

Volunteering Opportunities – Horses & Ponies Protection Association (HAPPA)

Volunteers must be 18 + or 16 + accompanied by a parent/guardian

Are you passionate about horses and looking for a meaningful way to give back? HAPPA are seeking dedicated, reliable volunteers to continue delivering its mission of; ***Giving a Second Chance to Neglected, Abused and Unwanted Equines through Rescue, Rehabilitation, Rehoming and Education.***

Volunteers are an integral part of the charity and help to deliver a range of activities and events, as well as equine focused educational events that are an essential part of HAPPA's day to day operations. Volunteering can be flexible to suit individual needs and fit in with HAPPA's operational needs. Volunteering can also be offered on a more structured basis or bespoke to a department.

At HAPPA we value our volunteers and are keen to engage people from diverse backgrounds to manage a range of projects and provide a cost-effective service, enabling **HAPPA** to raise vital funds for the longevity of the charity. Volunteers are also proactive and generate new ideas and share experiences, which help to promote and grow the organisation. HAPPA do not receive any government funding and rely on donations and facilitating fundraising events to run the organisation. Volunteers play a vital role in sustaining our mission well into the future.

We appreciate that many volunteers will be keen to embrace hands on horse care, our greatest need is for volunteers to support fundraising, events and yard maintenance. **HAPPA** provides a safe place for the rehabilitation of neglected, abandoned and at-risk horses, ponies and donkeys. Many of the residents require ongoing medical care, specialist handling and long-term rehabilitation.

Due to the nature of our rescue work, some horses in our care are classified as 'high risk', these may include horses that have suffered because of trauma and have behavioural related challenges. For the safety of the staff working at HAPPA and volunteers involved, we can only allow volunteer assistance with equine assisted events/activities lead by our Education & Engagement manager. These events/activities involve working with children and equines. Please note that this work is subject to a DBS check, equine handling assessment and reference requests.

The rationale for this exclusion is that many of our horses require professional rehabilitation and are handled by experienced, insured staff. Equines involved in our educational activities/events are monitored under an on-going risk assessment lead by the Education & Engagement manager. These equines have been deemed safe to work with, however, HAPPA must disclose that the equines we work with at the centre are rescued and still undergoing their rehabilitation journey, therefore working with the equines would be at risk of the volunteer.

What we are looking for are volunteers with a positive team-oriented attitude to help us with maintenance support, from painting and mending anything from stables and fences to general yard tidying and organising.

We are keen to engage people that thrive and are willing to work outdoors in all weathers, to complete ground maintenance, weeding, sweeping and gardening. Helping us to maintain the site and stable areas, preparing the facilities to welcome its visitors and in readiness for Health & Safety Inspections.



We are also keen to recruit passionate fundraisers and advocates to help with events, from planning, to preparing, to running an event. Operating a tombola, running a stall or sourcing and organising raffle prizes, helping at a charity event and both onsite and offsite open days. Education is also a part of our mission, recruiting people eager to help educate the next generation on equine welfare to prevent cruelty and neglect in the future.

In exchange for giving HAPPA your valuable time, we promise a sense of satisfaction and pride in helping HAPPA to support vulnerable horses, ponies and donkeys. There will be opportunity to learn new skills and gain hands on practical experience.

We can also provide you with a volunteer reference (after a qualifying period) and welcome you to our HAPPA community, with a sense of belonging. If you would like to be part of something truly meaningful and amazing, we would love to hear from you and together we can make a difference and give a horse the 'Second Chance' that they deserve.