

Horses in the RDA Program

Horses play an essential role in the RDA Program and selection processes are important to ensure that any horse acquired for RDA is healthy and happy in the program and safe for the activities they will participate in.

In the life of an RDA horse there are three areas to be considered and planned for.

Acquisition

Horses may be offered to RDA on a number of conditional situations such as Sessional Loan (owners bring the horses to and from the centre for lessons), Lease Agreement (the RDA Centre has temporary ownership for a specified period), donation or purchase. Whatever the conditions, it is recommended that each horse is taken through a trial period preferably of 4 weeks. A Trial Agreement is to be negotiated between the owner and the RDA Centre stipulating the terms of the trial and that the horse will be returned to the owner should the trial be unsuccessful. Should the horse be accepted for the RDA Program, the decision should be minuted at the next Centre Committee Meeting and approval gained for any purchase costs. In completing the acquisition paperwork, ensure that proof of ownership is clearly established. If the horse is leased, complete a Lease Agreement. If the horse is purchased or donated, ask for a signed note or bill of sale transferring ownership to RDA. If the horse is on sessional loan, develop an agreement that specifies who is responsible for what costs, transport arrangements and any equipment that is loaned.

Accreditation

During the trial period the horse should be acclimatised to the new environment, introduced to the RDA activities, led and ridden without an RDA rider and tested for their reactions before working with RDA riders. The RDA Horse Accreditation Checklist is a valuable tool to assess new horses to the range of working conditions they may experience while participating in the RDA program. The accreditation process is overseen by the qualified RDA Coaches at the Centre (Level 1 or above) and the final decision on the suitability of the horse is the coaches responsibility. It is recommended that a selection committee (wherever possible) is convened to assess a new horse consisting of all the coaches who will be working with the horse, the horse manager or experienced horse handler so that an agreed decision is made.

Retirement

There may come a time where an RDA horse becomes unsuitable for the RDA program and the coaches and committee must decide on the best outcome for the horse. If a horse is sold, it should not be advertised as an RDA horse. This is because the public may perceive the horse as being suitable for RDA when the reason for sale is that the horse is no longer suitable. Horses may be retired to good homes as companion horses when they become aged or unsound. Ideally, horses on lease are returned to their owners when they are retired from RDA. Occasionally, for horses who are very aged or become ill or unsound the option may be for humane destruction. This should be arranged privately and sensitively so as to not cause distress to volunteers, members of the public or clients.

Record Keeping

Care of RDA horses is governed by policies and procedures. For horse keeping RDA follows the Australian Horse Welfare Protocols for standards of horse keeping. Visit the Australian Horse Industry website for more information. <http://www.horsecouncil.org.au/ahic/index.cfm/horse-welfare/horse-welfare-protocol1/>

In addition record keeping about farrier visits, dental, vaccinations, worming and veterinary treatment should be kept on file as well as records of the horse's training and workload. These records are required for RDA Centre Accreditation standards as well as being valuable tools for coaches and committees to measure a horse's soundness.



HORSE ACCREDITATION FORMS AND CHECKLIST

SECTION 1.

HORSE IDENTIFICATION RECORD

NAME OF HORSE:

CENTRE:

OWNER:

Leased: Y / N

ADDRESS WHERE HORSE
LOCATED:

DOB:

BREED:

COLOUR:

HEIGHT:

GENDER:

WEIGHT (approx.):

BRANDS Nearside:

Offside:

FACE MARKINGS:

LEG MARKINGS:

ATTACH PHOTO



HORSE ACCREDITATION FORMS AND CHECKLIST

SECTION 2.

HORSE ON TRIAL AGREEMENT

NAME OF HORSE:

NAME OF OWNER:

ADDRESS:

TEL:

MOBILE:

HORSE DETAILS:

BREED:

COLOUR:

GENDER

HEIGHT:

AGE:

ANY EQUIPMENT ACCOMPANYING HORSE:

DATE LAST SHOD/TRIM:

DATE LAST WORMED:

VACCINATIONS:

LAST DENTIST VISIT:

PREVIOUS FEEDING REGIME:

The horse/pony is on one month trial period with Riding for the Disabled from

/ / to / /

The RDA Centre will have full responsibility for the horse/pony's care in that time, taking all and every such reasonable precautions to prevent the said horse/pony from being injured, becoming ill, or having to be destroyed. If not suitable the horse/pony can be returned at any time to the above address.

If the trial is suitable, I would like to offer the horse for:

Purchase

Free Lease

Sessional Loan

Donation to RDA

Neg Price \$ _____ (lease agreement req'd) (agreement required)

Signature (Owner): _____

Signature (RDA representative): _____

Copy of agreement to be sent to Owner at above address

HORSE ACCREDITATION FORMS AND CHECKLIST

SECTION 3.

HORSE ACCREDITATION CHECKLIST

NAME OF HORSE:

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS: Conformation weaknesses-scars-marks etc.

