

### **Overview: 2026 Aftercare Organization Application for Accreditation**

Thank you for your interest in applying for accreditation with the Standardbred Transition Alliance (STA).

The mission of the STA is to inspect, accredit and award grants to approved organizations that acquire, rehabilitate, train and re-home Standardbred horses.

The care and welfare of our horses is at the very foundation of the STA's mission, as it should be for each of its accredited organizations. In the application ahead, you will find an accreditation process that is purposefully comprehensive and demanding. Our responsibility to the horse, and to the industry, requires this attention to detail. This third-party audit shows to the public that an organization bearing the STA seal of accreditation has met, or exceeded, the highest requirements in the following ways:

- Your program is fully functional and well established. You are demonstrating stability, financial
  and operational transparency, responsible use of resources, and are adhering to sound and
  ethical business practices.
- You provide qualified and experienced horsemen, trainers, farriers, and veterinarians to make sure each individual horse's physical and psychological needs are being met while in your program.
- You have well-developed screening policies and are ensuring proper placement of each horse in suitable homes with adopters that have the skill set and resources to provide for a bright future.
- You provide each horse with a lifelong safety net, should they need assistance in transitioning again and at any time. Your adoption policies clearly define all terms, restrictions, reporting, return and rehoming options.
- You professionally and positively represent yourselves, Standardbred aftercare and the entire racing industry. You further recognize the importance of upholding the image and integrity of both aftercare and racing; and are working respectfully and collaboratively in efforts to educate horsemen, the public, media, regulators, legislators and others on our important work.

We recognize the time and effort necessary to complete this application process and greatly appreciate your interest in accreditation.

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Standardbred Transition Alliance

### Submission of this application:

- 1. Certifies that the information, including all attachments, is true to the best of your knowledge.
- 2. Grants the STA permission to make inquiries about your organization.
- 3. Indicates you accept and agree to schedule site visitation by a representative of the STA at any of the facilities housing the organization's horses at any time.

### Completing the application:

- 1. Answer all questions truthfully and completely.
- 2. Review your answers carefully, once submitted you may not be able to make any changes.
- 3. Keep a copy for your own records, application materials will not be returned.
- 4. If your organization is unable to answer a question, or it does not apply please avoid leaving an answer blank by indicating "N/A", "No" or "None".
- 5. If you have questions or need assistance while completing this application, please email <a href="mailto:administrator@standardbredtransition.org">administrator@standardbredtransition.org</a>

#### To File:

- Application Deadline: October 15, 2025
- By E-Mail: The completed application with labeled attachments and all auxiliary forms can be sent to <u>administrator@standardbredtransition.org</u> If sending multiple emails, be sure to clearly label/number each and ask for a read-receipt or acknowledgment.

Or

• By Postal Mail: All application materials must be postmarked by deadline. It's recommended that you send all labeled materials and documents together in one package.

Standardbred Transition Alliance P.O. Box 377 Laurelville, OH 43135

### **Review:**

The STA review begins with processing the application and determining eligibility. After this phase is complete, site inspections will be scheduled, and any further information will be requested.

The STA Accreditation Committee will formally review each applicant organization during meetings in February 2026 and will issue any offers of accreditation soon thereafter.

### **Qualifying Requirements**

- 1. Organization must have current status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501(c)(3). (Canadian applicant must be a registered charitable organization with Canada Revenue Agency.)
- 2. Organization must have been in operation for at least two years at close of the STA application period. This will be based on the filing date with the Secretary of State in the pertinent state.
- **3.** Organization must comply with all applicable state, provincial and national licensing and permitting requirements related to the sourcing, transferring, rehoming, or brokering of horses. STA compliance statement can be viewed <a href="here">here</a>.
- **4.** Organization must have a written euthanasia policy applicable to all stages of a horse's life with that group, from intake forward, consistent with that established by the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP). That policy can be viewed <a href="here">here</a>.
- **5.** Board members, staff and volunteers must not be a party to legal proceedings connected with the applicant organization.
- **6.** Organization must have cared for a minimum of five Standardbreds in the year prior to close of applications.
- 7. Adoption contracts of the applicant organization must prohibit breeding of any adopted horse.
- **8.** Post adoption protocol must include a minimum of two years documentation of the horse's location and condition, as well as a commitment to resume care of the horse at any point in the future, if requested.

