

# Gentle Spirit Horses Rescue & Sanctuary Policy & Procedure Manual



## Sanctuary Policy & Criteria

Effective Date: 1/1/2011

Last Modified: 03/20/2014

### POLICY

Gentle Spirit Horses Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc.'s (GSH) policy is to provide lifetime Sanctuary to horses that meet appropriate criteria, as space and funding allows.

### PROCEDURE

#### Numbers & Space

Generally, no more than 25% of the equines under GSH care shall be Sanctuary status. Normal fluctuations as Adoptable horses enter and leave GSH are to be expected, and exceptions can be made on unanimous board approval.

#### Criteria

Equines that meet any of the following criteria may be granted Sanctuary upon a simple majority vote of the GSH Board of Directors, unless otherwise specified.

- 1) **Age** – any equine over the age of 24. Age will be verified by registration papers, or determined by a veterinarian or equine dentist's evaluation of their teeth.
- 2) **Health or Disability** – any equine with a physical disability (including, but not limited to blindness, neurological/physical issues, or health issues that require special care)
- 3) **Behavior** – severe behavioral issues that cannot be corrected by a trainer. The equine must not be a threat for daily handling, and all avenues of training must be explored to resolve the behavior before Sanctuary is granted. An example of a qualifying behavior is unpredictable bucking under saddle.
- 4) **Therapeutic Riding Horse** – any equine who has participated in GSH's Therapeutic Riding Program may be granted Sanctuary (or placed up for adoption) pursuant to the Therapeutic Riding Program Policy.
- 5) **Other** – Sanctuary may be granted to any equine upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors on a case by case basis. For example, as a companion animal to an otherwise eligible Sanctuary candidate.

### Lease/Foster for a Sanctuary Resident

A Sanctuary resident shall not be actively listed as an available equine for placement or adoption. However, in the event a qualified home does show interest in a Sanctuary resident and is found to be able to provide the care required, a lease/foster arrangement can be made if it is in the horses' best interest. Any equine that has been granted Sanctuary shall not be eligible for rehoming by the foster and must be returned to GSH if they can no longer provide care.