Screening: _____

Horse Information

HTR would like to get to know your horse prior to our first on-site evaluation. Please complete this form and return it to our office so we may begin your equine file.

Owner: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Equine's Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: Mare Gelding

Height: _____ Breed: _____ Color: _____ Markings/Scars: _____

How long have you owned this horse? _____

Past Use: _____ Riding Style: _____

Any history prior to your ownership? _____

Has your horse had any medical illnesses in the past year? _____

If yes, please explain: _____

Has your horse had any type of lameness in the past year? _____

If yes, please explain: _____

Is your horse on any medication? If yes, please list: _____

Veterinarian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please list the latest dates for the following:

Immunizations: Rhino/Flu _____ EWT/Encephalitis _____ Rabies _____

Strangles _____ West Nile _____ Other _____

De-worming _____ Product _____

Coggins date _____ Result _____

Feeding:

Current grain _____ Amount _____

Current hay _____ Amount _____

Supplements _____ Amount _____

Precautions _____

Farrier name: _____ Phone: _____

Hoof (bare/shoes) _____ Corrective _____



Any vices (cribbing, weaving, etc.)? If yes, please explain: _____

Does your horse :

Cross tie: _____ Lunge: _____ Load: _____

Why do you wish for HTR to have this horse:

What makes this horse happy:

HTR Therapy Horse Selection Overview

It takes a horse with special qualities to be awarded the title of “Heartland Therapy Horse”. First and foremost is temperament, in addition to a pleasant, easy-going, willing attitude. These characteristics cannot be taught or trained at any facility; they come naturally to the horse.

A therapy horse can be asked to work for up to two hours of lessons per day, four days per week. In any given thirty (30) minute session a therapy horse may work at a fast-paced walk or a consistent trot. A few horses are even asked to canter for a portion of their lessons. Therapy horses must tolerate being crowded by volunteers (two side walkers and a leader), the rider, and the therapist. They are groomed and loved on several times a day, with volunteers touching and leaning on them to assist with mounting and dismounting. Therapy horses may carry riders who are unable to mount from the ground so they use a mounting ramp. This process entails fitting the horse between two stationary objects (the mounting ramp and mounting block) with an unstable rider and 2-3 people around to assist. Most important to the riders, therapy horses are asked to play various games such as basketball; bean bag toss; obstacle course and other activities. All these can be frightening to a horse that is not properly trained to relate to them.

We match each of our riders to the therapy horse that best fits their riding needs. Each horse has their own personality, movement and strengths that assist with our therapy. The movement of the horses supplement our physical therapy program as well as gives us an additional teaching tool in our therapeutic riding program, so it is imperative that our horses are not limping, short stepping, or lame in any way. Horses are trained and conditioned to move in a balanced motion. To a person who has never walked before, the movement of a walking horse stimulates a walking motion in the rider’s hips while they are mounted, increasing stride length and evening out cadence. The horse’s gate is very important to consider when pairing with a rider; a rider who needs more stimulation will benefit most from a horse with a larger stride; likewise, riders who are tighter benefit most from a smooth gaited horse. Even the horse’s frame has to be taken into consideration; narrow horses are good for riders who cannot straddle well; conversely, a wide based horse is beneficial for riders who need a larger base for balance.



While we greatly appreciate all horses that are offered for donation, horses that are too old or young, too spoiled or spooky, or too fast or too slow are not a good match for our therapeutic program. The ideal therapy horse (although some exceptions may apply) considerations are:

- Between 8 and 16 years old
- Geldings are preferred
- 14 to 15.3 hands
- Gentle, quiet and easy going
- Serviceably sound
- Well trained. We have found that horses with backgrounds in areas like schooling, Pony club and 4-H, are very well suited for life as a therapeutic horse. With our limited time and resources, we do not have the ability to train a horse from the ground up; we are only able to provide them with training in specific therapeutic areas like the mounting ramp, various games, and getting used to side walkers
- Experience. Walk/trot/canter with beginner rider
- Ground manners. Grooming/standing/shoeing

All horses must have a current negative Coggins test and be up to date on all vaccinations. We cannot accept horses that have chronic health issues such as hock problems, back pain, loss of vision/hearing, or temperamental issues.

Heartland Therapeutic Riding has a well-defined thirty (30) day minimum therapeutic training program that all potential HTR therapy horses must go through. If the horse is successful in a reasonable amount of time then we accept them into the program and provide them with an excellent management program and a loving working environment to call home. Horses not suitable for our therapeutic program are returned home. HTR believes that all horses have a calling to a specific job in life; therapeutic riding is just one option.

Thank you for considering Heartland Therapeutic Riding, Inc. , we look forward to working with you.

Best regards,
Equine Committee