

Rehoming a Greatwood Horse

Most ex-racehorses have much to offer in other fields. After a period of rehabilitation, each Greatwood horse is given time to show its potential and natural aptitude. Some Greatwood horses go on to a career in dressage, jumping, eventing and other sports but many more become happy and beloved friends for hacking out and sponsored rides – or indeed simply companionship.

The horse may have been subject to injury, neglect or mishandling before finding a home at Greatwood and therefore may need a substantial amount of care and attention. We need to be sure that each horse finds a caring, knowledgeable permanent loan home where its particular needs are catered for. Therefore great care is taken to team the right horse with the right person. For this reason, horses are only loaned to a carer aged 18 or over and because the horses are thoroughbreds, we normally limit the weight of riders to 12 stone. We require all carers to have previous experience of thoroughbreds.



Please be aware that this process can take some time and it may not be possible to match a potential carer to a horse straight away. Some horses need more rehabilitation than others and at any one time there may only be a limited number ready for rehoming. From time to time there may be more than one applicant interested in the same horse.

Our rehoming process is as follows:

1. Application Form

Prospective carers are asked to complete an application form providing the information we need to assess their ability to care for one of our horses – and to understand what the applicant is looking for. The application is assessed by our equine staff and, if there is a suitable match, the applicant will be invited to visit.

2. First Visit

At the first visit, the applicant is introduced to the horses that could be suitable. Applicants do not normally ride on this first visit.

3. Further Visits

If all goes well, a second visit, or as many visits as needed, are arranged to ride the chosen horse and spend some time getting to know each other.

4. Home Check

If a match is made and both parties are happy to move to the next step, a home check is conducted at the applicant's facilities and references taken up.

5. Contract

On receipt of satisfactory references and inspection reports the applicant is asked to sign a legal contract. We invite a donation towards the upkeep of a Greatwood horse. To give you an idea, the average donation to date has been £750.

6. Become a Greatwood Guardian

We do like all carers to become a Greatwood Guardian for the duration of the loan, in order to keep in touch.

Membership is a minimum donation of just £5 per month i.e. £60.00 per annum.

7. Transport to your Home

Finally, the carer makes arrangements to transport the horse to its new home, at their own cost. To ensure trouble free travelling this must be by lorry rather than trailer.

Once the horse is at your Home

Greatwood, or an agent of Greatwood, periodically conduct home visits to check on the welfare of the horse. Inspectors can offer advice and help on matters regarding the welfare and management of the horse on these visits. These visits may not always be by appointment. In the event of an unsatisfactory inspection, and if the horse is deemed to be in a condition unacceptable to Greatwood, Greatwood can take back the horse.

In the Long Term

It is intended that the horse remains with its new carer for the rest of its natural life, but we do understand that circumstances change. If the carer becomes unable to care adequately for the horse, they are advised to contact Greatwood immediately to discuss the situation. We will work with the carer to resolve any problems, but as a last resort, and to ensure the welfare of the horse, it may be returned to the care of Greatwood.

All this may sound a bit daunting but please do take the time to complete the application form to set you on the path of a potentially rewarding and happy partnership. If you need any help with it, just give us a call. If after consideration you might think that taking on a Greatwood horse is not for you – you can still help a Greatwood horse. By becoming a Greatwood Guardian you help the horses in our care – and the many more that we can influence in the future – by guaranteeing them a safe home, for the remainder of their lives. Please do help by becoming a Friend by completing and returning the enclosed form.