



FOSTER HOME DETAILS

Dear Future Foster Home,

Thank you so very much for caring enough about the farm animals who seek refuge through Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary to inquire about helping to foster one! Since Happy Trails is not a large sanctuary, emergency foster homes are sometimes needed to help in various rescue situations until a permanent home can be found for the rescued farm animal. In order for Happy Trails to accept an animal into our rescue program, it must meet the criteria of having been abused, abandoned, neglected, or in some instances, bound for slaughter.

Here is some information regarding emergency foster homes:

Advance Notice: Normally, it is not possible to give much notice. When a humane society or animal protective league calls Happy Trails for assistance, they are normally at the point where an animal is in the process of being removed from a bad situation, and we must hop into action and help to remove the animal at risk. This means finding a trailer ride and a foster home as soon as possible. Once we have an animal that will fit your situation, we call you right away to be sure you are prepared and to obtain your permission for that particular farm animal. Once the animal is on your premises, we will try to notify you as far in advance as possible of moving the animal or if a prospective owner is wanting to visit the animal.

Expenses/Insurance: Foster homes care for the animals as though they were their own, including feeding, watering and daily cleaning of stalls, applying fly spray as needed and providing any medications or supplements as directed. Foster homes need to make sure that their home owners insurance does cover any liability caused by the animals on their premises (For example, a horse gets out and causes property damage or injury). Many people with horses already have this coverage, but a quick call to your insurance company will clarify this for you. For public boarding or riding stables, they already would have commercial liability coverage.

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary pays for all veterinary, farrier care and special medications that the animal may require. This includes booster shots, wormer, teeth floating, special shoeing and hoof trimming. We request that any invoices needing reimbursement are sent at the end of each month to Nancy Conring's attention at the Happy Trails address of 5623 New Milford Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266. Please provide copies of actual receipts. When possible, if agreed upon by the veterinarian and farrier, invoices from them can and should be sent direct to Happy Trails, again attention: Nancy Conring, Treasurer. Always indicate the name, species and breed of the animal on the receipts. Wormer will be provided for you - do NOT buy wormer or provide any wormer that is not on a horse's medical record.

The foster homes are responsible for providing and paying for grain, hay, and bedding (either straw or sawdust is acceptable), and any boarding expenses that may be involved if the foster home is not



located on your own private property.

Medical Requirements: Happy Trails will provide a medical record/special instructions of the specific care of each animal. The foster home agrees to follow any care instructions explicitly and to not waiver from the instructions provided. Any changes to the animal's diet, medications, or daily care routines **MUST** be approved by a Happy Trails representative. This also includes overall appearance of an animal (For example: do not sheer a sheep without permission, do not cut, trim, other otherwise alter a mane or tail of a horse without permission). General combing and brushing and daily grooming is not only acceptable but encouraged. Some animals may be sent to Happy Trails through other agencies and will considered as being held in protective custody as their court trials proceed. We must be extra careful in these instances that the animals are not cosmetically altered in any way that is not medically necessary.

Income Tax Donations: Foster homes can receive an income tax donation receipt for any items supplied that are supplementary to the daily feeding and care of the animals as mentioned in the previous paragraphs. They must keep copies of receipts to prove to the IRS what was spent. Donation receipts may **NOT** be given for time spent such as the cleaning of stalls, etc. Before you solicit any "donated" items such as food, medicines, etc., please contact Nancy for the appropriate paperwork for the donator. We appreciate your efforts to procure donated items, but please remember we are a 501 (c) (3) organization and there are proper forms that must be used. We try to conserve our funds whenever possible so we have money available for emergencies, medications, veterinary and farrier care, etc., so we sincerely do appreciate when you donate items used in the foster program.

Physical Requirements: Foster homes must have safe and appropriate fencing for the type of farm animal you are fostering, as well as providing an appropriate stall and/or shelter. We do ask for a veterinary reference and will contact your veterinarian. Draft horses require electric fencing. No barbed wire fencing is ever approved.

