

# The National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy

A California Non-Profit Corporation  
Established 1971

## Position Description (4/2019)

**Title:** Horse Handler

**Reports to:** Barn and Facilities Manager

**Employment Status:** non-exempt

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

### Direct Responsibilities:

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

### Position Requirements:

- Must possess strong horsemanship skills and have experience handling, lunging and riding a variety of horses at the walk/trot/canter.
- Must be able to work in a team environment, supporting other barn staff and working with NCEFT therapists and volunteers.
- 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 (warming up horses, tacking horses for sessions, leading horses for therapy sessions, bringing 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.