**Adoption Requirements**

At Longmeadow Rescue Ranch animals are available for viewing on Fridays between noon and 3 pm and Saturday between 11 am and 3 pm. If you are not available during those open hours, please call to schedule an appointment.

After you have read the adoption requirements, you can fill out an adoption application and then put an animal on adoption hold.

**Shelter**

* Must be man-made with sides facing the north, east and west. Should be large enough to fit all the animals in the pasture or paddock comfortably and safely. Each animal should have room to stretch, circle, turn and exit. Will need a separate area to put an animal that is injured, becomes sick or needs special feed.

**Food**

* Good-quality pasture and hay must be available for most species.
* Animals must be fed twice daily. Depending on the animal’s needs, grain may be required.
* Animals must be fed a quality feed that is made for their species.

**Water**

* CLEAN water must be available in a safe container that should be checked twice daily.
* A heater must be added to water to prevent it from freezing in the winter.

**Fencing**

* The type of fencing will depend on the animal. See Longmeadow Rescue Ranch staff for information on specific animal needs.
* Can be woven wire, barbed wire, smooth wire, board, pipe or plastic fencing
* Must be in good condition with no sagging or broken posts
* Gates must be constructed in a safe manner.
* Electric fencing might be needed to keep animals contained.

**Training**

* Resistance-free training methods are to be used to socialize animals, to train for veterinarian and farrier visits, and train for riding or cart-pulling. Abusive equipment and training methods are not allowed. Professional training might be required.

**Exercise**

* Adequate daily exercise should be available. Stalled horses should be turned out for exercise, separate from their training program. Pasture horses are not always in shape for long weekend trail rides if you haven’t been riding them.
* Herd size should be appropriate for the size of the pasture/paddock. Larger herds in small areas often result in more injuries.

**Medical Care**

* Adopters must maintain de-worming, vaccinations, teeth care (annual teeth floating by an equine veterinarian is required for equine), health tests, and hoof trimmings (equine adopters must use a certified farrier for hoof care), as required for each species of animal. Illness and injuries must be attended to promptly by a veterinarian. Pre-existing medical conditions (at the time of adoption) must be treated as recommended by a veterinarian. Equines must not be allowed to become overweight and founder (this is as bad for their health as starvation was). Other owned animals might also be required to be updated on veterinary care as needed.

**Boarding Facilities**

* Boarding Facilities can be approved by following the listed requirements. It is the responsibility of the adopter to make sure the required care is provided.

**Adopters**

* Adopters must keep Longmeadow Rescue Ranch informed of any address changes. A resident is required to live on the property where the animals are kept. Adopters cannot sell, give away, slaughter or use in any research study. Adopters cannot breed any animal adopted from Longmeadow Rescue Ranch. Adopted animals cannot be used in a commercial venture (lessons, pony rides, dude strings, etc.) Adopters must be present when the animal is picked up from the Ranch for transportation to its new home. Adopters must have recent experience levels appropriate for the training needs of the animal they are interested in. They must be willing to work with a trainer if they run into challenges. All health requirements must be up to date if an animal is returned (as it was when the animal was adopted by the adopter).