

RDA Tasmania Horse Specifications



Size:

- 13 – 13.3hh – preferably solid build.
- 14 – 14.3hh – preferably solid build.
- 15 – 15.3hh – preferably solid build.
- 16hh horses are sometimes considered.
- Horses under 13hh or over 16hh are not used in RDA Centres in Tasmania as smaller ponies usually don't have ideal movement for our riders and if too high, our volunteers are not able to support the riders.

Conformation

- Weight carriers preferred - conformation like Welsh/Gypsy Cob, Clydie Cross or Percheron Cross preferred.
- Medium to solidly built preferred.
- Wide base preferred.

Age

- Ideal age between 8 – 16 years old.
- No older than 18 if being purchased.
- Older horses on loan ok, as long as owner happy to have back when time for retirement.
- Horses under 5 years of age can't be considered.

Soundness & movement

- Horse needs to be 100% sound – RDA riders are often unbalanced and horses need to be able to compensate for that.
- Older horses with arthritis may not be suitable for RDA, it will depend on the severity of the arthritis and the affect on the horse. A horse with arthritis will only be considered if offered on loan. Not as a sale or donation.
- Good, forward movement is important, so our riders are able to progress on it. Slow moving and often stopping horses are frustrating for our riders and they will stop trying.
- Free movement and responsive to aids, but preferably not too sensitive to aids.
- Ability to walk, trot and canter at an even, steady and controlled speed, not rushing or taking off.
- No pacers, this movement is not beneficial for RDA riders and limits the ability to perform a dressage test or do pole-work.

Temperament

- Nice temperament is essential.
- Easy going.
- Quiet nature – unflappable and not easily spooked.
- Good with people.
- Good with other horses.
- Good with traffic.
- Good with noise.
- Good with unexpected movement around them.
- Good with wildlife.
- Good on-lead and off-lead with beginner riders.
- If spooked, a small shy only and quick recovery important, not freaking out for long and/or jumping sideways large or taking off.
- Well-mannered on the ground with handling, grooming, tacking up, leading, riding, etc
- No horses that have reared, buck, kick or bite.
- Horses that are a bit girthy, are a bit bossy whilst eating, don't like to be wormed, etc will still be considered.
- Reasonably good with floating and hoof trimming.

Education

- Preference to a well-educated horse with a lot of experience in different areas: pony club, games, competition, trail rides, etc – a 'been-there-done-that-attitude' is ideal.
- School master and/or educated in English riding school preferred.
- Trail ride or other discipline horse considered.
- Green or uneducated horses may not be considered, depending on their temperament, suitability and trainability for the RDA program.

Care for your horse at RDA

- All horses, purchased or donated, will be vet checked prior.
- Preference to have horse on trial as only during a trial period will it be more evident if suitable for the RDA program.
- Horses are being looked after by the experienced RDA Horse Welfare Team.
- Horses are either paddocked with others or on their own in paddocks adjacent to each other.
- All paddocks have shelters and large drinking troughs.
- Horses are cared for daily and will receive hay and hard-food, depending on their needs.
- Horses are rugged when required.
- Horses receive regular hoof care and worming.
- Horses receive annual dental care.
- Horses receive regular vaccinations.
- Horses receive annual professional saddle fitting/checking.
- Horses will receive veterinary care when required.
- Previous owner will be contacted when horse will be retired or otherwise terminated from the RDA program.

Other

- We consider purchase or horses on loan.
- We consider horses in Tasmania or on the mainland.
- Agreement to be signed for horses on loan, with annual review in place.
- Horses on long loan preferred due to consistency offered to our riders

Our riders

- RDA riders range between all ages and many different abilities.
- Some riders come for therapy and are on a sheepskin, being supported by up to 3 volunteers, with 1 leading the horse and 2 supporting the rider on either side.
- Most riders have some ability to control the horse, using the reins and leg aids and are able to halt, walk on, steer and sometimes trot assisted.
- Some riders ride independently on a 'safe' horse.
- Some riders are balanced, whilst others ride unevenly due to their medical condition.
- Some riders mount from a specially designed mounting ramp and others mount from a block.
- Most ride in a saddle, but some riders are on a sheepskin, being put in different positions, like back-to-front, sideways, lying across the horse, etc.

Please note

It is too difficult and expensive for RDA to be looking after many retired horses as they are unable to stay on the property due to space restrictions and cashflow limitations. That is why RDA has to be selective on purchases and donations, especially with regards to age. However, horses being offered on loan, as long as they can be returned to the owner straight after they retire, will be considered, provided they are suitable for the RDA program.

Contact details

Claudia Nevah
State Coaching Coordinator
RDA Tasmania
coaching@rdatas.org.au / 0429 943 247