

DEFENSA HORSE ADOPTION AGREEMENT & RELEASE OF LIABILITY WAIVER

We thank you and your family for adopting a Defensa Rescued Horse. Because our program relies on Grants and accountability, as well as Defensa putting hundreds of dollars and man hours into each Rescued Horse, we require the following items. We trust adoptive families to read and understand each item with integrity and sincerity – If something isn't acceptable, possible or questionable please let us know so we can work together to give your Rescued Horse the best home possible. *Note: a separate document will be given separately which has the personality, temperament and previous care specific to your rescued horse.*

1. Basic Care & Ownership Guidelines

- Daily Feeding Guidelines (vary depending on each horse's current weight situation) – ideally your free roaming (with plenty of grass) homes will feed 5 to 10 lbs of sweet feed/grain once a day. For stalled horses, ideally you will have unlimited hay and 5 to 10lbs of sweet feed once or twice a day. For stalled horses without unlimited hay you should feed 5 to 10lbs of sweet feed twice or three times a day and give 2 flaks of hay morning and night. **Remember** to change any horse's diet gradually. Horses can not vomit and have delicate digestive systems – you can kill a horse by not feeding him properly.
- Feeding multiple horses together. Do not assume if you leave horses to eat they will share equally. Normally one horse will dominate the feed or hay. It is your responsibility to make sure each horse has the time and ability to eat the proper amount of food. You may have to separate your horses for feeding
- Feeding hay – consider making a 'slow feeder' – it will save you in wasted feed and possibly be healthier for your horse.
- Water – horses should always have unlimited clean water. Tossing some bleach into an empty horse water container, rinsing the bleach around & out with water (dumping the bleach out) is an acceptable and easy way to keep horses water clean.
- Daily Eyes on your Horse daily. Know the signs of 'collic' in a horse and look for injuries on legs, hoofs, body.
- Maximum time in a Stall may be no more than 50% of a day – Defensa prefers and recommends free roaming your horse. Some horses can get 'very crazy' if kept in stalls. Each horse is different – Look for signs of stress in your horse, including 'cribbing', uncontrollability when let out of the stall or when riding.
- No ropes – should you need to tie your horse out to graze make sure you have eyes on your horse at all time during grazing. Make the rope 30ft or shorter as a spooked horse on a longer rope can break a neck. Should you like, make the rope very long but do not tie it to anything. This will make it easier to 'grab' your horse if needed without risking a broken leg or neck due to rope entanglement
- Weekly Grooming- Check for ticks, cuts, swollen area, etc. Always pick out hoofs on a regular basis. Teach your horse to allow you to groom everywhere so if a problem comes up you will have a relationship to treat and address areas of his body. Ticks can be anywhere on your horse but they hide in the ears, mane at the base and on the tail on the bone/cartilage that is the tail itself.
- Hoof Trimming – Guidelines are every 6 weeks with a farrier or weekly if 'barefoot' owner trimming.
- No Breeding- all male horses will be castrated prior to adoption. Be careful with your females. If a stud is in a neighbor yard and gets loose you can easily have a baby. Defensa Rescued Female Horses will not be placed in homes that own stallions.
- Deworming, Tetanus & Vaccination Shots – Research and come up with a regiment

- that meets your and your individual horses needs.
 - Float the teeth on a regular basis that meets your horses needs
- 2. Home Visits / Regular Updates**
- **For the first 90 days** Defensa requires a minimum of weekly status & photo updates. Communication can be in whatever form is best for your family – text messages, emails or facebook
 - Should an injury or problem occur we want to help so please let us know ASAP.
 - For the first 24 months Defensa requires quarterly home visits.
- 3. Addressing Injuries or Vet Needs**
- In our experience, it is not easy or fast to get a Large Animal Vet to come to your horse. We recommend you contact [Cabo Rojo AMC Vet Clinic](#) and determine if they have a Vet or know a Vet who would come to your location should the need arise.
 - Also become familiar with your local Agricultural Center. Most of the 'feed stores' are connected with local Cowboys and other horse owners. Many injuries can be addressed without a Vet or until a Vet can be seen. Please visit our [Horse Adoption Program page](#) to view photos of some of the minimal care items you can keep on hand, purchased from your local feed store – Antibiotic powered Typerprim (a substitute for a Penicillin shot), Bute (anti-inflammatory) and Wound Spray – to name just a few.
- 4. Fencing Guidelines**
- Not all grass in Puerto Rico is the same. If your horse isn't eating grass on your land it is likely smart enough to know it isn't 'horse grass'.
 - Not all hay in Puerto Rico is 'horse hay'. If ordering hay make sure you ask if it horse or cow hay.
 - There is a local plant locally called 'zarcilla' that will cause horses mane and tail hair to fallout if they eat a large amount on a regular basis. The hair will grow back in months to a year if the plant is taken out of their diet. Most horses like eating it and it is not poisonous. zarcilla plant leucaena plant (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leucaena_leucocephala)
 - If you use barbwire fencing make sure to check it regularly. Almost nothing can damage a horse as much as getting a leg stuck in barbwire. The barbwire should be strung very taut, like a piano wire. Some horses will challenge barbwire and if it gives at all, they will bring it down.
- 5. Take Back Agreement**
- No Saleing- should you encounter a situation where you can no longer care for your Defensa Rescued Horse you can ask and Defensa will take back your horse. We ask for as much lead time as possible to make arrangements on our end. You may not sale you Defensa Rescued Horse unless expliciting agreed upon prior to a sale in a formal agreement.
- 6. Assumption of Risk, Liability Release, Indemnity Agreement**

Assumption of Risk

- I _____, (participant or parent/guardian of minor participant), am willingly adopting a Defensa Rescue Horse. I understand that all horses are unpredictable and sometimes dangerous animals. I realize that placing my children or myself, in an environment where horses are present and participating in horse related activities including but not limited to, riding, touching, grooming, standing near horses, may create a hazardous and dangerous situation which carries an inherent risk of serious bodily injury, disability or death. I understand that horses can run, buck, bite, kick, shy, stumble, rear, trample, scratch, peck, fall, make unpredictable movements, spook, jump, step on a person's feet, push or shove without warning or apparent cause. I understand that Defensa cannot prevent the risk of injury or death from being around, handling, or riding horses. **INITIAL** _____
- I hereby expressly and specifically assume the risk of injury or harm related to my adopting a Defensa Rescued Horse. **INITIAL** _____

Liability Waiver and Release

- I, on behalf of my spouse, partner, descendants, ascendants, assigns, and executors hereby release Defensa Animal de Rincon its director, staff, board members, volunteers, trainers from any and all liability for harm to person or property including any illness, injuries or death resulting from my adopting and caring for a Defensa Rescue Horse. I release and forever discharge and hold harmless Defensa from any claim for liability related to my adopting a Defensa Rescued Horse and **any claims that may arise for any act of negligence or want of ordinary care on the part of Defensa.** **INITIAL** _____

Indemnity Agreement

- I agree that I will indemnify and hold harmless Defensa against all claims, demands, and causes of action, including court costs, and actual attorney fees, arising from any proceeding or lawsuits brought by or prosecuted for my benefit, in which this release is upheld. **INITIAL** _____
- I have carefully read each paragraph listed above and understand its contents. I expressly waive any rights I may have under the laws of Puerto Rico pertaining to general liability waivers. I hereby freely and voluntarily, without duress, execute the Release. **INITIAL** _____

Parent/Adults Name (print/sign/date)

Child / Other Family Members (print/sign/date)

Street Address _____ **City** _____

Zip _____

Phones (H) _____ **(W)** _____

Emergency _____

Defensa Representative (print/sign/date)