



CONGRATS!

YOUR NEW EX-RACEHORSE HAS ARRIVED!

We can't wait for you to start your partnership with your New Vocations graduate, but please follow these guidelines for a successful transition to its new home (with you!):

- While most ex-racehorses are not new to shipping, it still throws off their routine! They do not eat or drink like they normally would. Make sure your new horse has consistent access to fresh water and hay when they arrive.
- **PLEASE GIVE YOUR HORSE A WEEK TO TRANSITION TO HIS/HER NEW ENVIRONMENT BEFORE RIDING!!!** We know you're excited, but that can be overwhelming when a new horse is still adjusting. The patience will pay off!
- **Transition to new feed gradually**, taking into consideration the grain being fed at the New Vocations facility from which the horse came, and following trainer recommendations for a similar feed available in your area. We recommend sticking to a grain with a relatively high fat and fiber composition, rather than one high in starches and protein.
- **"Weird" behavior is normal** for a horse getting used to a new environment! Cribbing (when it isn't a normal behavior), stall walking, calling, and unusual behaviors aren't unheard of for a horse that has been separated from a familiar environment. Please be patient and understand that the horse is confused and may be showing signs of stress that tend to dissipate when they adjust to the new surroundings and become familiar with their new herd. If you're still noticing unexpected issues after the horse has had at least 3 weeks to adjust, feel free to contact the trainer at the facility from which the horse was adopted.
- **REMEMBER: Patience and a sense of humor are the two tools that will help you the most when working with your new horse.**



Dear Adopter,

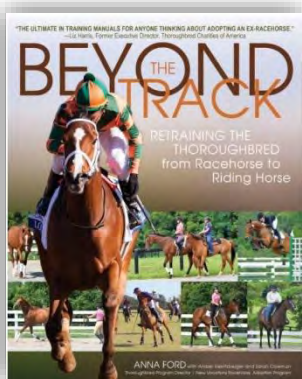
Welcome to the New Vocations Family! We know you have many options when it comes to equine adoption, and we're so thrilled that you chose us. We are confident that you'll give your newly adopted horse a good home, a new vocation and a bright future – we can't wait to see where you go!

When your horse arrives, please send an email or text to the trainer at the facility from which your horse came, to let them know that your horse arrived safely.



Need some pointers? On our website, newvocations.org or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/new.vocations1/ you'll find some tips on training the retired racehorse. Additionally, the book ***Beyond the Track: Retraining the Thoroughbred from Racehorse to Riding Horse***, by Anna Ford, our Thoroughbred Program Director, is a great resource. You can buy it online at Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

If the information on the website doesn't help you, or if you'd like to bounce some ideas off another horseperson, don't hesitate to call or email us if you have a question – or if you simply want to share a moment with us! We love to hear from our adopters! Contact information can be found on our website newvocations.org/contact



Last but not least, if you have a Facebook account, feel free to join our page, New Vocations Retired Racehorse Network, to interact with other adopters and staff. This is a great place to share about your newly adopted horse and interact with other horse owners and lovers, many of whom are also adopters of New Vocations graduates! On this page you are welcome to share photos, videos, ask questions, and seek advice.



On following pages of this packet, we hope you will find some helpful information that may be used to continue to guide you toward a successful and fulfilling future with your adopted horse!



Just a friendly reminder about key parts of the Adoption Contract that you signed:

- **60 Day Trial Period (Section 4):** You have 60 days from the date the horse arrives to see if your adopted horse will work for you. If not, once you notify us of your intent to return the horse, it will go on a waitlist for a stall at the same facility it was adopted from. An adoption fee credit, which can be applied toward the adoption fee of another horse in our program, will be given once the horse has been evaluated by the trainer and found to be in the same condition (or better) than when he/she left New Vocations' care (this includes, but is not limited to body condition, vaccination, and shoeing status).
- **Probationary period (Section 6):** Our adoptions are a one-year commitment. You may not sell or transfer the possession of the adopted horse during that time. If you cannot or do not wish to continue to care for the adopted horse during the first year of ownership, it must be returned to the program or have arrangements made to transfer the adoption to another approved adopter.
- **Reporting (Section 6A):** By adopting a New Vocations horse, you agree to submit updates on your adopted horse 3, 6, and 12 months post-adoption. Updates should include at least 1 full-body photo (good quality and without tack/blanket), the progress and condition of the horse, and any changes to your horse's location or your contact information. These updates not only let us know that your horse is happy and healthy, but they are also sent along to your horse's former owner so that they may share in his/her success!
 - Updates can be submitted online at: https://newvocations.org/horse_update
 - New Vocations has the right to make random visits to the facility where the horse is housed to gather this information if it is not provided. (Section 6.B.iii).
- **Right of First Refusal (Section 7):** If all three updates have successfully been submitted, you are legally allowed to sell the adopted horse, provided that the conditions described in the contract are met. You must use the Bill of Sale included in this packet and return a copy to New Vocations.
- The adopted horse is **NEVER**, under any circumstances, to be sold at auction (Section 7).