### **Auxiliary Forms**

In addition to the application, there are three auxiliary forms that must be completed—for EACH facility that housed a horse.

- 1. Facility Form
- 2. Veterinary Reference Form
- 3. Standardbred Inventory Form

<sup>\*</sup>If your organization has multiple facilities, it is permissible to send one Standardbred Inventory Form—
IF you are able to sort the LOCATION OF HORSE field by facility, grouping them together.

Sta	andardbred Inventory Form Terms
Term	Definition
Adopted	Horse ownership and custody was transferred to an adopter who completed the requisite adoption screening and signed contract(s).
At Risk	Horse came to your program from an undesirable situation, or in poor condition, with an unpromising future.
Donated	Horse is transferred into the program directly from the harness racing industry using a donation form.
Euthanized/Died	Horse was euthanized or died while in the program's custody or possession.
Foster	Horse's custody was transferred to a private individual who completed all foster screening requirements and signed foster agreement.
Law Enforcement	Horse came to you from a law enforcement agency with seizure authority.
Registered Standardbred	Horse has been issued a registration number with the United States Trotting Association or Standardbred Canada and has a microchip, freezebrand or tattoo that confirms identity.
Rehabilitation	Horse arrived unable to immediately start training or transitioning and is undergoing evaluation and treatment, with professional oversight, to return the horse to the condition level needed to resume transition/rehoming.
Returned	Horse was previously adopted out, but came back to the program because of adopter or program's request.
Sanctuary	Horse is a permanent resident of the program with no expectation of adoption
Surrendered	The horse's owner, directly or through a law enforcement agency or an agent, asked your program to take the horse.
Training	Horse is actively receiving the training necessary to make a successful transition to their next career or home, with a goal of making the horse more attractive to potential adopters.
Transferred	Horse's custody was transferred to another non-profit to better accommodate the horse's needs.

# **Supporting Documentation**

# Name of Organization:

Attachment	Label (MUST label as listed below)	Indicate if included and how many
Part I. Qualifying Requirements		
IRS Determination Letter (or CRA Charitable Registration letter)	Attachment 1-A	
STB Horse Inventory Form	Attachment 1-B	
Euthanasia Policy	Attachment 1-C	
Permit/Licensing Compliance	Attachment 1-D	
Part II. Identification		
Corporate Identification	Use Form Provided	
Facility Form(s) —	Attachment 2-B + FACILITY NAME	
Proof of Accreditation by Other Organization (i.e., GFAS)	Attachment 2-C	
Part III. Business Practices		
Minutes from recent board meeting	Attachment 3-A	
Code of Ethics/Code of Conduct	Attachment 3-B	
ByLaws	Attachment 3-C	
Strategic Plan	Attachment 3-D	
Succession Plan	Attachment 3-E	
Current Land Ownership/Lease/Board/Foster Agreement(s) for	Attachment 3-F +	
all applicable facilities used or owned by the organization	FACILITY NAME	
Other Agreement(s) related to organization's facility	Attachment 3-G	
Current liability insurance policy	Attachment 3-H	
Current directors & officer's insurance policy	Attachment 3-I	
Paid receipts for each insurance policy	Attachment 3-J	

Attachment 4-A	
Attaciment	
Attachment 4-B	
Attachment 4-C	
Attachment 4-D	
Attachment 4-E	
Attachment 4-F	
Attachment 4-G	
Attachment 4-H	
Attachment 5-A	
Use Form Provided	
Attachment 6-A	
Attachment 6-B	
Attachment 7-A	
Attachment 7-B	
Attachment 8-A	
Attachment 8-B	
Attachment 8-C	
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	Attachment 4-C  Attachment 4-D  Attachment 4-E  Attachment 4-F  Attachment 4-G  Attachment 4-H  Attachment 5-A  Use Form Provided  Attachment 6-A  Attachment 6-B  Attachment 7-A  Attachment 7-B  Attachment 8-A  Attachment 8-B

