

New Vocations Adoption Applicant Requirements

Personal Requirements



Applicants must:

- Be at least 21 years of age. If younger, a parent must be added to application and sign the Adoption Contract to adopt.
- Meet a minimum salary requirement.
- Live within the continental United States (48 contiguous states). We do not adopt to Hawaii, Alaska or any foreign country, including Canada.
- Have owned a horse before. Exceptions can be made if the applicant has sufficient horse experience, as determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Be working with a trainer/riding instructor if applicant is a beginner or intermediate rider for both Thoroughbred and Standardbred adoptions.
- Matron Of Honor Standardbred broodmares: some of these mares may be suitable for beginner riders and or children under the age of 16 years of age. These will be handled on a case per case manner. Must have owned a horse before.
- Have prior foaling experience if a Thoroughbred mare is wanted for breeding purposes. **Standardbreds are strictly excluded from breeding per Standardbred Transitional Alliance accreditation requirements.**
- Have at least two non-family personal references that are aware of horse experience and that have been to the desired boarding facility.
- Have a veterinary reference from a veterinarian that has been to the facility within the past year. If the veterinarian has not been to the facility in the past year, the applicant should request a farm call. A boarding facility's regular vet does not necessarily need to have applicant as a current client.

Facility Requirements

Acreage

- If the horse will be kept at an applicant's own farm (a private facility), there must be at least 1 acre per horse.
- If the horse will be kept at a boarding facility, there must be at least ½ acre per horse.
- Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis. Facilities that don't match our typical criteria may be considered if appropriate pasture and turnout management is documented. Additional photos and references may be required.
- Mares and geldings must be kept separate for turnout.

Stall Size

- At least 10'x12'
- Depending on what part of the country the applicant resides, a stall might be REQUIRED.
- Must be able to keep horses separate during feeding time, if necessary.
- For Thoroughbreds: **The horse must have access to a stall or the applicant must have a way to feed and care for the horse away from other horses.**
- For a facility with no stalls to be approved, horses must have access to adequate shelter large enough to accommodate all horses housed together, not just adopted horse (i.e., a run-in for two horses should be at least 12'x24', three horses should be at least 12'x36' and so on).
- All horses must have access to adequate shelter based on the facility's geographic location (i.e., in hot/humid climates a stall, shelter or shade must be accessible).

Acceptable Fencing

- Wood/vinyl rail/ split rail—**at least two rails high**
- Woven wire/horse fence/no-climb fence/mesh fence/ field fence, etc.
- Electric tape/braided rope/coated wire (highly visible)—**at least three strands high**
- Barbed wire is **only acceptable at the top of the fence (one strand)** to prevent leaning.

West Coast Adoptions

In 2019, New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program expanded its adoptable area to include the entire 48 contiguous U.S. states. Previously, horses must have resided within 12 hours of a New Vocations facility.

There are several things to note for adopters living in Western states:

- Potential adopters who are able to organize shipping from our facility within one (1) week will be given priority over those who must wait longer than 7 days arrange transportation from our farm. This policy is in place because there is an ongoing wait list of horses needing to come into one of the New Vocations facilities. New horses can only enter our program once a horse is adopted and leaves for his new home. Typically, adopters who are located closer to the facility they are adopting from are able to organize shipping more quickly, freeing a stall for horses on the wait list more rapidly.
- Horses shipping more than 1,000 miles **must be transported in a box stall**. Additionally, the shipping company and route taken will need to be approved prior to finalizing the trip. Shipping long distance is very stressful to a horse and having a box stall will ensure he remains comfortable. We have also found that shipping companies vary greatly in routes and care of horses while shipping. We take great pride in our horses and the fact that their previous owners have entrusted them to our care; we want to do everything we can to ensure that the horses are shipped safely and arrive in good condition to their new homes.
- Most of our horses were bred and raised in the Eastern and Midwest states. They are very accustomed to the fencing and terrain in those areas. We understand that many facilities in the West have different fencing and landscape than what these horses are used to. We will keep these differences in mind when reviewing applications and may ask for photos and additional information to ensure horses will thrive in their new environment.