



Dear Valued Volunteer:

Thank you for your commitment to the New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society (NS). We appreciate all the work our volunteers do for both the horses and the organization. You are an integral part of our NS team and we are sincerely grateful for your support.

The enclosed package includes the following information:

1. About New Stride
2. General Rules & Procedures
3. Frequently Asked Questions
4. Waivers
5. Acknowledgement of Enclosed Information

Please review the enclosed information. If it meets your approval, kindly sign/date where indicated and return to your NS Volunteer Coordinator.

We look forward to working with you.

Best regards,

Carmen Kramer  
Program Coordinator

## **About New Stride:**

---

### **Our history:**

New Stride is a registered charity dedicated to finding adoptive homes and alternative careers for Thoroughbred racehorses no longer able to compete. The charity was founded at Hastings Racecourse in 2002 by a group of concerned owners, breeders and backstretch workers who sought to provide opportunities for a dignified retirement for as many Thoroughbreds as possible.

During its existence New Stride has placed over 130 Thoroughbreds into adoptive homes and assisted many owners and trainers in connecting horses coming off the track with opportunities for new careers and homes. The organization also offers assistance to Thoroughbred owners outside the racing community in the form of information, advice and free advertising of horses for sale on its website.

New Stride is largely volunteer driven. Directors and volunteers donate their time to a vast number of tasks and projects, from general labor around the stable to training to fundraising.

Funds raised by New Stride are used to cover foster care expenses, such as feed, shipping and blacksmith services, basic re-training, medical expenses, as well as for miscellaneous expenses such as blankets and halters.

### **How New Stride works:**

Owners and trainers approach New Stride with horses they wish to place in the program. Horses are assessed by an Intake Committee for suitability and presented to the Board of Directors for consideration and acceptance into the program or onto a wait list. Horses are reviewed and considered on a first come first served basis. New Stride has adopted the guidelines for transition the retired racehorse recommended by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and endeavors to select horses fairly and without bias. The program does not take broodmares, show or saddle horses, or horses that have not raced or trained in BC at this time.

Horses accepted into the program are sent to the facility best suited to their needs or potential. New Stride has a training facility in Abbotsford, BC (Allbury Farms) and foster farms available in Langley and Southlands. Once settled, the horses are handled frequently by volunteers and ground training begins. Most horses requiring no injury rehab commence under saddle training within two weeks of their arrival.

Adoptions are facilitated by volunteers and potential adopters are required to view the horses in person and to ride and handle the animals to the satisfaction of the New Stride representatives attending. Eligible adopters complete an application and provide

information regarding their facilities or access to these facilities plus references from a veterinarian to New Stride. Applications are reviewed and verified by an Adoption Committee and if approved, the adopter pays an adoption fee and enters into a one year contract with New Stride. At the end of the term, if the organization is satisfied that the horse is placed appropriately the adopter receives the horse's Jockey Club papers and ownership of the animal.

New Stride works hard to ensure appropriate matches are made during the adoption process. Repeat rides and visits are encouraged and the adoption process is never rushed. Follow-up visits and progress reports are also taken seriously. New Stride maintains an interest in all horses that pass through the program.

**How New Stride is funded:**

New Stride is supported by donations from the Thoroughbred industry, the racetrack and equine communities, private individuals, and foundations. The organization receives no government funding of any kind.

## **General Rules & Procedures:**

---

In order to keep things running smoothly, we ask that our volunteers abide by certain rules and procedures. The following is a brief outline:

### **General:**

- While we appreciate that a volunteer may feel a stronger connection with one horse over another, the horses in our program are entrusted solely to New Stride and thus fall under our direct management.
- While we generally like to keep things consistent, there are times when we have to change protocol. Any such decisions are entirely up to the discretion of the Board and are always done with the horses' best interests in mind.

### **Care and handling of the horses:**

- Anyone handling a NS horse must complete a Volunteer Registration Form and waiver. A copy of valid Horse Council membership is also required.
- Basic care includes grooming, hoof maintenance, medical attention, and maintenance of facilities and tack.
- Horses approved for exercise or riding will be assigned a program that only volunteers with proven riding skills shall adhere to. Volunteers wishing to ride must be approved via a supervised training period. Please refer to our FAQs for more information.

### **Procedures at the barn:**

- On arrival, you must check in with your designated Volunteer Coordinator to receive their duties for the day.
- Review the "Daily Log" before proceeding with your duties.
- Groom and tend to all horses as instructed by your Volunteer Coordinator. Note the condition of the horses and report any irregularity to your Volunteer Coordinator.
- Facilities must be tidied before leaving. Assure that the facilities are looked after, that it is safe for the horses (i.e. no items are lying around which a horse could injure themselves on), all halters are left in their correct location, all grooming tools are returned to their correct location, any medication is put away and secured, aisle ways are swept, and that all manure is cleaned up and removed.
- Tack must be cared for and put in its correct location. Bits must be washed after each use. Saddles and bridles must be cleaned at the end of the day.
- Before leaving, enter a detailed description of your activities in the "Daily Log" book. State any observations in an objective, non-judgmental way.