Length of Stay: Foster homes may specify the period of time a rescued animal will stay with them. We have had horses adopted in as quickly as five days and horses not adopted for a year — depending on the individual horse and what people are searching for at that time. Pot belly pigs are not normally adopted. There is a waiting list of people wanting goats and sheep. If the animal is not getting adopted and the foster wishes the animal moved, that is **NOT** a problem, but we do ask for some advance notice so we can find transportation and a new home.

Quarantine: Emergency foster homes need to be able to quarantine their foster animal to protect their own animals from any diseases that may be brought in. In the care of horses, the quarantine must be for a three week period and the horse must be at least 30 feet away from other horses. Please remember that we do not rescue animals because they are healthy and happy and well cared for. Many animals, because of neglect, have compromised immune systems and are more susceptible to diseases and health issues.

Types of Horses that Need Foster Care: There are different categories of foster homes.

- **Basic Care Foster Home:** where the horse does not require any additional daily care other than turn out and daily feeding. It is as healthy as it ever will be, is aged, or needs a resting period for a specific reason.



- Draft Horse Foster Homes: are sorely needed. Draft horses are completely different from owning and caring for a regular riding horse, from their nutritional needs to dealing with their sheer size. There are the additional concerns about the size of stalls, handling, and safe fencing.
- Special Needs Foster Home: where the animal may have an injury or wounds that need tended to daily, may need special medications given in either their feed, orally or injectables, or may need special monitoring or regular veterinary checkups.
- Pony Foster Homes: Some foster homes are not set up for larger horses but may wish to foster ponies, whatever their needs may be. Ponies are often easier to place than larger horses are not often in foster care very long.

Potential Owners Visiting the Rescued Animal At Foster Homes: Foster homes are not constantly bothered with potential owners and your name or number are not listed on the internet or on any fliers or in any ads of Happy Trails animals needing homes. We do encourage you to talk first on the phone to prospective owners concerning your foster animal since you will know it best after working with him/her daily and will know his/her habits and mannerisms. Then if you feel that this person would be a good possible home, we ask that you allow them to set up an appointment with you to visit your foster animal. Happy Trails will provide you with applications to give to prospective new pet owners. If an application is filled out, we will then get this person in contact with an authorized Happy Trails Adoption Counselor who will then help them through the adoption procedure. A written explanation of the Happy Trails Adoption Procedures will be provided to you so that you in turn can help to explain how the adoption process works to possible new pet owners. IF you feel in any way that a specific home is NOT appropriate for your foster animal, please tell us. You, as the foster home, are encouraged to help us set the requirements that an animal will need as he/she seeks a permanent home, and you are welcome to be as involved or not involved as you wish to be in the adoption process. You are welcome, but not required, to accompany the adoption counselor on home inspections and home follow-up visits. The adoption counselor will take any of your concerns into consideration before making any final decisions.

About The Animals: Happy Trails takes in many rescue cases without having knowledge of the animals background, health issues, behavioral problems or temperament. We try to provide as much information as possible to the foster home. In situations of court cases, we may not be legally allowed to share privileged information concerning the animals. Limit grass intake on ANY horses until they are adjusted to your facilities. Many rescued horses have been stalled or tethered and not used to having any grass for a very long time — please use caution when turning horses out onto grass pastures. Proof of a negative Coggins will be supplied for horses — this may need to be arranged once the horse is at the foster home and removed from it's neglect/abuse situation. Please take every effort to exercise caution and common sense when working around rescued farm animals. Do NOT overfeed or change the feed instructions for any animal — you can do more harm than good to a starved animal by feeding it the wrong food or the wrong amount of food. Please log any inconsistencies on the health record for each foster animal (For example: he/she didn't eat their breakfast, had a runny nose that morning, laid down more than normal during the day, etc.).

It can be a very rewarding experience to have played such a major role of care giver and rescuer in an animal's life! Most people bond with their foster animal and follow his/her progress, and even visit it occasionally at it's new home.



Many foster homes are continuing to make themselves available for emergencies and have enjoyed their experience to the degree of having volunteered more than once.

I hope this helps to answer any questions or concerns you may have. If you desire to help as a foster home, please fill out the foster home forms, and we will need a signed waiver, agreement and liability release. An adoption counselor will visit your facilities to officially approve you as a Happy Trails Foster Home and also help to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Annette M. Fisher

Executive Director, Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc.

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