**New Therapy Horse Information Packet**

 LoveWay, Inc.

Therapeutic Equestrian Services

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**Enclosed:**

1. Horse Donation Information
2. Horse Selection Guidelines
3. Potential Therapy Horse Assessment Form

*Please fill out this Form and return it to any LoveWay staff member*

LoveWay

**What Does It Mean To Be A Therapy Horse at LoveWay?**

It would be impossible for LoveWay to live out our mission – transforming the lives of individuals with special needs through compassionate therapeutic equestrian experiences – without the generosity of the many people who have shared their horses. In an effort to successfully keep our herd happy and healthy for as long as possible, LoveWay has guidelines to follow when evaluating prospective horses for our therapeutic riding programs. These guidelines lead us to select horses that are ideally suited for their job at LoveWay.

Overview of the Trial Period

The first step in the journey of a new therapy horse is filling out and sending the Potential Therapy Horse Assessment form (the last pages of this packet) to the Equine Manager at LoveWay. The Equine Manager will review your horse’s information and determine whether we believe that your horse seems appropriate for our programs. If so, a LoveWay staff member will schedule a time to come visit you and your horse at home. After this visit and based on LoveWay’s observations and needs, our staff will decide if your horse is a good candidate to enter a trial period.

From there we will arrange for the horse to be transported to LoveWay to begin a trial period of 90 days. During this time we will thoroughly evaluate its suitability as a therapy horse. While horses are engaged in the trial period, LoveWay will accept financial responsibility for their feed, care, and any minor veterinary expense.

During the trial period, LoveWay’s staff will expose the horse to the many toys, games and activities that they will commonly encounter as a therapy horse in LoveWay’s lessons and camps. Our trained staff works with each horse individually. We will watch to see that a horse stands quietly for different styles of mounting and dismounting using both ramps and mounting blocks, and to see how they tolerate the mistakes of a beginning rider or a rider’s loss of balance. Horses will be exposed to many toys, loud sounds, music, sudden movements, and will be desensitized to walkers, wheelchairs, and canes. Our horses need to be comfortable with being groomed several times each day and with being touched all over, leaned on, and at times even being crowded by multiple handlers. Over the course of the trial period LoveWay evaluates whether the horse is able to adapt to the lifestyle of working with and being handled by many different people each day.

Owners are always welcome to visit their horse during our regular business hours (9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday) at any time during the trial period by making an appointment with a staff member.

Completion of the Trial Period

The Trial Period can only have one of two outcomes: A horse will pass and be accepted into our therapy herd at LoveWay, or they will not pass and will be returned home to their owner.

If the horse successfully completes the trial period, LoveWay will have our veterinarian meet and thoroughly evaluate the horse. If the veterinary check is acceptable, the horse may be accepted into the program by a vote of LoveWay’s staff. At that time, the owner will be notified and we will arrange for the appropriate paperwork to be completed. Our therapy horses are provided with a loving, working environment to call home until they show us that they are ready for retirement.

If during the trial period the horse is found unsuitable for our programs, we will return them to you, the owner. While we greatly appreciate all horses that are offered for consideration, not all horses are a good match for our therapeutic programs.

Horse Retirement & Removal

To remain an active member of LoveWay’s programs, horses must be able to perform their jobs happily and remain mentally and physically sound. Horses that are determined to be unsuitable for the program will be retired and rehomed. A retiring horse’s original home will always be given the first opportunity to adopt that horse back from LoveWay.

All decisions are made with the best interest of both our horses and riders at heart. Possible reasons for program removal would include but are not limited to:

• Physical injury or soundness issues rendering the horse unable to comfortably handle the demands of therapy work

• Inappropriate, unsafe, persistent behaviors such as bucking, rearing, biting, or kicking

• Cost to maintain the horse in ideal health exceeds their value and use in the program

• The program must cut down the herd for financial purposes or the horse is no longer suitable to the needs of the program

Let’s Get Started!

Thank you for your interest in providing a horse to LoveWay Therapeutic Equestrian Services! We appreciate that you are considering LoveWay and are touched by your support of our programs. LoveWay is a 501© (3) non‐profit organization and a Premier Accredited Center by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, International (PATH Intl.). The horses that make up LoveWay’s herd are either leased to LoveWay - meaning that the horse's owner lends their horse to the program but maintains ownership of the horse - or horses are donated directly to the program. Since LoveWay is a non-profit, the donation of a horse is tax-deductible.

