

# WILD HORSE ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS

## I. Adopter

- a. Adopter Must:
  - i. Be 18 years of age or older
  - i. Have no prior violations of adoption regulations or convictions of inhumane treatment to animals
  - ii. Not have adopted more than three (3) animals in the past 12 months and keep no more than four (4) untitled animals at one facility at any time
  - iii. Have received title to all eligible animals previously adopted
  - iv. Be financially able to properly house, feed and provide veterinary and farrier care for the animal(s)

## II. Facilities Necessary to Maintain Adopted Wild Horses

- a. At the time the adoption is approved, the adopter must have adequate corrals and structures to maintain adopted wild horses humanely. An inspection of the adopter's facility will be conducted prior to the approval of the application.

The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for adopting a wild horse:

### Facilities

1. **Corral** - A minimum of 400 square feet (20' x 20') must be provided for each newly adopted wild horse maintained in a corral. Corral should not be too large (more than 40' x 40'), as animals gentle easier in smaller corrals
2. **Stall** - For a gentled animal that is exercised daily, a box stall with an area of at least 144 square feet (12 ft. X 12 ft.) per animal is acceptable as long as it is well drained, well ventilated, and cleaned regularly. For gentled animals that are not exercised daily, the box stall must also have an attached corral with a properly fenced area of at least 400 square feet to provide exercise.
3. **Shelter** - Shelter should be provided for adopted animals. A typical cold climate shelter is a three-sided structure having a shed-type roof with the structure's open side facing away from the direction of the prevailing wind. A shelter providing shade from the summer sun is recommended in the desert. The shelter must be a run-in shed attached to the corral, or box stall in barn attached to corral, allowing animal to move freely between the corral and shelter. The shelter must be free from protrusions (e.g., projecting bolts, hinges, etc.) or objects that would pose a hazard to the animal. **Shelter or stall space should be at least 12' x 12' per animal.**

### Fencing

1. **Corral** - Fencing material must be constructed of at least 5 rounded pipes or poles, 5-2x6 inch wooden planks, masonry, or similar materials, and be free of protrusions that would pose a hazard to the animal. Small- mesh woven wire fencing with openings no larger than 2" by 4" is acceptable. Woven wire corrals shall, however, have a minimum of one sight board at eye level. Additional boards midway between the ground and the top are desirable. Under no circumstances are electric fences, large-mesh woven wire, T-posts, or barbed wire corral enclosures acceptable during the period before the animal has been gentled.

A. Minimum Height of Corral Fencing:

- i. Ungentled wild horses 18 months and older must have fencing at least 6 feet high.
- ii. Ungentled wild horses younger than 18 months must have fencing at least 5 feet high.

**2. Pasture Fencing** - Adopted horses should not be released into pastures until they are tamed sufficiently so they will not attempt to escape when approached by individuals or other animals and can be handled for necessary care.

### III. Transportation

- a. Adopters must provide their own means of transporting adopted animals from the point of adoption to their facilities. The Authorized Officer must inspect all hauling equipment to assure that it is in good working condition, clean, solidly constructed, and free from protrusions that could injure animals. All vehicles must be covered and have adequate ventilation, floor covered with non-skid material, and ample headroom to allow animals to assume normal standing posture. *For safety reasons, drop-ramp tailgates are not permitted.*
- b. Trailers satisfactory for transporting adopted wild horses are listed below in order of preference:
  - i. **Stock Trailers** – These are the most desirable trailers to haul wild horses because they are the least confining type of transportation, minimizing the risk of injury to the animals.
  - ii. **Two-Horse Trailer** – For the animal's safety, center partitions must be removed. A board should be tied above the tailgate to prevent the animal from jumping over the gate. Untrained horses will not be tied in the trailer.
  - iii. **One-Horse Trailer** – This type of trailer is only acceptable for one foal 6-8 months old, or one halter-trained horse.

### IV. Handling Equipment

- a. The following must be provided by the adopter at the time Of adoption.
  - i. **Halters and Lead Ropes** - Properly fitting halters and lead ropes must be provided by adopters for loading at the adoption site. They are also necessary for use during the gentling process. Halters of heavy nylon webbing, buckle on, without a panic snap on the cheek piece are required. For leading, cotton ropes at least 15 feet long and 1 inch in diameter are recommended; synthetic leads are also acceptable if they are of equivalent strength to 1-inch cotton rope. Halter snaps and buckles should be sufficiently strong to restrain a wild horse

### V. Nutritional Requirements and Horse Health

Nutritional requirements vary with an animal's ages, physiological condition, and level of work. A ration of about 2.5 pounds of good quality grass hay with 12 percent protein content per 100 pounds of body weight is required daily by an idle adult horse. Supplemental nutrients must be provided for young, developing animals, pregnant or lactating animals and active animals. Moldy, dusty, or spoiled feed is not acceptable.

