



OVERVIEW

GaitWay Therapeutic Horsemanship is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to empowering those with disabilities to move beyond their boundaries through the healing power of the horse. Our equine therapists are a vital part of our mission and are selected carefully by our knowledgeable staff. Not every horse is suitable for therapy work. We screen candidates for our program thoroughly to ensure the best possible match.

As a small non-profit, GaitWay can never guarantee a forever home for any horse. For this reason, we strongly prefer to lease horses for our program. In a lease situation, the owner maintains ownership of the horse. GaitWay assumes financial responsibility for all routine care, including feed, hay, shavings, farrier, routine medical, and minor veterinary incidents. Horses are kept on GaitWay's property, cared for by our staff, and used in our programs as we see fit. Leases are renewed annually and can be terminated by either party with 30 days' notice.

Occasionally, GaitWay accepts horses as donations, which are tax-deductible. In order to ensure we can properly care for our herd and sustain our operations in the long run, GaitWay is extremely selective in the horses that are donated to us. Even the most ideal candidate may be rejected as a donation if external factors prevent GaitWay from committing to the long-term care of said horse.

HORSE SELECTION GUIDELINES

- **Age:** Horses between 8 and 17 years old are ideal for our program. Older horses may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- **Gender:** Geldings and mares are both equally acceptable. Stallions are not appropriate for our programs.
- **Training:** All horses considered for our program must be trained to walk, trot, canter, and steer with a rider. They must also be trained to lead, tie, bathe, and stand still for grooming and the farrier.
- **Temperament:** While we understand no horse is perfect, it is paramount that the horses in our program be of a calm, sometimes referred to as "bombproof" personality. They should be comfortable with children, adults, males, females, and other horses. Our horses are consistently introduced to new objects and people and should safely accept new experiences. Consistent spooking, bucking, rearing, or biting is unacceptable.
- **Medical:** An ideal candidate will be reliably sound on all four limbs and comfortable at the walk, trot, and canter with and without a rider. Horses with serious past injuries or chronic medical problems may be considered case-by-case. Horses that require regular "maintenance" to stay sound are rarely suitable unless the owner is willing to cover the costs of said "maintenance."

CHANGING LIVES, ONE STRIDE AT A TIME

1300 LAWRENCE PKWY ST. GABRIEL, LA 70776 | OFFICE@GAITWAY.ORG | (225) 319-7344



STEPS FOR YOUR HORSE TO BECOME AN “EQUINE THERAPIST”

1. Read this packet thoroughly. If you feel your horse would be a good fit for our program, then complete the attached forms and return them to GaitWay. We prefer for you to email forms to office@gaitway.org. However, you can also mail forms to:

GaitWay Therapeutic Horsemanship
1300 Lawrence Parkway
Saint Gabriel, LA 70776

2. Please give the staff at GaitWay **up to 4 weeks** to review your application. Before taking on a horse for a trial period, multiple factors must be considered. If you have not heard from GaitWay after four weeks, please follow up by calling or emailing.

- You will be notified via email should GaitWay find your horse an unsuitable candidate for our programs. Remember that even the most ideal candidate can be rejected due to lack of space, low program attendance, or insufficient funds.
- If your application is approved, a staff member will call to schedule an appointment for us to come and evaluate your horse in person, and you will be emailed a trial agreement to review.

3. Evaluation:

- We prefer to test out potential candidates in the tack they are accustomed to. Please let us know ahead of time if you are missing any tack or equipment necessary to ride so we can bring it when we come.
- Do not tack, ride, or lunge the horse before the GaitWay staff arrives. **Horses already tacked upon arrival or sweaty from work will not be evaluated.**
- Our staff will test the horse out in several ways both on the ground and under saddle.
- Based on the evaluation, GaitWay staff will decide whether or not to proceed with a trial.

4. Trial:

- A signed trial agreement, a copy of an up-to-date negative Coggins, and proof of up-to-date vaccinations are necessary before GaitWay can take possession of a horse for any length of time.
- GaitWay can provide transportation for your horse to and from our facility if they meet all of the requirements below. Otherwise, you will be responsible for arranging transportation for your horse to and from GaitWay.
 - i. The horse is located within 100 miles of GaitWay Therapeutic Horsemanship.
 - ii. The horse weighs less than 1200 lbs and stands less than 16.3 hands tall.
 - iii. The horse is able to load and unload safely, taking no more than 20 minutes for either.
 - iv. The owner is able to be on the property and have the horse ready to be loaded when GaitWay staff arrives.