Please read through the Horse Selection Guidelines sheet to get to know what kind of special equines we are looking for. Please also fill out the Potential Therapy Horse Assessment and return it to LoveWay’s office by fax (574-825-8117) or email (cait@lovewayinc.org). You may also send it through the mail. Once we receive your application, it will be reviewed by our Equine Manager. Please call if you have any questions regarding the trial process or if you would like to make arrangements to come and visit our facility.

LoveWay looks forward to hearing from you!



LoveWay

**Horse Selection Guidelines**

LoveWay Therapeutic Equestrian Services is home to a herd of horses who are specially trained and uniquely suited to provide a variety of Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies to LoveWay’s clients. Our equine staff is integral to our programs and works very hard. Their well-being is our top priority. Because we want to assure that any new horses are appropriate for our physically and mentally demanding programs, we have developed the following Selection Guidelines:

1. Age

Ideally between 8 and 15 years old. Horses outside of this age range may be considered on a case by case basis.

1. Gender

Geldings preferred, mares accepted. Stallions are not appropriate for LoveWay’s programs.

1. Soundness & Conformation

Reliably sound in all four limbs with no serious conformational flaws that would limit performance. No history of chronic behavior or medical problems including but not limited to good vision and respiratory health. The horse should be comfortable at the walk, trot, and canter with or without a rider. A free-moving, rhythmic stride will best benefit our program participants. The horse’s build, movement, and weight-bearing ability will all be taken into consideration according to LoveWay’s current needs.

1. Temperament

An ideal horse will have a “take it all in stride” attitude. They should be calm and quiet for grooming, tacking, mounting and dismounting, and will behave appropriately around other horses. They should react positively to both adults and small children and be trustworthy on a lead line. The horse should be willing to safely explore and accept new things including natural and therapeutic aids (may include balls, hula-hoops, bean bags, toys, etc.), being handled by many different individuals, and accepting side walkers while working. An ideal horse will have no vices, for example cribbing, weaving, biting, bucking, or pacing.

1. Training

All horses considered for donation or lease by LoveWay must be trained to lead and ride. LoveWay is not able to accept green or untrained horses.

If you believe that, based on the above outlined Selection Guidelines, your horse would be a good fit for our programs, we would very much like to speak with you. Please fill out a Potential Therapy Horse Assessment form and return it to LoveWay’s office by email or fax. Once our Equine Manager has had a chance to review your horse’s information, LoveWay will contact you regarding the next steps.

We appreciate that you thought of LoveWay as a potential home for your horse and are touched by your support of our programs. Thank you.

LoveWay, Inc. Horse Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use:

54151 CR 33 Middlebury, IN 46540 Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ph: (574) 825-5666 Fax: (574) 825-8117

Email: info@lovewayinc.org

**Potential Therapy Horse Assessment Form**

Owner’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_

□ Lease or □ Donation

Is the horse a □ gelding or □ mare? Horse’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you had the horse? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Training/Background:

 □ 4-H □ Shows □ Trail □ English □ Western

Where is the horse kept? □ Dry lot □ Pasture □ Stall

What does the horse eat? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any Supplements? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are the Supplements required? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How Much?: Morning: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lunch: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What size herd is the horse in? Are they bossy or submissive?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any Vices(i.e. stall weaving, cribbing, pawing)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any behavior issues(i.e. bucking, rearing, bolting, biting)?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does the horse have any allergies:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does this horse trailer well? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is this horse easy to catch in the pasture? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current Veterinarian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

May we contact your vet to receive the records on this horse? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ANY current or past health problems:

□ Founder/Laminitis □ Colic □ Arthritis

□ Heaves/COPD □ Navicular □ Bowed Tendons

□ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is the horse up-to-date on shots? When were shots last given?

WE:\_\_\_\_ EE:\_\_\_\_ VE:\_\_\_\_

FLU:\_\_\_\_ Strangles:\_\_\_\_ PHF:\_\_\_\_ Rabies:\_\_\_\_ Tetanus:\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Worming:

Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date Last Wormed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Product used: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dental work:

Date of last exam:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Any problems: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Farrier Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of last farrier visit:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Has this horse been lame in the past? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does the horse wear □ shoes or is it □ barefoot?

Things this horse likes ( i.e. treats, scratch spots)?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why are you rehoming this horse?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think this horse would be a good fit for our program?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything else you would like us to know about this horse?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DONOR SIGNATURE DATE