

## Equine Adoption Policy



## National Mustang Association, Colorado

National Mustang Association, Colorado  
PO Box 849  
Cortez, Colorado 81321

✉ [ADOPT@nmaco.org](mailto:ADOPT@nmaco.org)

🌐 [NMACo.org](http://NMACo.org)

This document states NMACO's Policy for Equine Adoptions. Adopters will be required to provide a signed agreement to follow the terms of this policy.

NMACO will provide adopters with Coggins, Health Certificate, and Microchip Documentation. NMACO reveals everything it knows about the animal's condition, but we make no guarantees regarding future soundness, or other potential or unknown issues.

Adopter agrees to take responsibility for the animal as is, and to get necessary veterinary care in a timely manner for any issues that arise after adoption.

## Proper Care & Usage

- A. Proper Care. NMACO requires that the animal receive proper equine care at all times, including, but not limited to: continuous supply of fresh water; regular feeding of quality grass hay at a rate of 10-15% of ideal body weight each day; salt; supplemental feed (as needed); hoof care services; vaccinations and worming (as needed); responsible veterinary care; and all other care considered standard for quality care of an equine animal. Reference: [American Association of Equine Practitioners \(AAEP\) Care Guidelines](#).
- B. Companionship. No animal that is adopted from NMACO may be kept in a facility without any other equines.
- C. No Breeding Commitment. Genetic testing has revealed that equines are not suitable for breeding, nor is breeding in line with the mission and values of NMACO and the Mesa Verde Project. All animals adopted from NMACO are strictly for non-breeding purposes. If the animal being adopted is a female, Adopter must not to breed the animal, or put the animal in proximity to a stud either by accident or on purpose. Mares will not be adopted to a facility with a stud horse in residence. All male horses will be gelded prior to leaving NMACO care. If an animal being adopted is a pregnant female, and she has a male foal, the foal must be gelded as soon as reasonably possible and provide documentation of gelding to NMACO.
- D. Use. No horse under the age of three will be ridden or mounted. When under saddle, the weight of the rider and the tack together shall be no more than 20% of the weight of the horse.
- E. Prohibitions.
  - a. Animals shall not be allowed to free-range or graze on public or common land.
  - b. Animals shall not be exploited, neglected, or treated inhumanely in any way. Examples of inhumane treatment include: wild horse races, bucking horses, tripping horses.
  - c. Adopters shall not sell, lease, loan or transfer ownership of horses without informing NMACO.
  - d. Adopter shall not sell horses at auction, directly transfer ownership to kill buyers, or transfer ownership to any person who intends to do the same.

## Microchipping & Transfer to Adopter

- A. NMACO has made an effort to microchip all adoptable Mesa Verde Mustangs with a percutaneous thermal sensing microchip (PTSM). Should Adopter acquire a horse from NMACO that has not been microchipped for some reason (including any foal from an adopted pregnant mare), Adopter must microchip the horse at Adopters expense as soon as reasonably possible and no later than within one year of adoption. Adopter must provide NMACO with all the relevant microchip information and to list NMACO as a contact on the microchip registration, if possible.
- B. Horses adopted from NMACO will be accompanied with a valid Health Certificate, Negative Coggins, signed Adoption Agreement, and Ownership Transfer / "Bill of Sale." NMACO will assist Adopter in expeditiously securing any required brand inspections, at Adopter's expense, prior to relocating the horse(s), or to document ownership transfer, if applicable in their state. Note that Colorado is a brand inspection state.

## Future Transfer of Ownership

- A. During the first year of ownership, should Adopter decide not to keep the horse(s) adopted from NMACO, Adopter must inform NMACO and grant NMACO the first right of refusal, unless NMACO explicitly waives the right. **No transfer or sale to a third party may be completed in the one year period commencing with the date of adoption without NMACO written approval.**
- B. NMACO reserves the right to require that any new owner agree in writing to the provisions of this contract.

## Health, Behavior & Performance

- A. All horses adopted from NMACO are deemed to be in good health at the time of adoption, as certified by a licensed Veterinarian through a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI).
- B. All horses adopted from NMACO are without any written or expressed guarantees for behavior, performance, soundness, or future health.

## Adoption Agreement

Adopters will be required to pay an adoption fee and sign the Equine Adoption Agreement. Both this Adoption Policy, and the information provided in the Adoption Application, comprise the terms of the final Adoption Agreement.

Failure to comply with the terms of the Adoption Policy, in whole or in part, could be grounds for relinquishment of the horse(s) back to NMACO at the sole discretion of NMACO.

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*National Mustang Association, Colorado is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.*