The King's Award for Voluntary Service

Newbury RDA
Newbury Riding for the Disabled
Charity Number: 1121113

End of Service Policy

For Newbury RDA Owned/Loaned Equines

Introduction

Newbury RDA (NRDA) is a voluntary organisation and acknowledges that volunteers are vital to its past, ongoing and future success. NRDA relies on the dedication and commitment of volunteers to make the organisation thrive and provide regular and active sessions for individuals with a disability. Horses, ponies and donkeys play a vital role at NRDA and must always be handled with awareness and consideration. This awareness and consideration must also extend to the decisions that need to be made when an equine reaches the end of its service for NRDA and our participants. The NRDA is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities. Through the provision of opportunities for riding, the charity enables people to improve their health and wellbeing, or to achieve their goals by any RDAUK recognised activities.

The charity trustees use their charity's funds and assets only in furtherance of the charity's purposes. When considering if any equine is to be retired, the trustees need to weigh up if the cost of keeping the equine can be justified against the therapeutic benefits it provides to deliver NRDA's objectives.

Reason for End of Service Policy

The equines, which are the basis of everything we do, serve us quietly and obediently to the best of their ability for many years. It is our duty to ensure that when they can no longer do this, for whatever reason, we take appropriate steps for their future.

In addition, NRDA is not an equine welfare charity, therefore charitable funds should not be unduly used to fund the costs of care and/or treatment for an equine that is no longer being ridden, or taking part in NRDA groundwork activities.

Criteria:

1. All decisions shall be made purely with the welfare of the equine in mind
2. A vet must be consulted before any decision is made
3. If the vet advises that the most humane route for the equine is euthanasia, that advice should be followed
4. If the vet considers the equine can be retired with no detriment (either physical or mental), the group may take steps to find a suitable situation for it
5. If no suitable situation for the equine can be found the group may also consider euthanasia
6. No NRDA funds may be used to pay for the upkeep of the equine once it has been retired

There is support on euthanasia available to groups on the RDA website.