



Dear Valued Volunteer:

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

The enclosed package includes the following information:

1. About Wild Hearts TB Adoption Society
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 WH Volunteer Coordinator.

We look forward to working with you.

Best regards,

Rebecca Forcier

Rebecca Forcier,
Program Coordinator

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About Wild Hearts Thoroughbred Adoption Society:

Our History:

Wild Hearts is a charity dedicated to finding adoptive homes and alternative careers for Thoroughbred racehorses no longer able to compete. Our mission, with the help of caring and compassionate volunteers is to provide rehabilitation, retraining on the ground and under saddle and rehome to vetted and approved homes, as well as provide ongoing support and follow-up with adopters. Wild Hearts was founded in 2022 with the gracious support and assistance of New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society, located in Langley, BC. We seek to provide dignified retirements for as many Thoroughbreds as possible.

As we grow, we hope to hire on some regular, part-time positions to support our mission. However, at this time, Wild Hearts is entirely volunteer driven, from transport to mucking out and everything in between.

How Wild Hearts works:

Owners and trainers approach Wild Hearts 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. Wild Hearts has recently 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, AB or Washington state at this time.

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 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 Wild Hearts representatives attending. Eligible adopters complete an application and provide information regarding their facilities or access to these facilities plus references from a veterinarian to Wild Hearts. Applications are reviewed and verified by an Adoption Committee and if approved, the adopter pays a fee and enters into a one year contract with Wild Hearts. 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.

Wild Hearts 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. Wild Hearts maintains an interest in all horses that pass through the program. Despite all due diligence, there are instances where matches do not work out for any number of reasons. In these cases, the organization will generally accept the horse back and begin the adoption process again.



How Wild Hearts is funded:

Wild Hearts is supported by donations from the Thoroughbred industry, grants and equine communities and private individuals and foundations. The organization receives no government funding of any kind. The organization has a number of annual fundraising events.

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 Wild Hearts 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 WH 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.

Acknowledgement of Enclosed Information

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

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____



Dear VALUED VOLUNTEER,

Welcome to Wild Hearts and thank you!

We appreciate help with many different aspects within our organization, from direct horse care (ground work, grooming and riding) to other equally important barn chores like cleaning and organizing equipment and to indirect horse care (helping out at events and also with organizing and advertising various events) and we also encourage you to share any skills with us that may benefit the organization as a whole.

We realize not everyone is comfortable handling young energetic Thoroughbreds. At Wild Hearts we are aware of the challenges OTTB's bring and your safety is of utmost importance. We recommend helmet and gloves for handling horses and for riding volunteers we recommend a 'warm up' period where we have a number of sessions to get to know our new volunteers and the volunteers get to know our horses and how we work with them. We work together as a team with shared values and goals according to a specific training regimen determined by WH trainers. We communicate in regards to the horses and the training schedules. Our WH trainers have extensive experience with OTTB retraining and although we may determine that a horse has limitations (for example no jumping because of an old injury) and or talents (fabulous movement for dressage) we are trying to produce a well rounded horse, ie: non discipline specific. A well rounded horse has a larger pool of prospective adopters.

At Wild Hearts we encourage volunteers to ask questions of the trainer and/or WH coordinator. This is so that you can take advantage of the experience of the trainer and we all can do the best possible job when working with the horses. Our goals as horsemen and women is to keep learning about the horses and to do so safely. We all work together and we never use negative emotions when working with the horses. On a difficult day we may step back and review a mastered skill from a previous session. We do our best to ensure both riders and horses have positive experiences and that riders are aware, some skills may take longer for a horse to master. We encourage riding volunteers not to ride alone but to work together both for their safety and the horses' state of mind.

We thank you for your help and talents and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Forcier
Program coordinator, Wild Hearts TB Adoption Society

Volunteer name (please print) Date

Volunteer Signature HCBC# & contact information (tel #; email)