

# T h e   N a t i o n a l   C e n t e r   f o r EQUINE FACILITATED THERAPY

A California Non-Profit Corporation  
Established 1971

### Position Description (10/11)

Title: Horse Handler

Reports to : Barn Manager

Employment Status: non-exempt

Position Summary: Responsible for following the protocols related to the use of therapy horses for treatment sessions at NCEFT.

#### **Direct Responsibilities:**

1. Closely monitor each horse's performance and report immediately any soundness or behavior problems to the Barn Manager and Program Director.
2. Help with the daily conditioning/warm up of all horses at the direction of the Barn Manager or Program Director.
3. Condition, clean and inspect all tack and equipment on a weekly basis. Report any repairs needed to the Barn Manager.
4. Long line or lunge horses during sessions as needed.
5. Closely monitor horse's behavior during all sessions and immediately communicate any concerns to the treating therapist or instructor.
6. Check all tack and fittings prior to *each* therapy session.
7. Participate in demonstrations and fundraising events as needed throughout the year.
8. Maintain a clean, orderly and organized barn/arena work area at all times.
9. Maintain current CPR and First Aid status.
10. Other duties as needed.

#### **Physical requirements of the position:**

- Must be able to lift up to 35 pounds from the ground to waist height frequently during a normal work day (hay, grain, feed, tack boxes, saddles, feed buckets etc.)
- Must be able to walk and stand in/on uneven surfaces for up to 7 hours per day -(tacking horses for sessions - lunging horses for warmup - leading horses for therapy sessions - R&R horses to and from their stalls over a 12 acre "farm/ranch" facility
- Must possess the agility and dexterity to rapidly move toward or away from full sized horses to protect the safety of the disabled rider and/or side walkers / horse handlers / therapists.

Must be able to jog, without stopping, approximately 150 yards on an uneven surface, while driving or leading a therapy horse.