

Location: 1 Highpoint Rd, Perkasie PA  
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215-822-2515 ext 1

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### *Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center Therapy Horse Selection*

It takes a horse with special qualities to be awarded the title of “Therapy Horse”. First and foremost is temperament. A pleasant, easy going, quiet attitude is a must. This cannot be taught at our facility, it must come naturally to the horse.

A therapy horse can be asked to work for up to four hours of lessons per day, five days a week. In any given one-hour lesson a therapy horse may work at a fast paced walk or a consistent trot. A few horses are even asked to canter for a portion of their lessons.

Therapy horses must be tolerant of being crowded by groups of people (a rider, two side walkers, a leader, and the instructor); unsteady riders who may pull on the reins and volunteers touching and leaning all over them. Therapy horses may carry rider who are unable to mount from the ground so they use a mounting ramp. This process entails fitting the horse tightly between two stationary objects (a mounting ramp and a block) with an unstable rider and 2-3 people around to assist. Most important to the rider, therapy horses are asked to play various games such as basketball, bean bag toss, obstacle course, and other activities. All of these can be frightening to the horse that is not properly trained to relate to them.

We match each of our riders to the therapy horse that best fits their riding needs. Each of our horses has their own personalities, movements and strengths. We have utilized many different breeds of horses in our program. We use the movement of the horse as a teaching tool, so it is imperative that our horses are not limping, short stepping, or lame in any way (all horses must be serviceably sound). To a person who has never walked before, the movement of a walking horse can stimulate a walking motion in the rider’s hips while they are mounted.

The horses’ gait is very important to consider when pairing with a rider. A rider who needs more stimulation will benefit most from a horse with a choppy stride. Riders who are tense or prone to seizures benefit most from a smooth gaited horse.

Even the horse's frame has to be taken into consideration. Narrow horses are good for those riders who cannot separate their legs very far. A wide based horse is good for those who need a larger base for balance.

While we greatly appreciate all horses that are offered for donation, horses that are too old or you, too spoiled or spooky, too fast or slow are not a good match for our therapeutic riding program. The ideal therapy horse (although exceptions to these guidelines may be considered) should be:

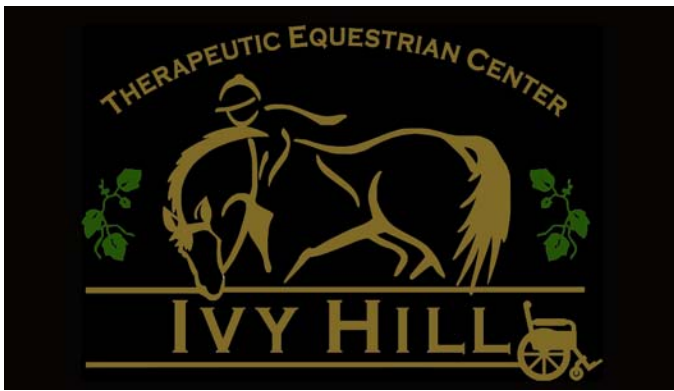
- Between 8-16 years old
- Gelding or mare
- 14-16 hands
- Gentle, quiet, and easy going
- Sound
- Well trained- we have found that horses with backgrounds in areas like polo, pony club, 4-H are very well suited for like as a therapy horse. With out limited time and resources, we do not have the ability to train a horse from the ground up. We are only able to provide them with training in specific therapeutic areas like the mounting ramp, various games, and getting used to side walkers walking with them during a lesson
- Experience: walk/trot/canter with beginner riders
- Has ground manners: grooming/standing/shoeing/bathing

All horses must have current negative Coggins test and be up to date on all vaccinations. We cannot accept a horse that has chronic health issues such as hock problems, back pain, loss of vision/hearing etc.

We have a well defined 30 day therapeutic training program that we put all potential horses through. If the horse performs successfully then we accept them into the program and provide them with a loving, working environment to call home. Those that are not suited for our therapeutic program are returned to their gracious owners.

Thank you for considering your horse for our program.

Ivy Hill Staff and Students



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### Horse Donation Profile "Initial Data and Screening"

Ivy Hill would like to get to know your horse prior to our first on-site evaluation. Please complete this form and return to your office so that we may begin your horse donation file.

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Equine's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Markings: \_\_\_\_\_  
How long have you owned the horse? \_\_\_\_\_  
Past Use: \_\_\_\_\_  
Riding Style: \_\_\_\_\_

Has your horse had any medical illnesses in the past year? Yes No  
If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Has your horse had any type of lames in the past year? Yes No  
If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is your horse on any medications? Yes No Please, list: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Please list dates of the following :  
Immunizations: Rhino/Flu \_\_\_\_\_ EWT/Encephalitis \_\_\_\_\_  
Rabies \_\_\_\_\_ Strangles \_\_\_\_\_  
De-Worming \_\_\_\_\_ Coggins \_\_\_\_\_  
Botulism \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Feeding: Current Grain \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Hay \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Supplements \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Farrier's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Hoof: Bare/Shoes-2/ Shoes-4/Corrective Date Done Last \_\_\_\_\_  
Horse's Likes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Horse's Dislikes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Any Vices (cribbing, weaving, etc): \_\_\_\_\_  
Does your horse: Lunge \_\_\_\_\_ Cross Tie \_\_\_\_\_ Load \_\_\_\_\_ Clip \_\_\_\_\_ Lead \_\_\_\_\_  
Why do you want Ivy Hill to have this horse? \_\_\_\_\_

For Official Use Only: Initial Phone Contact \_\_\_\_\_ On-Site Visit \_\_\_\_\_