



Would You Like to Foster a Wind Dancer Pony?

Have you wondered about fostering a Wind Dancer pony? Here are some answers to the questions which our volunteers happily answer every Open House, because everyone would like to take home a special Wind Dancer pony.

1. What are the housing and management requirements?
 - a. Acreage? You will need a minimum of one half acre, fenced, per pony.
 - b. Fencing? Fencing should be permanent and take in the complete paddock perimeter.
 - c. Paddock? The pony will need access to a shelter and free access to water year round. Ponies should not be kept on lush pasture. Some ponies can't handle any grass at all. A fenced area that's eaten down or a dry lot is ideal for a pony.
 - d. Feed? Most ponies require only good quality grass hay. If your pony has special dietary requirements or medical concerns about food, the Rescue will always discuss these with you and ensure you are able to provide what the pony needs.

2. Should there be other animals so the new pony is not lonely? Because ponies are social animals who like company they should be housed with other ponies or horses for companionship. You might want to consider fostering two ponies – it is actually easier in some cases. Although a foster pony may be able to be in with other livestock (not cattle), these arrangements would need to be discussed with the Rescue.

3. How much time each day do I need to spend with the pony? The pony will need to be checked twice daily. Ponies are social animals and love company so the more time you can spend with them the better!

4. How do I introduce the pony to an existing herd? Integration of a pony into an existing herd can be challenging but the Rescue will provide advice and assistance to ensure it is done as easily as possible. Different personalities make each situation unique.

5. What is the average cost of fostering a pony? There will be costs associated with fostering a pony and these include day-to-day veterinary care, feed, bedding and farrier visits. The Wind Dancer Rescue estimates that it costs about \$1,700 a year to pay for a pony's feed, veterinary and farrier care. Emergency or special medical treatments and associated costs are always addressed in conjunction with the Rescue.

6. What happens if there is a change in my ability to care for a Wind Dancer Pony? Circumstances sometimes change and these should always be discussed with the foster coordinator at the rescue. It is preferable that a foster situation be viewed as a long-term commitment.



7. Do I need a trailer to transport the pony? Although a trailer does make it easier, it is definitely not required for fostering. The Rescue can look after transportation to and from your farm.
8. Is there a method for deciding which pony to foster? The Rescue will always do an assessment of your property and situation to ensure it is adequate for the ponies needs. Likewise the Foster Coordinator will ensure that you are fully aware of the needs of the pony and happy with your choice. It needs to be a good match for everyone!
9. Do I need pony/horse/equine experience? The Rescue does expect a foster home to have equine experience and this is always discussed during the application process.
10. Which ponies are available for fostering? Wind Dancer ponies are listed on the website and in the *Pony Tales* newsletter with photos and information about their backgrounds and care needs. Always check with the rescue, as this information can be sometimes outdated.
11. Can I choose any pony I want? Not all ponies are available to foster but most are looking for a loving foster home. The Rescue will work with you to ensure that the pony you choose is right for you.
12. How would I initiate the foster process? Please get in touch with the rescue through the website at: <http://winddancerponies.org/get-involved/foster> or contact winddancerponies@gmail.com to begin your foster application process. One of the best ways to learn about what's involved in fostering is to volunteer at the rescue first. The Rescue is always looking for volunteers! Or visit us during one of our Open Houses April through December on the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
13. What happens if I change my mind halfway through the process? Ideally we like ponies to be in stable, long-term situations and not bounce around from the Rescue to different homes. Fostering a pony takes place under a **Fostering Agreement** between WDPRF and the foster care giver. Under a foster agreement, you are the caregiver for the pony and are completely responsible for the pony's everyday needs and exercise. However you are not the legal owner of the pony. If at any time the foster arrangement isn't working for you or the pony, the foster pony can return to the Rescue.