### 2026 STA Aftercare Organization Application for Accreditation

Attachment 8-D-1
Attachment 8-D-2
Attachment 8-D-3
Attachment 8-D-4
Attachment 8-D-5
Attachment 8-D-6
Attachment 8-D-8
Attachment 8-D-9
Attachment 9-A
Attachment 9-B
Attachment 9-C
Attachment 9-D
Attachment 9-E
Attachment 9-F
Attachment 9-G

Identification F	Requested i	n Part	: II and Part V	11	
Identification					
Your Corporat	e Name:				
Address:					
Phone:					
Website(s):					
Facebook Page	e(s):				
Facebook Gro	ups:				
Twitter:					
Instagram:					
Other Social N	/ledia:				
<b>Board Officers</b> ,	Members,	Trust	ees		
Name	Office/T	itle	Phone	Email	
Senior Manage	ment and	Staff			
Name	Title		Phone	Email	
	i .		İ	1	

Name	Job/Affiliation	Phone	Email
	300/7411111411011	1110110	2
ility Direct	ors and Trainers		
Name	Facility	Phone	Email
	,		
unteers			
	Facility	Phone	Email
unteers Name	Facility	Phone	Email
	Facility	Phone	Email



# 2026 Aftercare Organization Application for Accreditation

**Important**: This application is to be completed and signed by a person who is a Principal of the Applicant. A Principal includes: (a) an Applicant's officers and directors; (b) an Applicant's principal management employees, including CEO, CFO, GM or ED. The Applicant is referred herein as "You" or "Your Organization".

The STA will direct all co	orrespondence to the individual listed below.
Name	
Title/Office	
Organization Name	
Address	
City, State Zip	
Phone	
Email	

For Standardbred Transition Alliance Use Only:
Date Received:
Received By:
Forms Complete:

# **PART I: Qualifying Requirements**

1.	Has your organization been in operation for at least two years prior to close of applications on October 15, 2025?
	∐Yes
	□No
2.	List the date your organization began operation, based on your secretary of state filing (this may be prior to determination of 501(c)(3) status).
3.	Does your organization have 501(c)(3) IRS not-for-profit status, or have charity registration status with Canada Revenue Agency?
	□Yes
	□No
	Enclose a copy of your IRS Determination letter, or CRA Charitable Registration letter, with this application.
4.	Does your organization comply with all applicable state, provincial and national licensing and permitting requirements related to the sourcing, transferring, rehoming, or brokering of horses? Can you confirm possession of all required licenses, permits or equivalent authorizations for operations in applicable jurisdictions?
	∐Yes
	□No
	Please enclose copies of current permits or licenses with this application. To view the STA Compliance Statement, <u>click here.</u>
5.	Are there legal proceedings pending against the organization or a principal of the organization and related to the organization? If so, please explain on a separate piece of paper.
	□Yes
	□No

6.	How many registered Standardbreds did your organization care for, for as few as one day or as much as 365 days, between October 15, 2024 and October 15, 2025?
	At close of application period, applicants must have provided care for a minimum of five registered Standardbreds in the year prior. Registered Standardbreds leased by the organization or owned by third parties at the same facility should not be included.
7.	Does your organization have a written euthanasia policy consistent with that of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP)?
	□Yes
	□No
	Please enclose a copy of your organization's policy. The STA requires that euthanasia policies of accredited groups extend to all phases of a horse's life with that group, from intake forward. To view the AAEP euthanasia guidelines, click here.
8.	Does your adoption contract prohibit the breeding of any Standardbred?
	□Yes
	□No
	Please attach a copy of your adoption contract.
9.	Do your adoption protocols provide mandatory follow up by your organization that documents the location and condition of the horse for a minimum of two years following their departure/adoption from your program?
	□Yes
	□No
	Please provide a copy of your follow-up protocols and procedures.

