



Equine Suitability Before Use & Permanent Removal

Equine Suitability Before Use

Turning Point has a series of checklists to be completed by a team of at least three people including: The Executive Director, Herd Manager, Instructor, Board Member on

- Completion of background information survey completed by owner
- Initial visit to a prospective equine and report to Board on decision to evaluate at Turning Point
- Initial assessment of behavior in the herd
- 30 day assessment of suitability on site with ONLY staff handling
- 60 day assessment of suitability on site with staff and volunteers handling in sessions
- Staff assessment on suitability to join the team and recommendation to the Board

(see attached forms)

Permanent Removal

If a horse has displayed undesirable behavior in class such as anxiety, high energy, lethargy, aggression, nipping leaders or other undesirable behaviors, the horse will be removed from class and notes will be made on the Horse Behavior Log.

The Herd Manager, Instructors & Executive Director will keep track of behaviors logged and keep open communication with the schooling team. The teams will work together to understand what the horse is communicating and attempt to remedy the issue with schooling, rest, or whatever treatment is deemed necessary for the individual horse.

If deemed necessary by the teams, a vet will be called in to see if it is a physical issue.

If no improvement is shown in behavior and the horse has been given a clean bill of health by the vet, the instructional team will vote on whether a horse needs to be retired or not. If the vote is taken to retire a horse, the Executive Director will take the findings to the Board of Directors for approval of retirement.

After retirement, horses under a loan agreement will be returned to their owner within 30 days. If the owner is unable or unwilling to accept the horse, they will be given the option of paying a boarding fee or signing the horse over to Turning Point to make future decisions regarding care or sale.



Turning Point puts the quality of life of all equines in its care as top priority in decision making. At the same time, financial stewardship of our program and the limits of our pastures prohibit unlimited expansion of retirees in our herd. We will make responsible decisions about the sale or rehoming of retired horses. Humane euthanasia will be considered only in cases where pain or health concerns become inconsistent with quality of life for a specific horse. Turning Point will use standards accepted by the American Association of Equine Practitioners in considering a euthanasia decision and except in cases of medical emergency will obtain Board Approval in advance. If at all possible, the decision will be made in consultation with the Executive Director, Herd Manager/Instructor and a Board Member guided by a veterinarian using these AAEP guidelines:

- A horse should not have to endure continuous or unmanageable pain from a condition that is chronic and incurable.
- A horse should not have to endure a medical or surgical condition that has a hopeless chance of survival.
- A horse should not have to remain alive if it has an unmanageable medical condition that renders it a hazard to itself or its handlers.
- A horse should not have to receive continuous analgesic medication for the relief of pain for the rest of its life.
- A horse should not have to endure a lifetime of continuous individual box stall confinement for prevention or relief of unmanageable pain or suffering.