



## Job Description – Horse Handler

**TITLE:** Horse Handler  
**STATUS:** As Needed/Contract Labor  
**REPORTS TO:** Equine Program Manager

**GENERAL FUNCTION:** Handle horses during therapy sessions and perform general horse and facility care.

**REQUIRED EXPERIENCE:** 5+ years of experience with horses.

**REQUIRED EDUCATION:** High school diploma or GED

### PREREQUISITE SKILLS:

Candidates interested in this role should have working equine knowledge and should be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- Interpret and reasonably predict equine behavior
- Detect illness, injury, and veterinary emergencies in a horse
- Groom, tack, and lead horses independently
- Communicate effectively and appropriately with others
- Work with a team in a fast-paced work environment

### ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

The following functions describe the essential duties of this role. Additional related duties may be assigned from time to time.

1. Prepare therapy horses for occupational and physical therapy sessions
2. Ground-drive horses during therapy sessions and communicate with therapists to ensure safety and quality of equine-assisted therapy
3. Participate in general horse and barn care, e.g. feeding, turnout, grooming, cleaning/filling water buckets, stacking hay
4. Assist in upkeep and maintenance of stable, tack room, arena, and equipment
5. Demonstrate good horsemanship skills and prioritize safety at all times

### PHYSICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to lift upwards of 50 pounds
- Ability to walk several miles per shift on uneven surfaces
- Ability to work safely and confidently around horses
- Ability to work in hot or cold weather environments
- Ability to sustain frequent standing, walking, bending (forward and sideways), grasping, twisting at the waist, squatting, and kneeling

Interested candidates should contact Emma Meeks, Equine Program Manager, by email:

[emeeks@childrenstheraplay.org](mailto:emeeks@childrenstheraplay.org)

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