### **PART II: Identification**

1.	Please provide the following corporate information using the identification gri	id
	included with this application.	

- a. Your corporate name
- b. Address
- c. Email
- d. Phone
- e. Your web site
- f. Your Facebook page
- g. Your Twitter handle
- h. Any other social media accounts and your identity on them
- i. Identify the senior management, providing names, titles, phone numbers and e-mail addresses

If yes, please specify when the action commenced, when it concluded, the name of the agency, nature, and resolution of the event:

- 3. Provide the name and address of any and all government agencies that license applicant organization and the nature of the license and enclose a copy.
- 4. If your organization and/or facility(ies) is/are currently accredited by any other accrediting body, provide a copy of the accreditation along with contact information for the accrediting body (example Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries Accreditation, Equus Guardian, Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, etc):

# **PART III: Business Practices**

1.	How often does your board of directors meet? Please specify if the meeting in person, via conference call or a combination.	ngs are
2.	Please enclose minutes from your most recent board meeting, with the daincluded. Provide a list of all board members, including their address, e-m contact number, officer or committee status, if any, within the organization their pertinent affiliation (for example, veterinarian, trainer, horse owner, attorney). If any of these members are related by blood or marriage to each other, please specify.	nail, n and
3.	Do you have a code of ethics or code of conduct for the board of directors	s?
	□Yes	
	□No	
	If yes, please attach a copy.	
4.	Provide a copy of your organizational by-laws (if by-laws aren't signed, se minutes showing approval of by-laws by the Board of Directors).	end
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	If NO, do you have a plan for obtaining general liability insurance? If so, what is it?
	If YES, provide copies of your organization's current general liability insurance policy and paid receipts for the general liability policy.
	□No
	□Yes
10	.Does your organization have up-to-date general liability insurance?
	□No
	□Yes
9.	If any facility in use is owned by board member, volunteer or staffer of organization and property is leased, is rent paid to member?
	If NO, explain the current situation for each facility. List the name, city, and state of each facility where your horses are housed, even if it is one horse.
	If YES, provide a signed copy of facility/land ownership or leasing/boarding agreement or foster care agreement for each facility used or owned by your organization.
	□No
	∐Yes
8.	Do you have proof of facility/land ownership or leasing/boarding agreement or foster care agreement for each facility used or owned by your organization?
	If yes, please attach a copy.
	□No
	□Yes
7.	Do you have a succession plan for the operation of your program in the event key members of your leadership are unable to continue in their role?
	If yes, please attach a copy.
	□No
	∐Yes
6.	Do you have a strategic plan in place to help shape the program and provide guidance?

11.	Does your organization have additional insurances, including but not limited to directors and officers(D & O) insurance and errors and omission (E & O) insurance?
	□Yes
	□No
	If YES, provide copies of your organization's current D&O insurance and E&O insurance and provide paid receipts for each policy. If NO, explain why your organization does not carry D & O and E & O insurance.
PAR1	Γ IV: Financial and Accounting Practices
1.	What is your fiscal calendar?
2.	Do you have a signed 2024 IRS 990 or 990EZ? (Canadian applicants, T3010)
	□Yes
	□No
	If YES, please enclose. If NO, please send a copy of the 2023 IRS 990 or 990EZ (or CRA T3010) and explain why 2024 is not yet complete.
3.	Do you have a statement of functional expenses for 2024?
	□Yes
	□No
	If YES, please enclose.  If NO, please send the statement for 2023 and explain the status of 2024 statement:

4.	Do you have a balance sheet for 2024?
	□Yes
	□No
	If YES, please enclose.  If NO, please send the balance sheet for 2023 and explain the status of 2024 balance sheet:
5.	Do you have a profit and loss statement for 2024?  ☐Yes
	□No
	If YES, please enclose. If NO, please explain:
6.	Please submit an interim statement of functional expenses, profit and loss and balance sheets for 2025 so far.
7.	Do you conduct a professional audit annually?
	□Yes
	□No
	If YES, who performs the audit?
8.	Please provide the current year 2025 operating budget on attached sheet (forecast for both income and expenses).
9.	Has your 2025 budget previously been voted on and approved by your Board of Directors?
	□Yes □No

	If YES, provide minutes showing where 2025 Budget was voted on and approved by Board:
	If NO, explain why:
PAR	T V: Banking Procedures
our b	ank name and contact information:
1.	Provide proof of a business checking account (voided check, bank statement).
2.	Please provide the name of signatories on checks.
3.	Are there any check amounts that require multiple signatures on your checks? If so, please specify the amounts and signatory names.
4.	Do you have any outstanding business loans?
	□Yes
	□No
	If YES,
	Please summarize amounts, terms, and the reason for the loan:

