

THIS OLD HORSE  
VOLUNTEER  
TRAINING

Welcome to our  
community of  
horse lovers.

Welcome!



THIS OLD  
HORSE

# HELLO AND WELCOME

- This Training Manual is an online training program that will guide you to your volunteer experience at This Old Horse. It will inform you about This Old Horse policies, procedures and expectations and help you to determine which volunteer role suits your interests and schedule.
- Just as our herd is diverse, so is the experience level of our volunteers.
- Please be mindful of your safety and others around you. Do not interact directly with the horses if you feel it is beyond your comfort level.
- We realize that some volunteers have little or no experience with horses. With a little time, you will gain knowledge and confidence around the horses. In the meantime, do not put yourself or others at risk if you are uncomfortable handling horses.

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF OUR COMMUNITY

- 365 days a year, regardless of the weather, volunteers arrive at the barn to care for the horses. Without our volunteers, we could not maintain this sanctuary for horses and humans.
- Our guiding principles have helped us to maintain an environment that supports our unique space.
- The guiding principles are
  - **CLEAN**
  - **SAFE**
  - **WELCOMING**
  - **KIND**

# CREATING A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

- It takes a community to make this project work. As we welcome new volunteers, we renew our commitment to treat all people, animals and things, with consideration and respect.

# KINDNESS

- We treat all members of our community-animal and human-with kindness and compassion.This includes verbal and non-verbal interactions.
- Kindness is practiced here.

# **MAINTAINING A SAFE, CLEAN BARN**

- We are proud of our barn. All efforts and suggestions around this principle are deeply appreciated and considered.

# SIGN UP FOR SHIFTS

- Go to [www.thisoldhorse.com](http://www.thisoldhorse.com) and select "Volunteer Home Page" from the menu across the top of the page. Once there, click the button "Feed Crew Signup Sheet" and sign up for your shifts.
- There are many opportunities that await.
- We could not accomplish our mission without you!
- Thank you so much.

# RECORDING YOUR HOURS

- After completing your shift, record your hours by using a computer or mobile device. Go to [www.thisoldhorse.com](http://www.thisoldhorse.com) (not .org)
- Select "Volunteer Home Page"
- Enter your information
- Enter your hours
- Select your activity
- Click "Submit"



# STAYING INFORMED AND KEEPING US INFORMED

- The "Volunteer Home Page" is a flexible tool. From there you log your hours, keep up with news, educational opportunities and even easily link to sign-up pages for events.
- If you're expanding your knowledge by going to clinics, trainings and educational opportunities, on or off site, we'd love to know. Please fill out the "Training Log"

# **BE AWARE AND INFORMED**

- Injury and death are possible when working with horses. You can decrease your risk of harm by staying focused, regularly seeking horse education and training, and by keeping up to date on This Old Horse policies, procedures and barn rules.

# WAIVER AND INFORMED CONSENT

- Before your first shift begins, you must complete an Application, Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Waiver and Informed Consent and Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Stable Rules.
- Anyone entering the barn must sign a Waiver and Informed Consent and adhere to the Stable Rules.
- Volunteers should not hatter, handle, lead or Interact with a horse beyond their experience and comfort level. If a volunteer feels unsure or unsafe in any situation, they should notify the bam staff.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Accomplishing our mission of providing sanctuary for deserving horses would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters.
- This Old Horse depends on volunteers to help maintain a clean, welcoming environment where the horses are well-loved and well-cared for.
- You are guaranteed to get exhausted and dirty. In return, you'll feel the satisfaction of a job well done and the nickering gratitude of your four-legged friends! The following are volunteer roles that are currently available at the ranch.