



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 our Program 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 dozens of 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 helps 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 and has always been primarily volunteer driven. There is one part-time paid position within the organization. Directors and volunteers donate their time to a vast number of tasks and projects, from general labour around the stable to training to fundraising.

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 transitioning 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.

Horses accepted into the program are assessed and once settled, the horses are handled frequently by volunteers and ground training begins. Most horses requiring no injury rehabilitation 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 New Stride representatives. Eligible adopters complete an application and provide information regarding their facilities plus references from a veterinarian. Applications are reviewed and verified by an Adoption Committee and if

approved, the adopter pays a fee and enters 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 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. Despite all due diligence, there are instances where matches do not work out. In these cases, the organization will generally accept the horse back and begin the adoption process again.

How New Stride is funded

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

The organization has several annual fundraising events (silent auctions, pub nights, 50/50 raffles). Hastings Racecourse supports New Stride by hosting an annual “day at the races” event at the track.

Thoroughbred Racing BC provides an annual grant, as does the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and the Thoroughbred Charities of America.

General Rules & Procedures

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 a 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 your 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 left behind with which a horse could injure themselves), all halters are left in their correct location, all grooming tools are returned to their correct location, any medication is put away and secured, aisles are swept, and 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, nonjudgmental 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 is allowed in or around the barn and property.
- The driveway speed limit is always 10 km/h.

Acknowledgement of Enclosed Information

I, _____ (please print), a volunteer for New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society, declare that I have read, understood, and agree to comply with the information found within this document.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____