

To All Prospective Equine Foster Re-Homers:

Thank you for your enquiry about re-homing an equine from us here at the ISPCA National Animal Centre.

We have several equines that are available to foster, most of them have 'special needs' due to their age or health conditions, and none of them are capable of being ridden at present.

Please read our Criteria for Re-homing below, and the details of our current Equines for Re-homing. Some of these can be seen on the ISPCA Website

www.ispca.ie/content/leinster-other

If you think you could offer a home to one of our equines, please contact Cathy Griffin at 086-3516084

or by email at:

cgriffin@eircom.net to discuss your application, and to arrange a visit.

Criteria for the successful re-homing of equines:

Many of our equines have been rescued from cruel and neglectful situations, some are very nervous, or have behavioural problems, and some of them have chronic health issues.

We try to find homes for our equines which will meet their needs, and provide a good experience for the equine and the foster person. We do not take 'reserves' on the equines, but try to match the correct animal to the perfect home!

Each individual equine has specific requirements, and each application will be dealt with appropriately for that animal. This will involve talking with you about the equine and your situation, a home visit, and if approved, time spent by you handling the equine before you take it home, and then we both sign a Fostering Agreement.

We do not have 'fees' for our equines, but if you foster a sound animal, capable of work, we would expect a suitable donation, to help with the costs we have incurred in bringing that animal back to health. We do not get Government funding for the equine unit, so all donations are very welcome.

Your reason for wanting an ISPCA equine:

The homes we seek are those with a strong welfare commitment, where the needs of the equine come before the wants of the owner.

It is unlikely than any of our equines will be suitable for novice children with inexperienced parents.

Facilities:

We require that stabling be available to all equines on site, even if they live out.

Stabling must be safe, and large enough for the animals that use it.

Grazing must be sufficient for all the animals that use it, or facilities provided for feeding out.

Safe fencing: natural hedges, post and rails, electric fencing are all acceptable.

Barbed wire is **not** acceptable.

Straight wire and sheep wire need to be protected by electric fencing inside, to prevent equines getting their legs caught.

Adequate shelter: high hedges, trees, walls, or a field shelter.

Supply of fresh water in stables and grazing.

Equines may not be tethered.

Expertise:

A sound understanding of stable management, equine health and veterinary care is necessary. Willingness to learn and be guided by our staff would be acceptable with some animals, if you don't have a lot of experience.

A commitment to follow a regular routine of vaccination, worming, farrier and teeth care together with any specific routine for an individual equine (for example: ability to manage laminitic ponies, sweet itch, arthritis etc)

A commitment to provide necessary veterinary and nursing care should the equine become injured or sick.

If fostering an untrained animal, or a riding animal, you will need to demonstrate your ability to handle it.

A commitment to giving the equine a dignified ending when its quality of life has deteriorated, where a veterinary surgeon recommends euthanasia, in consultation with the ISPCA, except in emergency situations.

Basic Rules:

No equine will be re-homed to be kept on its own; it must have suitable company of at least one other equine.

The ISPCA maintains ownership of the equines.

The ISPCA retains the right to repossess the equine, if the terms of the fostering agreement are not being adhered to, or if we have any other concerns about the equine.

ISPCA equines cannot be used for

- Hunting live quarry,
- Hire and reward
- Breeding.

There are too many unwanted equines; we are not going to add to their number by allowing our rescue mares to breed. If you would like another equine, please consider another rescue animal!

The full terms of the fostering agreement are available from our staff.