



The 505 Rescue and Retirement Ranch
505 Bareback Trail
Sierra Blanca, Texas Phone: (432 207-0590)
505ranch.net

FACILITY INSPECTION PROTOCOL

1- FENCING – All fences must be secure, in good repair, and appropriate for containment of horses. Evaluation is to be made of all fences and any influences which would cause a horse to try and escape its boundaries (other horses sharing fence lines; poor grass vs. good grass on other side of fence, etc.)

- **BARBED WIRE** - Barbed wire is a very dangerous containment product. Our policy is that if barbed wire is used for containment fencing, there must be no less than 5 acres of open space per horse.
- **HORSE WIRE** – Should be supported at the top in some fashion to prevent sagging. Electric around the top is recommended to prevent a horse from leaning onto the fencing.
- **CATTLE PANELS** – Should be supported at each junction where one panel meets the next one. NOTE: cattle panel openings are large enough for horses to get a hoof through if pawing and can be hazardous for horses wearing shoes.
- **SMOOTH WIRE** (twisted) – must be 4 – 5 strands and well secured and stretched tightly enough to avoid sag.
- **ELECTRIC WIRE** – the traditional thin wire will not be allowed unless run on adequate support posts and in multiple strands (minimum 3). Wire must be flagged in such a way to alert the horses of its presence. Rope or flat tape electric is acceptable if the fence is in good repair and is an effective barrier.
- **WOOD FENCING** –well-secured, no evidence of splintering or rotting and support structures are in good order. Look for protruding nails or other attachment structures such as wire or strapping.
- **PLASTIC FENCING** – well- secured, no evidence of sag and support structures are in good order

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- HIGH TENSILE/CABLE – potentially dangerous if a horse runs into it. Must be well-secured, no evidence of sag and support structures in good order
- STEEL PIPE – potentially dangerous if a horse runs into it. Very effective for stallion containment or along roadways or other areas where horses may attempt to push fence.

2 - GRAZING AREA – Adequate grazing room and productive pasture must be present for all equine.

- ACREAGE – no less than 3 acres of grazing pasture should be made available for each horse. If the pasture quality is questionable to poor, additional pasture should be required. The more acreage, the better, to allow for healthy activity and a variety of grasses and forages.
- MAINTENANCE – evidence of proper pasture maintenance, such as mowing or dragging of manure is necessary.
- ROTATIONAL GRAZING – assess presence of rotational grazing opportunities. Provide education of benefits of rotation if not understood.
- WEED EVALUATION/CONTROL – evaluate all pastures for toxic weeds; Johnson Grass, Nightshade, Poison Hemlock, etc. Discuss mowing, burning and necessary precautions regarding the use of herbicides. Horses should be removed from treated pastures for no less than 7 days.
- TREE EVALUATION – evaluate all pastures for toxic trees; Oak, Red Maple, Cherry, Plum; Apple, Black Locust, etc.
- GRASS EVALUATION – evaluate pasture grasses for vigor. Attempt to assess type of grasses present to counsel regarding “warm” vs. “cool” season grasses and concerns for high sugar as it relates to obesity or insulin sensitivity.
- SAFETY EVALUATION – evaluate the pasture for hazards, including equipment, piles of fencing supplies, trash, old buildings, etc. Pastures are to be free of these type hazards.

3 - HOUSING – Adequate shelter must be present for all equines. Shelters are to be utilized specifically for the housing of horses and not as a storage area for equipment or other supplies.

- RUN-IN or LOAFING STYLE SHEDS – must be large enough for all horses with added room to avoid overcrowding when inside. All wall coverings (tin or wood) must be secure and in good condition. Assess for protruding nails, wires, other hazards. Openings into run-in sheds must be large enough for 2 horses to enter at the same time (10 feet openings).
- BARNS - must be large enough for all horses with added room to avoid overcrowding when inside. All wall coverings (tin or wood) must be secure and in good condition. Assess for

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protruding nails, wires, other hazards. Openings into barn sheds must be large enough for 2 horses to enter at the same time (10 feet openings) unless the horses are led into individual stalls.

4 - OVERCROWDING – evaluate facility for overcrowding of horses. Determine if adequate facilities exist for the number of residing equines as well as any new ones being considered for adoption.

- AMBULATION SPACE – all horses need daily exercise. Encourage as much space as possible and 24x7 turnout for all horses. Evaluate facility for indications that the horses might be ‘penned up’ for extended periods of time, either daily or at specific times of the year (rainy season, etc.). Determine if any dry lot or holding pen is adequate for the horses to exercise and be safe from other penned up horses.

5 - WATER SOURCES - Adequate water sources are to be available for all horses. Potable (approved for human consumption) water must be made available from sources other than natural water (ponds, lakes, creeks, rivers, streams, springs) and contained in troughs or tanks, including continuous water tanks.

- TROUGH/TANKS – may be any style which allows containment of adequate water for all equines present. They must be easily cleaned.
- HEATERS – at least ONE trough, large enough to service all equines, must be located near an electric source to provide current for a tank/trough heater during the winter. A trough/tank heater must be provided for evaluation.
- POTABLE WATER – water that is appropriate for human consumption must be provided for all equines.
- Discuss hazards related to frozen ponds and frozen water sources and evaluate plans to circumvent these hazards.

6 - FEED EVALUATION – determine sources for hay, evaluate hay that is on-site, inspect hay feeders (no cattle feeders approved), evaluate feed storage (grains), check for feed pans or bowls.

7 - VETERINARY EVALUATION – ask who their treating veterinarian is or will be. Obtain contact information, including address and phone number. If possible, call the vet while on-site, so the potential adopter can tell the vet about bringing a horse to their home. Ask permission from the adopter to visit with the vet. Have them give that permission to the vet while on the phone. Make a call to the vet AFTER leaving the premises so the vet can discuss any concerns with you privately.

8 - FARRIER EVALUATION - ask who their farrier is or will be. Obtain contact information, including address and phone number. If possible, call the farrier while on-site, so the potential adopter can tell the farrier about bringing a horse to their

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home. Ask permission from the adopter to visit with the farrier. Have them give that permission to the farrier while on the phone. Make a call to the farrier AFTER leaving the premises so the farrier can discuss any concerns with you privately. If other horses are on the property, ask the farrier how often he/she is scheduled for trims, etc.

9 - TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT/ARRANGEMENTS – evaluate presence of trailer and tow vehicle. If the adopter does not own a truck and trailer, secure information as to how they plan to transport the horse to their residence or to the vet, etc. Make certain that everyone understands the need to be able to get a horse treatment in the event of an illness or injury. If no arrangements have been made, do not approve the facility until a plan has been formulated.

10 - OTHER – evaluate the facility for any other issues and concerns which are present such as other livestock (horned cattle or Llamas), proximity to heavily travelled roadways, presence of neighborhood children who might climb fences to access horses, loose dogs, etc. Address any concerns as needed.

- Discuss the sensibility of displaying the ***Equine Limited Liability Act*** signs. Let all adopters know that they cannot claim protection from liability without the presence of these signs.
- After completing the facility inspection, discuss the need for 14 days minimum of quarantine and evaluate quarantine plans and facilities. Lack of quarantine facilities is not a 'deal breaker' but adopters should be aware of all risks associated with bringing new horses into their facility.
- Also discuss herd introductions, if the adopted horse will be joining an existing herd.
- Conclude the inspection with any questions the adopter might have.
- Approve or disapprove the facility ON THE SPOT.
- Provide the inspection form, via email, within 24 hours of inspection. Mail the signed original to the office at 505 Bareback Trail, Box 534, Sierra Blanca, Texas 79851.