

Bear Valley Rescue

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress
can be judged by the way its animals are treated.
~ Mahatma Gandhi

since 2004

VOLUNTEER FORM

Volunteers are always welcome at Bear Valley Rescue (BVR). *Please note: Bear Valley Rescue is not a riding stable or facility.*

What can you do to help as a volunteer?

If you have experience with horses, you can spend time grooming, feeding, leading, and handling. Paddocks need to be cleaned, buckets washed, sheds, shelters and fences built or repaired. There is always a lot to do at the Rescue!

If you are not experienced with horses, there are other things you can do to help out Bear Valley Rescue. You can post flyers in your local feed and tack stores, coffee shops and cafes, submit a classified ad to your local paper on our behalf, volunteer at one of our fundraising events, or even take care of some site inspections and adoption follow ups.

Volunteers may assist with picking up of animals, animal intake process, medical treatment and hoof care. In addition to helping with the horses and other animals, we are always in need of help with office and administrative duties.

We could not run our program without the help and support of our volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, even if you have no experience with large animals, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will try to accommodate your skills, regardless of what they may be. We are truly appreciative of any assistance you can offer!

IN THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS, PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND PROVIDE SIGNATURES:

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Legal Name			
Address Line 1			
Address Line 2			
Email			
Telephone #		Cell or Alternate Phone #	
Emergency Contact Name & Phone #			

Why do you want to volunteer with Bear Valley Rescue?

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

In which of these areas do you feel you have experience you would like to share? If you don't see anything that fits with your interests, tell us how you would like to help at Bear Valley Rescue. We would also appreciate learning about your current/previous experience with horses/equines.

SKILLS

- equine healing (massage, chiro, essential oils, energy work, herbal support)
- farrier work equine hauling equine nutrition
- grooming training feeding
- event planning videographer photography
- carpentry barn chores manual labour
- fundraising grant writing public relations

Other, please list:

EXPERIENCE WITH HORSES/Equestrian Background

- Equine owner, current – how long Equine owner, previous – how long, when
- Equine Trainer – 2+ years experience
- Riding instructor – 2+ years experience
- Leasing a horse Taking lessons No previous experience

Other, please list:

Volunteer positions working with Bear Valley Rescue horses include:

- Feed crew Horse handlers Trainers Fence Repair Other

Please tell us what type of tasks you are interested in and why:

Volunteer hours of operation are from 9:00am to 5:00pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Please tell us the days you are available to volunteer (we ask our volunteers to be committed/dedicated to the times and days they request since Bear Valley Rescue is small and we need to bring in extra volunteers at times).

Besides the horses, we have other residents on the premises that require time and care, such as pigs, goats, chickens, and cows. We also have administrative tasks, fundraising events, marketing ideas, etc. that volunteers can assist with. What other areas of operations would you like to assist with if you could?

BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

For the following questions, **please answer as honestly as you can**. We are not looking to judge, but to have an idea about the individuals who come and spend time at the Rescue. Our animals are important to us, so we need as much relevant information as possible about their visitors and caregivers.

Have you ever:

Sold or given away a senior horse after years of ownership?

Yes No

Been investigated for or convicted of any form of animal neglect, abuse, or any other form of inhumane treatment to animals?

Yes No

Surrendered an animal to a Humane Society, Rescue Organization or Animal Control?

Yes No

Been arrested, convicted, plead guilty, or agreed to a plea bargain for a felony or for crimes of violence?

Yes No

If you answered YES to any above, please give us a detailed explanation of the circumstances:

REFERENCES

Please provide us with a minimum of two references who can tell us about your experience with animals and your potential strengths as a volunteer. Please include your relationship to each reference, their address, contact numbers and emails.

Reference 1: _____

Reference 2: _____

Optional additional references:

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

I understand that horses are prey animals, independent thinking, living beings, with their own minds, and as such will never be entirely predictable.

I understand that risks exist in all equestrian activities, including risk of permanent disability or death, which common sense and personal awareness may help to reduce.

I am aware that whenever I am a volunteer at BVR it is my responsibility to:

- be alert and respectful of the horses’ intentions, signalled with their ears, eyes, body, head, teeth and hooves.
- speak and move in a calm, consistent, and confident way when approaching a horse or horses.
- avoid sudden movements or noises

Follow all orientation directions for approaching and working around the horses:

- **NEVER** leave horses unattended with gates left open, in the barn aisles, while they are tied, while they are in the wash rack or anywhere at any time unless let loose in pastures or paddocks
- always lead horses appropriately and with great attention, holding the lead rope so that it is not looped around any body parts
- always wear appropriate clothing including durable shoes or muck boots
- pick up and replace all tack and equipment used
- know locations of emergency telephones, veterinarian’s phone numbers and Bear Valley Rescue contact numbers
- know all fire emergency procedures

- never be intoxicated while on Bear Valley Rescue property or allow others to do so
- no smoking in the barn or sheds
- read and obey all posted information and warnings
- recognize that you are part of a team and respect what all team members have to offer
- when around other team members, be willing to share knowledge/experience; look for opportunities to learn from other team members
- comply promptly with all verbal directions from Bear Valley Rescue staff and volunteer coordinators
- refrain from acting in any manner which may cause or contribute to injury of self, others, or the horses
- follow the rules of the facility and interact with neighbours and/or other boarders in a friendly and respectful manner

I understand that this is only a partial list, and I must be safety conscious and exercise sound judgement **AT ALL TIMES**. **ANYONE found to be endangering themselves or other people or the horses or other animal residents will face IMMEDIATE revocation of their volunteer privileges WITHOUT EXCEPTION as well as prompt removal from the property.**

I understand and agree that submitting this application form does not automatically register me as a Bear Valley Rescue volunteer, and that there may be certain qualifications I must meet; including the acceptance of established volunteer policies and procedures before I may begin volunteering. I also understand that I will be required to sign a waiver before I begin any volunteering. By submitting this form, I attest that the information I have provided on the form is true and accurate.

Date: _____

Participant (Signature): _____

Signature of Parent or Legal /Guardian (if volunteer is under 18 years of age):

By signing this application, you certify that you are over the age of 18, or are the legal parent or guardian of said minor which is applying to volunteer with Bear Valley Rescue, and you give your permission for them to volunteer with our equine rescue.

Witness Name (Please print): _____

Date: _____

Witness (Signature): _____