

IRRF Terms and Conditions

Rehoming terms and conditions for retrainers availing of The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund Scheme

These Terms and Conditions provide details of the requirements that are considered necessary to ensure the well-being of the retired racehorses that are being cared for as part of The Irish Racehorse Retirement Scheme and form part of the Guardian Agreement. The term 'retired racehorses' includes racehorses that raced on the track and thoroughbreds bred for racing that did not make it to the track.

The Retired Horses

Owing to their propensity to form close bonds of friendship, retired racehorses cannot be homed a sole animal.

The retrainer must have a cooling off period in place of 21 days where the horse can be returned to the retrainer should it not be a successful homing situation.

The horses may be rehomed individually where homes have other horses or ponies. In these cases, if the Guardian wishes to end the rehoming agreement, only the original animals will return to The retrainer. The ownership of any privately owned horses or ponies will not be transferred to The retrainer in these situations.

All locations for rehoming will be considered. However, applications where guardians are located in a remote location where service provision (e.g. veterinary care) is likely to be difficult may be rejected.

The decision will rest with the Head of The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund.

Costs

All costs relating to the horses including feed, bedding, dental, farriery and other veterinary care will be the responsibility of the Guardian once the horse has been rehomed. Up to rehoming the re-trainer is responsible.

Training

All prospective retrainers and Guardians, together with others who may have responsibility for caring for the horses, will be provided with appropriate training from Equi-ed in order to familiarise themselves with best practice in Racehorse to Riding horse care prior to the arrival of the horses.

Specific training will be organised for those considering rehoming X-racehorses with specific needs. Any considerations identified during the training which may impact on the suitability of a guardian to rehome x-racehorses will be discussed and the relevant Racehorse welfare adviser will be notified to inform rehoming decisions.

Guardians are encouraged to develop their knowledge of Retired racehorse aftercare and behaviour by attending more advanced training courses and workshops. Details of available courses can be found on The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund website.

Breeding

No breeding is permitted.

In the unlikely event of a foal being born to a rehomed Racehorse the foal shall be owned by The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fun who will determine the most appropriate arrangements for the foal's future wellbeing.

Health Care

Prior to delivery of the horse the Guardian must provide the The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund with details of the arrangements for veterinary, farriery and dental care.

The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund can support the Guardian in finding suitably experienced veterinary surgeon, farriers and dental technicians in their local area.

Vaccinations against flu and tetanus must be maintained in line with current advice. In times of disease outbreak frequency may increase to offer the best level of protection to horses.

A minimum of an annual dental check is to be carried out by a BEVA/BAEDT qualified equine dental technician or an equine veterinary surgeon. Where treatment and further checks are recommended this must be adhered to. A dental chart should be obtained following each examination and treatment and a copy sent to the Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund so records can be updated.

If a horse becomes ill or suffers serious injury the Guardian should ask a veterinary surgeon to attend. The Welfare Adviser should be informed whenever the vet is called (other than for routine care) as soon as reasonably practicable.

Death of a horse

When a horse dies or is euthanized it is important that The Irish Racehorse retirement fund's Welfare Adviser is notified at the earliest opportunity.

The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund Welfare Adviser will discuss with the Guardian the most appropriate course of action to be followed regarding any remaining horses.

Under certain circumstances a post mortem may be required. This will be requested only following consultation between the attending veterinary surgeon and a veterinary surgeon from The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund.

Euthanasia must be carried out by a veterinary surgeon. Disposal of the body should be discussed with the attending veterinary surgeon and arranged in compliance with any local legislation that applies. The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund offer advice if required.

Passports

It is a legal requirement that an identification passport must be kept for every horse. All horses rehomed through The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund will be signed out of the food chain and identified as such in their passport.

The passport will be provided by The Irish racehorse Retirement Fund and must accompany the horse to which it refers when relocated under the Rehoming Scheme. The Guardian is responsible for the safe keeping of the passport and may be liable for replacement costs if lost or damaged.

In the event of a horse returning to The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund, the passport must also be returned. Following the death of a horse the passports must be returned to The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund, except in countries where local legislative procedures apply.

The passport must be available to a Welfare Adviser, attending veterinary surgeon or a local authority enforcement officer upon request.

Guardians are advised that, in the event of horses being moved for any reason (however temporary) from the place where they are normally kept, the Guardians and/or transporter must ensure that the passports are available for inspection either during the journey or at the new location.

Guardians must inform The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund of any movement of horses that involves an overnight stay and if not permanent the expected date the donkeys will be returned to their normal accommodation.

Please do not hesitate to seek advice from The Irish Racehorse Retirement Fund Welfare Department for clarification or explanation of any aspect of the Rehoming scheme.