		Near side (left)	Off side (right)
Side View	Head/Neck		
	Shoulder		
	Back/Barrel		
	Croup/Hind Quarter		
	Front Legs		
	Hind Legs		
	Hooves		
Front View	Chest		
	Legs		
Rear View	Hind Quarter		
	Legs		

FEET

Shod Yes No

Special shoeing requirements

Comment from RDA farrier

ASSESSMENT ON THE GROUND				
Score each category from 1 (best) to 5 (worst)	Initial Score	Comments	Final Score	Date
<i>EXAMPLE</i>	3	<i>Needs work</i>	1	1/1/2001
Catching/releasing				
Tie up				
Grooming				
Handling legs/picking up feet				
Respecting personal space				
Bridling				
Saddling				
Led walk to left				
Led walk to the right				
Led trot to left				
Led trot to right				
Yielding hindquarters from left				
• hindquarters from right				
• shoulders from left				
• shoulders from right				
Backing				
Standing still at halt				
Tolerant to whip				
Lungeing (only if qualified)				
• walk/both reins				
• trot/both reins				
• canter/both reins				
Apparent soundness				
Paddock behaviour				
Veterinary treatment				
Possible problems				

ASSESSMENT FOR RIDING				
Score each category from 1 (best) to 5 (worst)	Initial Score	Comments	Final Score	Date
Mounting (ground)				
Mounting (block/ramp)				
Willingness to go forward for the leg				
Reacts to aid for walk/both reins				
• trot/both reins				
• canter/both reins				
Accepts rein contact in walk				
• in trot				
• in canter				

ASSESSMENT FOR RIDING...cont				
Score each category from 1 (best) to 5 (worst)	Initial Score	Comments	Final Score	Date
Obedience to voice				
Tolerant to:	Whip			
	Poor balance			
	Firm leg pressure			
	Light leg pressure			
	Inconsistent leg pressure			
	Inconsistent rein contact			
	Excessive noise (e.g. screaming, shouting)			
	External stimuli			
Leading horse with able rider				
Gaits (elevated, smooth, hasty, flat, long, short)				
• Walk				
• Trot				
• Canter				
Overtakes when in company				
Is overtaken when in company				
Moves away from companions				
Jumping * (only if qualified to supervise)				
RDA SPECIFIC				
Score each category from 1 (best) to 5 (worst)	Initial Score	Comments	Final Score	Date
Sidewalkers x 1				
Sidewalkers x 2				
Wheelchairs				
Crutches/frames				
Wheelchair lift				
Game materials:				
• Buckets				
• Drums				
• Poles				
• Flags				
• Bags				
• Balls				
• Races				
Flapping				
Being crowded				

RDA SPECIFIC...cont				
Score each category from 1 (best) to 5 (worst)	Initial Score	Comments	Final Score	Date
Unusual items (e.g. umbrellas)				
Attitude to:				
• People				
• Other horses				
• General				
• Standing still (waiting)				
THERAPY RIDING (optional)				
Score each category from 1 (best) to 5 (worst)	Initial Score	Comments	Final Score	Date
Bareback with roller				
Rider lying down at halt				
Rider lying down walking				
Rider propping at halt				
Rider propping at walk				
Playing catch at halt				
Playing catch at walk				
FLOATING				
Score each category from 1 (best) to 5 (worst)	Initial Score	Comments	Final Score	Date
Loading				
Travelling				
Unloading				
Travel alone				
Travel with another horse				
Preferred side of float				

GENERAL ATTITUDE		
Games		
Paddock		
Arena		
Trail ride - front	Trail ride - back	Lead other Horse from
Any objection to (Vet/Farrier/Dentist/Worm)		
Willingness to learn		
Outside visit - where/what/comment/date		



HORSE ACCREDITATION FORMS AND CHECKLIST

SECTION 4.

HORSE ACCREDITATION RECOMMENDATIONS

NAME OF HORSE:

The horse is suitable for:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Trails Yes/No | Camps Yes/No | Shows Yes/No |
| Parades Yes/No | Vaulting Yes/No | Lungeing Riders Yes/No
(specific qualification needed) |
| Walk off lead Yes/No | Trot off lead Yes/No | Canter off lead Yes/No |
| Dressage walk Yes/No | Trot Yes/No | Canter Yes/No |
| Jumping Poles Yes/No | Grids Yes/No | Fences Yes/No |
| Pony club visits walk/trot/canter _____ | | |
| Gymkhanas Yes/No | Western Yes/No | Mounted Games Yes/No |

Precautions/future problems

Pre-Purchase Veterinary Examination

Date Vet Check completed:

Name of Veterinarian:

Any specific comments:

Vet Report filed on Horse Record.

HORSE IS ACCEPTED

- Minuted at Committee Meeting
- Proof of ownership completed and filed on horse record (Donation/Sale/Lease agreement)

HORSE IS NOT ACCEPTED

- Owner notified
- Horse returned on:

NAME OF COACH(ES) ASSESSING HORSE:

Assessment Completed On:

Coach Signature:

SECTION 4 IS TO BE COMPLETED BY AN RDA ACCREDITED LEVEL 1 OR 2 COACH

Check with your State Association about State policies and procedures for horse acquisition record keeping.