Feeding Your Ex-Racehorse

The caloric need of a recently retired racehorse can vary greatly from other sport horses and pleasure mounts. Most horses right off the track are well-muscled, but lean, with very little body fat. It's essential that each horse receives the calories necessary to build and maintain fat supplies.

How much grain should I feed? Metabolism can play a major role in weight maintenance and weight gain in horses. In general, stock breeds – Arabians, Morgans, Quarter Horses, crossbreds and gaited horses are easier to maintain than the racing breeds. Thoroughbreds especially tend to have higher metabolisms and rapidly burn calories.

At the racetrack, horses are fed on average 12 to 18 pounds of grain a day; at New Vocations we typically feed 8 to 12 pounds of grain a day to the transitioning horses at our facilities, in addition to 15 to 20 pounds of good-quality hay. In colder seasons, or for particularly hard-keepers, sometimes even more additional calories are needed by increasing grain or hay intake.

Knowing the weight of your grain is critical. Typical scoops have either 2 or 3 quart capacity, and a 3 quart scoop generally holds about three pounds of textured feed. While many barns structure feed plans based on the number of scoops of feed at each feeding, you'll need to know the actual weight of the food per scoop to ensure you can follow the feeding guidelines for whichever grain you decide to feed.

FEEDING DIRECTIONS:

Training Level	Kalm Ultra® lb per day
Mature Weight: 660-880 lb	
Idle	3 - 6
Light Training	4 - 7
Moderate Training	5 - 9
Intense Training	6 - 10
Mature Weight: 880-1,100 lb	
Idle	4 - 8
Light Training	5 - 10
Moderate Training	6 - 12
Intense Training	7 - 14
Mature Weight: 1,100-1,300 lb	
Idle	5 - 10
Light Training	6 - 12
Moderate Training	7 - 14
Intense Training	8 - 16

For example: Here is the recommended feed chart for Tribute's *Kalm Ultra*® horse feed.

In the chart to the left, the recommended feed amounts are given in pounds (of grain) fed per day – hence the need to know the weight of each “scoop”.

A tip to accommodate your ex-racehorse's nutritional needs as his/her metabolism adjusts from the racetrack is to reference it's lifestyle as “Moderate Training” to “Intense Training” even if you're just doing light work. These feeding recommendations are meant to be comprehensive for all breeds and mature ages, but your recently raced horse will have heftier nutritional needs than most. Recently raced Standardbreds will be on the lower end of this feed range, where Thoroughbreds will be on the mid-to high-end of the estimated range.

How often should I feed my horse? We recommend feeding grain at regular times, since horses tend to be schedule-oriented, and dividing feedings into at least two servings (AM/PM). Ideally no more than a half pound of grain per 100 pounds of body weight will be fed in one serving; three feedings a day can be beneficial for horses that need to gain weight. Any changes in grain should be introduced gradually over the course of 7-10 days.

HAY! The Primary emphasis of any horse's diet should be on keeping high-quality forage available as much as possible. At least 1.2 to 2 pounds per 100 pounds of body weight of good quality, clean hay or pasture should be fed daily. This means that a 1,000-pound horse should be getting 12 to 20 pounds of hay every day (if not more!). Feeding to little or poor-quality hay can lead to digestive troubles or colic. Alongside good-quality hay, fresh and clean water should *always* be readily available.

In addition to hay quality, the composition of your hay can change its nutritional value. A mix of grass and legume hay (i.e. alfalfa) can be a good choice to maintain a balanced diet. Alfalfa is a highly palatable source of protein and fiber and can be a valuable supplement for putting on weight. *It's important to note: we do not advise feeding alfalfa hay exclusively.