#### Nutrition

- Adopters must provide the nutrients necessary to maintain adopted animals in moderate condition as defined in the Wild Horse Body Fat Worksheet (see separate

sheet).

- Adopters must provide free access to between 12 and 30 gallons of fresh clean water daily for each wild horse, depending on weather conditions. The water must be available in a container that does not pose a hazard for the animals (e.g., no sharp corners). If an automatic watering system is not available, the water should be supplied in a container large enough to require filling only twice daily. During freezing weather, the adopter must make provisions to assure water is available at least twice a day.
- Required salt and minerals shall be available to all animals on a daily basis. This can be done by providing salt and mineral blocks for each animal.

### **Sanitation**

- Stalls shall be well drained, well ventilated, and cleaned often to prevent health or safety problems. Corrals must be well drained and cleaned regularly. A buildup of manure from lack of stall cleaning is not acceptable.

### **Health Care**

- Humane care of adopted wild horses and burros requires annual booster shots and regular worming (see guidance information provided on the last page). Adopters must also make arrangements for regular hoof care and, where necessary, consultation with individuals that are knowledgeable about horse care.

### **Gentling Adopted Animal**

- In addition to the requirements listed above, applicants must understand that they are expected to gentle the adopted animal or provide some other humane method for capturing and restraining the animal to ensure that necessary veterinary and hoof care can be provided.

## **VI. Inspections**

Qualified staff personnel will visit the facility where the adopted horse is being kept at least three (3) times within the first year.

## **VII. Violations**

Any violations of the adoption requirements that are observed by an authorized officer must be corrected within thirty (30) days. If the violations are not corrected or reoccur more than one time, the adopted horse(s) will be removed from the adopter's care and the agreement will be cancelled.

## **VIII. Removal of Adopted Horses**

Failure to comply with these requirements or the terms of adoption may result in the cancellation of the agreement, repossession of the animals and/or the disapproval of requests for adoption of additional animals.

Repossession of adopted horses will be conducted by the Range Management Program (RMP) staff and will be accompanied by an officer of the Salt River Police Department (SRPD).

## **Equine Veterinary Recommendations for Vaccinations, Deworming and Dental Work**

### **Equine Health and Wellness**

Preventative medicine is the branch of veterinary medicine that maintains your horse's health and stops illnesses before they start. Equine veterinarians may recommend that your horse have a wellness check- up twice a year. These exams typically coincide with spring and fall vaccines. We also recommend that your horse's teeth be checked at least once a year and all horses should be on a regular de-worming program.

### **Vaccination Schedule**

What vaccines your horse should receive depends on where he lives, how old he is, how much he travels, and many other factors. The following are general guidelines for horses with a moderate show schedule, living most of the year in Arizona. PLEASE consult with a veterinarian before starting on any vaccination program as recommendations vary depending on your unique concerns and each horse's physiology.

### **Abbreviations:**

- E – Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis
- W – Western Equine Encephalomyelitis
- WNV – West Nile Virus
- T – Tetanus
- Flu – Influenza
- Rhino – Rhinopneumonitis (Equine Herpes Virus 1, 4)
- Strangles – *Streptococcus equi*

### **Foals:**

- At 6 months of age: EWT, WNV, Rhino
- At 7 months of age: EWT, WNV, Flu/Rhino, Strangles
- At 8 months of age: Flu, Strangles, Rabies

### **Previously vaccinated adults:**

- Spring: EWT, WNV, Flu/Rhino
- Fall: Flu/Rhino, Rabies, Strangles (for horses under 5 years old)

### **Unvaccinated adults:**

- As soon as possible: EWT, WNV, Flu/Rhino, Strangles (if under 5 years old)
- 1 month after initial vaccines: EWT, WNV, Flu/Rhino, strangles (if under 5 years old), Rabies