	Are the loans all current and in good standing?
	How is loan guaranteed?
	Provide loan repayment schedules (if applicable).
5.	Do you have one or more endowments?
	Yes
	□No
	If YES, please submit a brief summary of any endowments.
PAR	ΓVI: Fundraising
1.	Does your organization hold fundraisers?
	□Yes
	□No
	If YES, what does your organization do to raise funds? Add an additional page if necessary.
	Provide a list of fundraisers the organization has held during the past two years and document expenses, revenue, and net proceeds. For example: benefit trail ride on May 16 revenue of \$5,280, expenses \$2,040, net \$3,240.
	If NO, explain why you do not fundraise:

### PART VII: Employees/Volunteers

1. Provide a list of employees and/or volunteers who assist with the organization's administrative and horse care operations along with a title/brief job description

	and breakdown of the average weekly work schedule (number of days/hours).
2.	Does your organization provide continuing education and/or training for employees or volunteers?
	□Yes
	□No
	If YES, provide a list of continuing education and training your employees and/or volunteers have attended in the last 12 months, as well as the number who attended. (Equine expos or clinics, private or public training sessions, and staff retreats are examples of continuing education.)
	Provide any further information concerning training of employees and/or volunteers.
	If NO, explain why you do not provide continuing education and training programs.
3.	Do you have a whistleblower policy for your volunteers or employees regarding an obligation to report abuse or neglect and protection from retaliation?
	□No
	If YES, please enclose a copy of that policy.

# **PART VIII: Education/Promotion**

1.	Does your organization make an effort to promote humane Standardbred aftercare through educational programs? Examples of educational programs include training demonstrations or seminars, having booths at racetracks or expos, or involvement with equine or youth programs such as Pony Clubs, 4-H, Scouts, and college groups.
	∐Yes
	□No
	If YES, please explain what your activities have occurred in that regard in the past 12 months.
2.	Does your organization have a working relationship with racetracks?  _Yes _No
	If YES, please explain that relationship and note the name, email address and number of the track contact.

# **PART IX: Marketing**

1. Does your organization provide basic marketing for the organization's mis well as for the horses in your care? Marketing may include website, telev radio, online, social media or print media.		
	∐Yes	
	□No	
	If YES, Provide a list and brief description of marketing efforts for your orga mission.	nization's
	Communications from your group presented either via press release, Internet interviews from the organization should portray a positive outlook on Standaftercare and the racing industry.	
2.	How does your organization work to provide a positive outlook on St racing and aftercare via any and all media sources? If there are exactlippings, YouTube videos, etc., please enclose copies and links.	

### **PART X: Horse Health Care Management**

- 1. What procedures does your organization have in place to ensure that competent, experienced personnel are available at all times to oversee the facility or facilities that care for your horses? Include how you incorporate veterinarian care and oversight to all facilities used by your organization.
- 2. Please explain your succession plan for the ongoing operation of your organization and the care of your horses should your main director/caretaker be unable to fulfill their duty for any reason. If you have a written succession, no need to rewrite it here, just enclose. If you do not have a succession plan, please explain why.

3. Describe your intake process for receiving horses into the organization. Include type of horses your organization takes in, disqualifying conditions or factors that preclude acceptance of a horse and the screening process if applicable.

4.	Describe requirements for each horse upon arrival, procedures for documenting each horse's health history and treatments and provide copies of any forms used in that documentation.
5.	List or attach your organization's overall biosecurity protocols for infectious disease control. List biosecurity protocols, including areas for quarantine for EACH facility that houses horses for your organization.
6.	Explain your organization's feeding and water program and how you monitor each horse for health and condition. Include the most recently paid monthly feed invoice or board bill (if feed is included) for EACH facility that houses horses for your organization.