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- The horse will be kept at GaitWay for 8 weeks. While at GaitWay, we will assume financial responsibility for feed, hay, shavings, and minor veterinary care if necessary. You will still be responsible for farrier costs during this time. If your horse is on an alternative feed or supplements that our vendors do not carry, please be prepared to provide us with feed/supplements for the duration of the trial period.
- During the trial period, your horse will be exposed to many different riders and exercises designed to determine how well they are able to navigate the different challenges our programs may pose.
- You are welcome to come and visit your horse at any time after first making an appointment with the GaitWay staff.
- If your horse is accepted into the program, it will undergo a final evaluation by our veterinarian. Should they pass, you will be asked to sign a lease agreement which must be re-signed every year that the horse continues in our program.

5. Retirement and Removal

- Horses may be retired from the program for numerous reasons that may include, but are not limited to:
 - Physical injuries or soundness issues prevent the horse from performing duties required by our programs comfortably.
 - The emergence of unsafe behaviors.
 - Increased maintenance costs.
 - Herd reduction for financial purposes.
- Leased horses that are retired from the program will be returned to their owner.
- In the rare event that GaitWay has accepted a horse as a donation, it will first be offered back to its owner before being sold.
- As GaitWay is a small nonprofit not bound to any single individual, we can never promise a lifetime home for any horse, no matter how much we may wish to. We will always do our best to ensure that every horse leaving our program finds a good home where their care will be equal to what they received with us. However, GaitWay is not responsible for the actions of new owners once a horse is turned over.



POTENTIAL EQUINE THERAPIST ASSESSMENT FORM

Owner Information

Name: _____ Phone #: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
_____ State/Zip: _____
Email: _____

Interested in: Lease only Donation only Open to either

Equine Information

Horse Name: _____ Breed: _____
Height: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____ Estimated Value: _____
Length of current ownership: _____
Name of previous owner: _____

Training history (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Riding | <input type="checkbox"/> Therapeutic Riding | <input type="checkbox"/> Shows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calf Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Dressage | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Pleasure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barrel Racing | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter/Jumper | <input type="checkbox"/> Eventing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driving | <input type="checkbox"/> Vaulting | <input type="checkbox"/> Reining |

Has the horse ever been used in a lesson program with beginners? Yes No

Is the horse currently insured? Yes No

If yes, which company: _____



Care and Medical Information

Where is the horse kept? Dry lot Pasture Stall

Are they easy to catch in the pasture? Yes No

Are they able to be turned out with other horses? Yes No

Current Feed: _____

Feed Quantity (in oz/lb) and approximate times (AM & PM): _____

Current Supplements, if any: _____

Current Hay intake and type: _____

Does horse have any allergies? _____

Does horse require any regular medications? _____

Current or Past health problems:

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Founder/Laminitis | <input type="checkbox"/> Colic | <input type="checkbox"/> Arthritis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heaves/COPD | <input type="checkbox"/> Navicular | <input type="checkbox"/> Bowed Tendons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cushing's | <input type="checkbox"/> EPM | <input type="checkbox"/> Ulcers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Major Surgery | <input type="checkbox"/> Anhidrosis | <input type="checkbox"/> Choke |

Other: _____

Shots/Vaccinations (indicate date of last shot or put N/A if never received)

Venezuelan Encephalomyelitis (VE): _____

Rabies: _____

Western Encephalomyelitis (WE): _____

Tetanus: _____

Eastern Encephalomyelitis (EE): _____

Strangles: _____

Equine Rhinopneumonitis (EHV): _____

West Nile Virus (WNV): _____

Potomac Horse Fever (PHF): _____



Coggins

Last test date: _____ Positive Negative

De-worming

Frequency: _____

Last product used and date: _____

Dental Work

Last Exam Date: _____ Last Float Date: _____

Any noted problems: _____

Current Veterinarian: _____ Phone #: _____

May we contact your vet to receive records on this horse? Yes No

Current Farrier: _____ Phone #: _____

Date of last visit: _____ Frequency: _____

Horse: is barefoot has front shoes only (regular) has front and back shoes (regular)
 requires special shoes: _____

Does the horse have a history of any of the following behaviors (check all that apply)?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bucking | <input type="checkbox"/> Buddy sourness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Cribbing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bolting | <input type="checkbox"/> Pawing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biting | <input type="checkbox"/> Weaving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pulling back while tied | <input type="checkbox"/> Kicking |

Do you consent to GaitWay running a drug screen on your horse while they are in our care?



How often is the horse currently ridden (if not at all, how long has it been since they were ridden regularly)?

Why do you wish to lease or donate this horse?

Why do you think this horse would be a good fit for our program?

By signing this form, I submit that I am the legal owner or an agent authorized by the owner to submit information on their behalf and that all of the information provided is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that it conceals nothing and that no part of it is false.

Owner or Agent Signature

Date