

EQUINE RESCUE AIKEN

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer with Equine Rescue of Aiken. Please complete and sign this form and return it to our office via fax, email, or postal mail. We look forward to working with you. Volunteer hours are Tuesday through Saturday between 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 pm. Please complete and submit this Volunteer Application, Volunteer Guidelines and the Hold Harmless Agreement.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Name: _____ Date: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

(Will only be used to contact you regarding volunteer events/opportunities)

Age: 10-17 _____ (Will require signature of a Parent/Guardian) 18 or older: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Do you have any medical restrictions or physical limitations that we should be aware of?

Yes _____ No _____ If Yes, please describe (optional) _____

Volunteer Availability:

Seasonal (Specify): _____ Weekly: _____

Member of a Volunteer Group? (Specify): _____

Specify if You are Interested in Volunteering for Any of the Following Categories:

Fundraising: _____ Yard/Area cleanup: _____ Grant Writing: _____

Office Help: _____ Volunteer for Special Events: _____

Organizing projects _____ Repairs/Maintenance Work _____



VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES & POLICIES

Our Mission

At Equine Rescue of Aiken, our volunteers are the heart of everything we do – helping us provide a safe transition for retired racehorses (Off-the-Track Thoroughbreds) as well as helping rescue and rehabilitate at risk horses while creating meaningful connections between horses and people.

1. Volunteer Commitment

- Volunteers are expected to act in a professional, respectful, and compassionate manner at all times.
- Reliability is essential. If you are scheduled, we depend on you.
- Safety – for both humans and horses are always the top priority.

2. New Volunteer Onboarding and Mentorship

- All new volunteers will be paired with an experienced volunteer mentor.
- Mentorship includes:
 - Hands on training in horse handling, grooming and safety protocols
 - Learning Rescue procedures and expectations
 - Gradual introduction to responsibilities based on skill level

3. Horse Handling & Pasture Safety Policy

- No volunteer may enter a pasture alone unless approved as experienced.
- New volunteers are NOT permitted to enter pastures independently under any circumstances.
- New volunteers:
 - May only enter pastures when accompanied by experienced volunteer
 - Grooming, haltering or interacting with horses must always be supervised for new volunteers
 - Must follow proper safety and handling techniques.
 - Focus on learning safety, horse behavior and proper handling

4. Experienced Volunteers

- Approved by staff after demonstrating competence
- May:
 - Work more independently
 - Assist in mentoring new volunteers
 - Handle horses with minimal supervision
 - Serve as role models for safety and professionalism

5. Safety Guidelines

- Always remain aware of your surroundings.
- No running, loud noises or sudden movements around horses.
- Wear appropriate attire; closed toe shoes (boots preferred), comfortable clothing.
- Follow all instructions from staff and experienced volunteers.
- Report any unsafe conditions, injuries, or concerns immediately.

6. Horse Welfare Standards

- Horses must be treated with patience, respect and kindness at all times.
- No harsh handling or discipline is permitted.
- Do not feed horses without permission.
- Report any changes in horse's behavior, health or condition to staff immediately.

7. Property and Facility Expectations

- Keep all areas clean and organized.
- Return tools and equipment to their proper place after use.
- Do not enter restricted areas unless authorized.
- Respect the property.
- Keep all gates closed.

8. Visitors and Public Interaction

- Volunteers may encounter visitors and are expected to be welcoming and professional
- Direct questions to staff when unsure.

We are a team united by a shared mission. Volunteers and staff must treat each other with kindness and respect. We foster an environment of learning, growth and compassion. Your time, heart and dedication make second chances possible. Together we are transforming lives, both equine and human. Thank you for making a difference.

Please sign to indicate your acceptance of these guidelines and policies.

