DIRT & SUNDAYS HORSE RESCUE

Join our volunteer team

Join our dedicated team of horse handlers and volunteers. Complete all four pages and save a copy.

Help horses heal, rebuild trust and find safe homes. Our work supports rescue, rehabilitation and prevention of slaughter. No horse experience? There is still a place to lend a hand.

Full name

Application date

Email address

Mobile phone

Mailing address, city, state and ZIP

Age (for task eligibility)

Preferred name (optional)

EXPERIENCE & AVAILABILITY

Horse-handling experience, volunteer experience or useful skills

Days / times available and preferred frequency

- [ ] New to horses
- [ ] Some experience
- [ ] Experienced handler
- [ ] I am 18 or older.
- [ ] I am under 18; guardian consent is required.

Submitting this form does not authorize horse handling. Assignments depend on training, demonstrated skills, supervision and the needs of each horse. Minors require rescue approval and designated adult supervision.

Roles & training

Choose the areas that interest you. Beginners are welcome in approved support roles.

AVAILABLE ROLES - CHECK ALL THAT INTEREST YOU

- [ ] Barn & paddock care

  Clean stalls/paddocks, refill water and organize supplies.

- [ ] Feeding support

  Prepare and deliver feed only under the written feeding plan.

- [ ] Grooming & horse care

  Brush, bathe and assist with approved care after handling training.

- [ ] Horse handling

  Halter, lead and move assigned horses after a skills assessment.

- [ ] Facilities & grounds

  Help with fencing, shelters and upkeep; tools require separate approval.

- [ ] Events, fundraising & outreach

  Assist with donation drives, events, approved photos and office tasks.

Riding, training, medication, quarantine care, transport and power-equipment use are restricted duties. Each requires separate rescue authorization; checking a role above does not approve these activities.

REQUIRED BEFORE INDEPENDENT DUTIES

1. Submit the application and signed waiver; receive an approved assignment.
2. Complete orientation: boundaries, gates, emergency response and biosecurity.
3. Learn horse body language, safe approach, haltering/leading and equipment use.
4. Shadow an approved handler and demonstrate task-specific skills.
5. Receive supervisor sign-off. Work only with assigned horses and approved tasks.

Rescue use: orientation / shadowing date(s)

Approved tasks / supervisor

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Safety & volunteer agreement

Read these standards before volunteering. Stop and ask whenever you are unsure.

Dress for the job

Wear sturdy closed-toe boots/shoes and practical clothing. Use gloves or other protective gear when directed. Any approved riding requires a properly fitted ASTM/SEI equestrian helmet.

Handle with patience

Follow the assigned horse's handling plan. Approach calmly; avoid kick zones and being trapped between a horse and a fence. Never wrap a lead rope around your hand or body. No hitting, chasing or coercive handling.

Control access & gates

Keep gates latched and follow the approved horse-movement plan. Do not enter occupied pens, turn horses loose, bring guests/pets, or work alone with horses without permission.

Follow care & biosecurity plans

Do not change feed, give treats, administer medication or enter quarantine areas without authorization. Wash hands and clean/disinfect tools as directed; keep designated equipment with its horse or area.

Report & respond

Report injuries, near misses, damaged equipment, loose horses and health changes promptly. Stop work during unsafe weather or conditions. For a serious emergency, call 911 first, alert the supervisor and give the exact location.

Respect the rescue & team

Arrive sober, sign in/out and communicate schedule changes. Protect applicant/donor information. Obtain approval before public posts about rescue cases. The rescue may reassign or end volunteer participation for safety or conduct concerns.

☐ I have read these protocols and agree to follow instructions and training limits.

Volunteer initials

Emergency contact / relationship

Emergency contact phone

Optional: accommodations, task limits or emergency information you wish to share

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Risk acknowledgment & waiver

Read carefully. This page affects legal rights. Ask questions before signing.

MISSOURI EQUINE / LIVESTOCK WARNING

WARNING

Under Missouri law, an equine activity sponsor, an equine professional, a livestock activity sponsor, a livestock owner, a livestock facility, a livestock auction market, or any employee thereof is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine or livestock activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine or livestock activities pursuant to the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

RSMo section 537.325 | revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=537.325

Risks & voluntary participation. I understand that horses are unpredictable and may kick, bite, strike, spook, bolt or cause falls, crushing or collisions. Uneven ground, weather, fencing, tools and equipment also create risks. Serious injury, disability, property damage or death can occur despite precautions. I voluntarily accept the inherent risks of the approved activities I choose to perform and will decline tasks beyond my training or ability.

Limited release. To the extent permitted by Missouri law, I release Dirt & Sundays Horse Rescue and its directors, officers, employees, volunteers and property owners from claims for my injury, death or property loss caused by the inherent risks of equine or livestock activities. This release does not cover ordinary negligence, gross negligence, reckless or intentional misconduct, or liability that cannot lawfully be waived, including applicable statutory exceptions.

Emergency assistance & acknowledgment. I authorize the rescue to call emergency services and contact my emergency contact if needed; this does not replace medical consent required by law. I have read all four pages, understand the risks and this limited release, and sign voluntarily. I may stop participation at any time. If any provision is unenforceable, the remaining lawful provisions remain effective.

Volunteer signature (typed name or sign by hand)

Date

For applicants under 18: I am the parent/legal guardian, consent to the child's approved participation, and agree to required adult supervision. This signature does not purport to waive claims belonging to the child.

Parent / legal guardian signature

Date

Rescue administration: Have Missouri counsel and your insurer review this waiver and minor participation practices before use.