



RDA Horses - *Selection Criteria*

- *Size Range*
- *Temperament*
- *Age Range*
- *Soundness*
- *Conformation and Paces – Group Needs*

Size Range:

12 to 15.2 hh for ease of mounting/dismounting at the ramp or block and dependent on group needs. Ease for side-walkers to provide support. Weight carrying capacity. Smaller or taller horses may be useful in some groups.

Temperament:

Quiet and Unflappable. Able to tolerate traffic, strange sights and sounds, unusual mounting techniques and spasmodic movements. Responsive, must move forward freely and be easy to stop and steer. Kind and friendly on the ground, easy to catch, groom and saddle. Tolerates people and other horses close by. Avoid horses that are lethargic, too keen, bad tempered (kicking and/or biting) and those with stable vices.

Age Range:

Recommend 8 to 18 years, preferably with a Pony Club, Adult Riding Club or competition background. Younger horses do not have the life experience and may panic if things go wrong. Volunteers may not have the experience to handle young horses. Older horses can be prone to stumbling, arthritis and other chronic unsoundness problems and poor muscle tone over the back.

Soundness:

Horses must be sound, sure footed and able bodied in order to carry riders who may be asymmetrical and unbalanced. Horses will be assessed initially, vetted and trialed prior to use for RDA.

Conformation and Paces:

Will be determined by the needs of riders in existing groups. Usually a stocky, solidly built type for weight carrying. May need a lighter, narrower type of horse for some riders. Good average conformation and paces are required for a comfortable ride. Horses of stocky build often have a short, choppy stride.

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