Volunteer Signature

EQUINE RESCUE AIKEN

AIKEN EQUINE RESCUE RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

(Indemnification Included)

WITNESS THIS AGREEMENT this ____ day of _____, 20____, by and between **Equine Rescue of Aiken, Jim Rhodes and Debbie Rhodes** hereinafter referred to as OWNER and _____, hereinafter referred to as RIDER/VISITOR. For good and valuable consideration received, and in return for the use, today and on all future dates of the property, facilities and/or services of OWNER, the RIDER/VISITOR and his or her heirs, assigns, and representatives hereby agree as follows:

1. Inherent Risks and Assumption of Risk. The undersigned RIDER/VISITOR acknowledges there are inherent risks associated with equine activities such as described below, and hereby expressly assumes all risks associated with participating in such activities. The inherent risks include, but are not limited to the propensity of equines to behave in ways such as, running, bucking, biting, kicking, shying, stumbling, rearing, falling or stepping on, that may result in an injury, harm or death to persons on or around them; the unpredictability of equine's reaction to such things as sounds, sudden movement and unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals; certain hazards such as surface and subsurface conditions; collisions with other animals; the limited availability of emergency medical care; and the potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or others, such as failing to maintain control over the animal or not acting within such participant's ability.

RIDER/VISITOR acknowledges that horses, by their very nature are unpredictable and subject to animal whim. RIDER/VISITOR assumes all risks in connection therewith, and expressly waives any claims for any injury or loss arising therefrom. RIDER/VISITOR agrees to abide by and follow OWNER's rules and regulations, which shall be posted and/or available upon request. RIDER/VISITOR further acknowledges that the behavior of any animal is contingent to some extent upon the ability of RIDER/VISITOR. RIDER/VISITOR assumes all risks therefor and warrants a full and fair disclosure of RIDER/VISITOR's abilities has been made to OWNER.

RIDER/VISITOR expressly releases OWNER and any representatives, agents, employees, officers, shareholders, and or directors of OWNER from any and all claims for any injury or damage of any kind, even if caused by negligence (if allowed by the laws of this State) by OWNER, or OWNER representatives, agents, employees, officers, shareholders and directors, whether or not related to any equine activity. RIDER/VISITOR acknowledges OWNER is either an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional.

WARNING

Under South Carolina law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in an equine activity resulting from an inherent risk of equine activity, pursuant to Article 7, Chapter 9 of Title 47, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976.

2. RIDER/VISITOR agrees to release, hold harmless, indemnify and defend OWNER and any representatives, agents, employees, officers, shareholders and directors of OWNER from and against any and all claims, demands, causes of action, damages, judgments, orders, costs or expenses, including attorney's fees, whether actually incurred or not, which may in any way arise from or be in any way connected with RIDER/VISITOR's use of or presence upon the property of OWNER and the facilities located thereon.

3. In the event RIDER/VISITOR is using RIDER/VISITOR's own horse, or any other horse(s) not owned by OWNER, RIDER/VISITOR warrants said horse(s) shall be free from infection, contagious or transmittable diseases and that the horse is not a known kicker, biter or otherwise unusually dangerous. OWNER reserves the right to refuse access or use of any horse upon the premises that does not appear to OWNER to be in good health or is deemed dangerous or undesirable.

4. This Agreement is intended to be a complete release of liability and hold harmless by RIDER/VISITOR in favor of OWNER and any representatives, agents, employees, officers, shareholders and directors of OWNER. However, should any action be brought by RIDER/VISITOR against the aforementioned, it shall be brought within one (1) year of the incident or accident giving rise to said claim. RIDER/VISITOR agrees that damages shall be limited to \$250 for property damage, actual expenses incurred, and a maximum of \$10,000 for damages such as pain and suffering to the extent liability for any of the foregoing is not deemed to have been released according to the general release RIDER/VISITOR is giving through this agreement.

5. RIDER/VISITOR agrees to waive the protection of any applicable statutes in this jurisdiction whose purpose, substance and/or effect is to provide that a general release shall not extend to claims, material or otherwise, which the person giving the release does not know or suspect to exist at the time of executing said release.

RIDER/VISITOR hereby voluntarily enters into this Release of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement with OWNER, understanding that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement is a waiver by RIDER/VISITOR of any and all liability(ies) OWNER and any representatives, agents, employees, officers, shareholders and directors of OWNER may now have, or might ever have, to RIDER/VISITOR:

RIDER/VISITOR

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

If a minor, person representing himself/herself to be the lawful Guardian under this Release of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement:

Minor's Signature: _____

Print Minor Name: _____

Date _____

_____ Date _____

Signature Parent/Guardian for RIDER/VISITOR

OWNER Acknowledgement: _____ Date: _____