If your horse is losing weight: First consider the amount of food you're giving. If you're following our guidelines (average 8-12 lbs of grain and 15-20 lbs of hay) and the feeding recommendations by brand, consider the levels of fat and fiber your horse is getting. Sometimes you can increase body condition by simply switching to a grain that is higher in fat and/or fiber. Adding alfalfa cubes or pellets and/or beet pulp can also help increase fiber and protein levels.

Supplementing your horse's meals with oils is also a great way to add calories without adding more concentrate. We commonly use stabilized rice-bran oil as a supplementary oil. Look for an oil with a balance of Omega-3's and Omega-6's. But be careful: too many Omega-6's and not enough Omega-3's can cause inflammation, so preferably feed oils with higher levels of Omega-3's, such as Rice-Bran, Canola, Soybean and Flaxseed oils.

Other sources of weight loss may stem from your horse's environment. In order to ensure your horse isn't having to compete for food (and is actually getting everything you're giving), feed horses in individual stalls or separate areas to eliminate competition for food. Also consider stall behavior – a horse that stall walks or paces will be burning relatively more calories than one standing in place, so they may have higher caloric needs.

Temperature can also play a major factor in weight. In colder climates and during colder seasons, horses will be working harder to keep themselves warm. So it's important to provide appropriate blankets and shelter and increase food, if necessary to meet your horse's caloric needs. Horses swatting at bugs and sweating will also be using more calories, so make sure to calibrate your feed program according to the changing seasons.

Body condition: Optimal body condition can vary according to what the horse is doing, but seeing ribs or easily feeling them under a winter coat is a common indicator that a horse is not receiving enough calories. On the following page, is a Horse Body Condition Scorecard for your reference. Please note the difference between a "race fit" horse and an under-nourished horse.

Not every horse is easily categorized by a number, but it can help to be able to recognize and monitor any body changes, especially when it can indicate an issue outside of the amount of food. For example, a horse with visible ribs, but a potbelly and excessive winter-hair growth may indicate poor-quality feed, or the need for a change in deworming protocols. A horse with declining body condition, lethargy and behavioral issues might point to point to ulcers.

It may take months to fatten up a retired racehorse, but once a fleshy condition is attained, the weight will be easier to maintain. There are many different variables that go into the nutrition and health of your horse, but we have already begun to transition your horse your horse from its racetrack feed regime, and you're always welcome to contact us with questions. Your vet can also be great resource for any other specific nutritional concerns or questions.

Areas of emphasis for body condition scoring: thickening of the neck, fat covering the withers, fat deposits along backbone, fat deposits on flanks, fat deposits on inner thighs, fat deposits around tailhead, fat deposits behind shoulders, fat covering ribs, shoulder blends into neck.

1 Poor

Animal extremely emaciated; spine, ribs, tailhead, points of hip and buttock projecting prominently; bone structure of withers, shoulders, and neck easily noticeable; no fatty tissue can be felt.



2 Very Thin

Animal emaciated; slight fat covering over base of spine; ribs, tailhead, points of hip and buttock prominent; withers, shoulders, and neck structure faintly discernable.



3 Thin

Fat buildup about halfway on spine; slight fat cover over ribs; spine and ribs easily discernable; tailhead prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be identified visually; points of hip appear rounded but easily discernable; points of buttock not distinguishable; withers, shoulders, and neck accentuated.



4 Moderately Thin

Slight ridge along back; faint outline of ribs discernable; tailhead prominence depends on conformation, fat can be felt around it; points of hip not discernable; withers, shoulders, and neck not obviously thin.



5 Moderate

Back is flat (no crease or ridge); ribs not visually distinguishable but easily felt; fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy; withers appear rounded over spine; shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.



6 Moderately Flethy

May have slight crease down back; fat over ribs fleshy/spongy; fat around tailhead soft; fat beginning to be deposited along sides of withers, behind shoulders, and along sides of neck.



7 Flethy

May have crease down back; individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat; fat around tailhead soft; fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck.



8 Fat

Crease down back; difficult to feel ribs; fat around tailhead very soft; area along withers filled with fat; area behind shoulders filled with fat; noticeable thickening of neck; fat deposited along inner thighs.



9 Extremely Fat

Obvious crease down back; patchy fat appearing.