

Feeding Procedures

All new volunteers will work with a trained feeder that will teach you how to do things correctly. It takes time and no one expects anyone to learn everything the first few times you come to help at the sanctuary.

Morning feed begins 7:00-7:30 a.m. General duties include feeding and watering all the horses, the cats, dog and the chickens. During the feeding process horse are administered meds if required and all horses are given an overview to make sure there are no injuries etc. Mornings and evenings are the only time that all the horses are put up in stalls making this the most convenient time to complete this process.

Evening feed begins between 4:00 -5:00 p.m. However, it is okay to start earlier as long as the horses are not stalled and given their feed before 4:30 p.m. General duties include feeding horses listed on the p.m. section of the feed books, watering, refilling the feed bins and supplements. Evening feeders should always check the medical book for horses needing twice daily care. Feed and supplements must be rotated and restocked for the a.m. shift. The morning feed generally takes 4-5 hours with 2 people working (longer if feeders have to stop and refill feed and supplements).

It is important that the horses are fed in a timely manner. Horses in general need to be fed on a routine schedule. Many of our horses are elderly or recovering from starvation and their health has been compromised so it is extremely important that they have their daily feeds spaced apart adequately in order to prevent colic. Colic can be FATAL. Therefore, we cannot feed them too late in the morning or too early in the evening.

Feeding 45 to 51 horses that are recovering from illness & starvation is a daunting task and requires the efforts of everyone on the feed schedule. Your feeding partner and the sanctuary depends on you to keep your feeding commitment. **If for some reason you must break your commitment, please find your own replacement for that feed.** If it is last minute due to an emergency: 1. call other feeders to trade days. 2. Send an email to all the feeders to ask for a replacement. 3. last resort call: Joanie Benson (704) 855-2978