7.	Explain your hoof care program for ensuring each horse receives recare at your facility or facilities including how often hooves are trimr assessed. Please provide documentation showing the most recent for EACH facility that houses horses for your organization.	ned or
8.	Explain your protocols and schedules for de-worming, vaccinations care for your horses. If you do not have such protocols, please expl	
	care for your floroco. If you do flor flave odorf protocolo, ploase expl	ani wiiy.
9.	Provide documentation (receipt, invoice) showing the most recent provide veterinary invoice for de-wormer and vaccines for EACH facility that horses for your organization. Documentation showing proof of dona wormer and/or vaccinations is sufficient.	t houses
10.	Provide documentation (receipt, invoice) showing the most recent of for each facility that houses horses for your organization.	lental invoice

11. Provide the names of the Standardbreds your organization euthanist 12 months including the reason for each instance of euthanasia.	zed in the pas
12. Provide documentation of how the euthanasia policy has been enformation of providing a copy of a veterinarian invoice for euthanasia and/or a stream for euthanasia provided by veterinarian (only one example in the contraction).	tatement on
13. Provide organizational protocols for disposal of dead horses.	
14. Does your organization have a written castration policy?	
∐Yes	
□No	
If YES, provide a copy of your castration policy.	
If NO, explain why you do not have a castration policy.	

15. If your organization boards horses or utilizes satellite/foster facilities, how are your protocols provided and implemented at each facility to ensure optimal care for horses?
16. What type of services does your organization provide (mark all that apply)?
<ul> <li>☐ Sanctuary</li> <li>☐ Rehabilitation</li> <li>☐ Retraining and Adoption</li> <li>☐ Equine Assisted Program</li> <li>☐ Other</li> </ul>
17. What is the maximum number of Standardbreds your organization can care for on a daily basis?
18.How many Standardbreds were placed in adopted homes by your program last year?
19. How many Standardbreds previously adopted by your program were re-homed again last year?

# PART XI: Adoption Policies and Protocol

1.	If your organization provides equine assisted programs (e.g., equine assisted activities and therapies, riding lessons), provide your guidelines for retirement of a horse from the program and procedures for placement or sanctuary care of the horse upon retirement.
2.	Does your organization have a screening process for prospective adopters?
	□Yes
	□No
	If YES, please enclose a copy of that process and adopter application.
3.	Does your organization allow prospective adopters to ride a horse prior to adoption?
	□Yes
	□No
	☐ Does not apply
4.	Does your organization have a standard liability waiver in place for visitors to the facility?
	□Yes
	□No

5.	Do you require a signed contract or agreement for every horse adopted from your organization that states a "no-racing policy"?
	□Yes
	□No
	☐ Does not apply
6.	Do you enroll every adopted horse in the USTA's Full Circle Program and screen new horses for Full Circle enrollment?
	∐Yes
	□No
	If NO, explain why:
7.	Do you facilitate converting a horse to Pleasure Registration upon intake in your program?
	∐Yes
	□No
	If NO, explain why:
0	December adoption contract or agreement have any provisions concerning the
Ο.	Does your adoption contract or agreement have any provisions concerning the commercial use of adopted horse (therapy or lesson program, etc.)?
	□Yes
	□No
	☐ Does not apply
9.	Does your organization ensure legal custody of horses by requiring donor/surrender agreements, transfer documents, boarding agreements, conditional bill of sale, etc.?
	If YES, please enclose copies of all documents.
	□Yes
	□No

10. Does your organization have a protocol that ensures the returning of horses to you in cases when adopters are no longer able to care for them? If yes, please enclose a copy of your return policies and procedures (return intake form, etc)
□Yes
□No
11. Does your organization have a policy for following up on an adopted horse's progress in its new environment?
□Yes
□No
☐ Does not apply
If YES, how long does your follow up protocol extend for each horse?
PART XIII: Acceptance of Terms and Conditions
Name:
Signature:
Title:
Date:

I, the above named representative of the above named organization certify that the information in this application, including any and all attachments, is/are true to the best of my knowledge and hereby give the Standardbred Transition Alliance (STA) permission to make inquiries about our organization to assist in their evaluation of our accreditation application. In addition, our organization accepts and agrees to accept site visitation by a representative of the STA at all facilities housing the organization's horses at any time.