



## Equine Trial Period Agreement

**Dear Horse Owner,**

On behalf of Heaven's Gait Ranch, we would like to personally thank you for your interest in supporting our mission. Individuals like you make our program so special, as they help create a community that encourages others to grow. Through the support of people like you, veterans with disabilities and individuals with special needs will be empowered to maximize their potential through meaningful relationships and challenging opportunities.

We appreciate that you have considered us to adopt your horse to our therapeutic riding center. Horses accepted into our program must be physically sound and capable of adjusting to a variety of riders. They should be tolerant of noise and activity and should be able to maintain focus regardless of the activity around them. They must have good ground manners and be happy in a busy, dynamic barn environment, with lots of care and attention. Because our horses are at the heart of what we do, HGR requires a 30-90 day trial period before an adoption agreement, to ensure the future safety of our riders. The purpose of this document is to solely outline terms of our agreement while your horse participates in a trial period at our facility.

During your horse's trial period, Heaven's Gait Ranch will care for his basic, daily needs, giving him food, water, and access to shelter. Heaven's Gait Ranch is not responsible for shots or tests that typically would be administered during an annual vet check; however, HGR assumes responsibility for his care in the case of an emergency at our property. In this case, and if possible, you would be notified immediately, before treatment was given. Aside from individualized care and attention, your horse will be introduced to various items and activities that would typically be used in a therapeutic riding lesson, so that he is desensitized to foreign objects or activities. These items include (but are not limited to) mounting blocks, ramps, wheelchairs, balls, ground poles, pool noodles, pool rings, etc. Therefore, if, at any point during the trial period, our team at HGR learns your horse may not be a good fit for our services, or that our services may not be a good fit for your horse's future needs, HGR will contact you to terminate the trial period. At that time, you would be responsible for trailering your horse back to his original home. If, however, we find that your horse is well-suited for our services, and our program is also beneficial to your horse, we will contact you to set up an adoption agreement at the end of the trial period.

Lastly, because Heaven's Gait Ranch has the intent to adopt your horse at the end of the trial period, given that he acclimates well to our program, facility, and services, we need your word not to sell him to another buyer or donate him to another facility during this trial period. This is to ensure we are not assuming the care of your horse while he is being promised to someone else.

By offering equine-assisted activities and therapeutic services to individuals in need, our team at Heaven's Gait Ranch is determined to create an extended family who cares for the well-being of its fellow man: stranger or neighbor. This family understands the need to care for that whole person — mind, body, and soul. Therefore, as we work to launch Heaven's Gait Ranch in Cedar Grove, we are sincerely grateful for your blessing in supporting our efforts. As a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization, we mean it when we say your support makes all the difference.

**Sincerely,**

*Margaret Mary Zirngibl*

**Margaret Mary Zirngibl**  
Executive Director

*Brian K. McClaren*

**Brian K. McClaren**  
Vice Chair

*Mark P. Zirngibl*

**Mark P. Zirngibl**  
Vice Chair

**Signature of Horse Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_