



## **HPS TRAINING PROGRAM INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES**

Executive Director in charge of HPS: Joanie Benson 704-855-2978 (Landline)

Barn Manager/Trainer: Christina Smith 980-234-4777

Head Trainers: Grace Meckley- 704-224-9716

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO HELP YOU MAKE A DECISION ABOUT ENTERING THE PROGRAM:**

- The HPS Training Program is designed to teach people how to help horses further their ***bonding and trust*** with people so that they may be placed in new quality homes. It is a unique training intended for horses and volunteers. It is NOT a riding lesson program. We take this program very seriously.
- You may be an experienced rider; however, little of that experience may apply in this situation. A considerable amount of groundwork within the arena may be necessary before riding any of the horses, as the time spent on groundwork is specifically for bonding and trust. This is to be a fun time for both. The time frame will vary greatly depending on the horse and its needs.
- This program requires diligence, patients, and dedication. While volunteering, we hope you will build a connection with a horse while learning about them. When starting the program, you will be paired with an appropriate horse.
- It is not required, but it would be helpful and enjoyable for you to read the following books. We've found them fascinating and a transformative journey for any horse lover.

#### **The books are:**

**Centered Riding**, Sally Swift

**Dancing with Horses**, by Klaus Ferdinand Hempfling

### **THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS BEFORE REQUESTING TO ENTER THE PROGRAM:**

We ask that you volunteer at the rescue for at least two months and have at least 14 to 16 hours of volunteering per month.

MEMBERSHIP (YEARLY), fill out a Membership Form and pay yearly dues.

**MUST KNOW THE HORSES** and

Be able to distinguish between the horses and know their personalities.

**ENTER TRAINING PROGRAM**

Requests to enter the training program are through Joanie Benson, Executive Director.

All Adults should be good riders and have an acceptable weight for a particular horse.

Children do not need prior experience.

**STARTING THE PROGRAM**

Training Days TBD (Joanie/Christina/Grace)

**The training is about trust and partnership with the horse.**

Dominance is never a factor!

Building Trust and a bond begins with the horse (Groundwork only).

It would be best if you worked with the horse until a connection has been formed.

We are connecting and building trust and bonding together.

Be prepared to be patient, as the bonding can take time before you can ride the horse. It would help if you were the appropriate weight for the horse.

**You will learn the following:**

HPS requires that the horse's halter be put on in the correct way and holding the lead.

HPS's basic grooming techniques (Great way to start building a relationship with a horse)

Begin in the arena: basic handling skills, including the clue to walk, stop, and turn.

***IMPORTANT TO NOTE:***

*You may only train with a Head Trainer. There are NO exceptions to this rule.*

*Any use of the arena requires that it be wet down first. You will be shown how to do this properly.*