**Pregnant mares:**

- 5 months of gestation  
(pregnancy): Rhino 7 months  
of gestation: Rhino
- 9 months of gestation: Rhino
- 10 months of gestation: EWT, WNV, Flu
- Even those pregnant mares previously vaccinated should have a booster of the Rhino vaccine at 5, 7 and 9 months of gestation. The vaccine used is specially formulated for pregnant mares to reduce risk of abortion

**Vaccine reactions:**

- Some horses may have allergic reactions to one or several vaccines. Please let your veterinarian know if any of your horses have had a previous reaction and what that reaction was before re-vaccinating. Your veterinarian will then do a risk assessment for you to determine ways to mitigate or eliminate the reaction, including possibly skipping the vaccine.
- No vaccine is completely safe. However, veterinarians recommend these vaccines because we know they do an excellent job of either preventing disease completely or mitigating the severity of symptoms should your horse get sick. The risks are very low, especially compared to the risks of the diseases they prevent.

**Deworming**

- Deworming recommendations have changed dramatically in the last several years. We used to recommend deworming horses every 6-8 weeks with rotating products. We now know that this deworming program is very effective for a limited time, then results in a property full of parasites resistant to every drug we have to kill them. Unfortunately, that resistance becomes endemic to the property and any horse kept on that land in the future will likely pick up super-resistant parasites. Therefore, before deworming your horse, we strongly recommend submitting a fecal sample for evaluation. This should be approximately ½ of a fresh fecal ball. If you can't submit it immediately, it can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 24 hours before submission. The fecal sample is used to determine the parasite load your horse typically carries. Horses are then divided into three groups:

**Low shedders:** These are horses with very low or no parasite load. These horses have a very high resistance to parasites without any help from dewormers. Horses in this group living in Arizona can be dewormed only twice a year, usually late fall and spring.

**Medium shedders:** These are horses with a moderate parasite load. Often, yearlings or horses recovering from other illnesses fall into this group. These horses should be dewormed 3 to 4 times a year, usually in late fall, winter and spring. If a medium shedder leaves Arizona during the summer, another dose during the summer is recommended.

**High shedders:** These are horses with a high parasite load. Often, immune-compromised horses or those coming to Arizona from wet, humid environments will fall into this category. These horses should be dewormed and rechecked 4-6 weeks after deworming to ascertain their status.

**We do NOT recommend daily dewormers due to their contribution to resistance to strong parasites.**

**Foals** should be dewormed with pyrantel or fenbendazole once a month from 2 months of age to 1 year of age. We do not recommend using ivermectin or moxidectin in horses less than one year old.

Consult with your veterinarian before embarking on any deworming program since these recommendations change based on age, living situation, health history, and feed choices.

**Brand names with active ingredients:** this list does not contain every possible dewormer and is not complete in that regard nor are any product recommendations implied.

Moxidectin – Quest

Moxidectin + Praziquantel – Quest Plus

Ivermectin + Praziquantel – Equimax, Zimecterin

Gold Pyrantel – Strongid, Exodus

Fenbendazole – Panacur, Safe-Guard

Double dose of fenbendazole – Panacur PowerPac

### **Health Certificates**

A health certificate is required for horses to travel across state lines. A health certificate is a document issued by a USDA accredited veterinarian certifying that at the time of examination, your horse was healthy to travel. The health certificate requires a negative Coggins test within the last 6 months and is typically valid for 30 days. A health certificate can be issued immediately after an exam if proof of the current negative Coggins test is present at the exam. The following link will show entry requirements for each state to cross state lines.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/state-to-state>

### **Equine Dentistry**

All horses should have their teeth checked at least once a year to evaluate the need for a dental float.

Horse's teeth grow throughout their lives and wear down as they chew their food. However, almost all horses have a narrower lower jaw than upper jaw. This means that the inner edge of the bottom teeth and the upper edge of the upper teeth do not have anything to wear against. These edges get sharp over time and can quickly become as sharp as steak knives, boring into the horse's cheeks and tongue causing sores and severe pain while the horse is eating and being ridden. The process of smoothing out these sharp points is called "floating the teeth". Many horses also have other mild misalignments of their jaws which result in other uneven

wear patterns. The resulting hooks and ramps can easily be corrected during a routine float.

Older horses often develop dental carriers or rotten teeth. Veterinarians can pull these teeth, or in complex cases, will refer these cases to local surgeons.

If you notice your horse losing weight, dropping feed when he eats, foul breath or poor behavior on the bit, your horse may need a dental float.

Prevention of medical problems is almost always easier and cheaper than dealing with the disease or disease results.