**Rules of the barn:**

- Volunteers are only permitted at the barn when the designated Volunteer Coordinator is on site or when they've been given advance permission.
- Guests must be approved with the designated Volunteer Coordinator prior to arrival.
- Do not feed the horses unless you have been given permission.
- Helmets must be worn at all times when riding.
- Absolutely no smoking in or around the barn and property.
- Driveway speed limit is 10 km/h at all times.

## **Volunteer FAQs:**

---

### **What can I do to help?**

There are many ways for you to help:

- Helping out at fundraising events
- Gathering silent auction items
- Contributing to marketing and design
- Writing grant proposals and assisting with public relations
- Hosting information tables at industry events
- Assisting with administrative work
- Caring for the horses (handling, grooming, rehabilitation, etc)
- Training and exercising the horses
- Providing rehabilitation services for the horses (veterinary care, massage therapy, etc)

### **How do I become a volunteer?**

If you would like to volunteer with NS, please fill out the Volunteer Registration Form. Once we have received your request, you will be contacted by one of our Volunteer Coordinators.

### **I've already submitted my application; how long will it be until I can start volunteering?**

It depends on the activities you've signed up for. Please be patient; we will contact you as soon as a spot opens up that matches the availability you placed on your application.

### **How old do I have to be in order to volunteer?**

We accept volunteers of any age. However, volunteers under 18 years of age must provide written consent from their guardian. Children 16 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult with horse experience.

### **How often do I have to volunteer?**

Some people prefer to volunteer year-round; others only help out during specific events. We're grateful of whatever level of support you're able to provide.

### **Can I volunteer at New Stride for a short period of time?**

Yes, you can volunteer for just one event; or you can volunteer on an on-going basis. Generally though, we ask for a minimum commitment of 3 months from the volunteers that work directly with the horses.

### **Can I volunteer for more than one volunteer activity?**

Yes, you may volunteer with as many different activities you wish. We have various fundraising activities throughout the course of the year and are always in need of a helping hand.

### **Can I volunteer even though I don't have horse experience?**

Yes, first timers are welcome to volunteer. There are many volunteer activities that do not require any horse knowledge (e.g. fundraising, marketing, etc). However, those wishing to work with the horses must have a minimum level of previous horse experience.

### **Can volunteers ride the horses?**

Volunteers may ride the horses; however, they must be approved by their designated Volunteer Coordinator and have insurance from Horse Council BC (obtained [here](#)).

[www.hcbc.ca/Individual-Membership.html](http://www.hcbc.ca/Individual-Membership.html)

As many of our horses are young and green, we require our volunteers to have a certain level of experience before riding the horses. This helps ensure the safety of both our volunteers and our horses.

Before a volunteer can ride a horse, they must go through a supervised training period. During this time, one of our Volunteer Coordinators will assess the rider's ability and determine whether their experience is suitable for our horses.

### **What level of experience is required to ride the horses?**

A good gauge of experience is to assess where you would fit within the Canadian Pony Club standards. All riders should *at minimum* satisfy the D1 Level of Pony Club ([details](#)).

[www.canadianponyclub.org/National/TestingEducationStandards/StandardsD.html](http://www.canadianponyclub.org/National/TestingEducationStandards/StandardsD.html)

If you aren't at that level yet, don't worry. Please revisit the process with us once you've gained a bit more experience. We look forward to seeing your progress.

### **How much time does volunteering take; do I have to volunteer everyday?**

Only you can decide how much time you would like to spend volunteering. Each volunteer activity varies as to how much time is necessary to complete the task. There are a wide variety of commitment levels available. Generally though, we ask for a

minimum commitment of 3 months from the volunteers that work directly with the horses.

**Is there a volunteer information briefing that I should attend?**

There is no information briefing for volunteers to attend; however, we may have pre-event meetings and training sessions depending on the activity of interest.

Once you've filled out our Volunteer Registration Form, you will be contacted by one of our Volunteer Coordinators. They will provide you with all the pertinent information.

**How do you keep your volunteers informed?**

Once you've signed up to volunteer, you will be added to our volunteer email list. We will email you periodically about various volunteering opportunities as well as information concerning our programs, horses, and general news.

**What should I do if I have a specialized interest or skill to contribute (such as graphic design, marketing experience, etc)?**

Please indicate any special interests or skills when filling out the Volunteer Registration Form. Once we receive your information, we will connect you to the right person, place, or group. If you have checked off a special skill, that information will be stored in our database and quite possibly used to contact you for other volunteer needs in the future.

**Does volunteering for New Stride count towards required volunteer hours for school?**

New Stride is a registered charity in Canada. We're happy to sign forms after you've completed your volunteer duties.

**Can I get a letter of reference for volunteering?**

By volunteering for New Stride you can request a letter of reference.

**Am I expected to show up for the event that I've signed-up for?**

If you have committed to a specific event, we expect you to show up for your shift. We are dependent on our volunteers to ensure our events run smoothly and efficiently. If you are not able to make it to a shift, please let us know in advance.

**What if I need to break my volunteering commitment to New Stride?**

Circumstances change and we understand, but please contact as soon as possible so we can make alternate arrangements.