

## Pony UP Rescue for Equines

### Volunteer rules/orientation

#### Safety is rule #1.

Be aware of proper footwear and proper safety precaution around large animals. No tennis shoes or sandals or open toed shoes. Footwear should be supportive and anti-slip. It can be cold and wet... protect your feet and hands from cold (gloves, extra socks... and wool is always the warmest).

Horses are large animals who have a strong flight instinct... they are often unpredictable. Be aware of where the horse is at all times... if a horse "scrambles" in a stall...your safest place is in a corner. When approaching a horse from the back, always talk to him/her so they know you are there.. (horses cannot see behind themselves)... horses may want to interact with you by running their muzzles over your coat, your hat or your hair... but beware that they can also nip in this interaction, much like they would do with another horse. Do not encourage this behavior. If at any time you feel unsafe with a horse, leave the stall and call another volunteer. Your safety is important! When walking behind a horse, touch it gently on the hip or back to again, let him know you are there.. and when you cross behind the horse, you are safer the closer you are to the butt... he can't kick as hard or as high when you are close. Let us demonstrate this to you, so you are familiar. Some horses do not want to be touched at all and those will be shut out of stalls prior to cleaning... do NOT put yourself in harm's way. If we tell you to avoid contact with a horse.... Please do so.

Never leave stall doors open, close behind you each time you go in and each time you come out. Once a horse is loose, it can be difficult to catch. The same rule applies for gates.... Always shut and always latched. Not optional.

When leading a horse....never wrap the rope around your hand....never coil around your hand...if a horse bolts off that coiled rope will take your fingers off. Horses are always lead off your right side with the horses shoulder/neck by your side. Horses must be properly haltered to be lead. Do not tie horses to anything... horses should be held for vet, shoer, chiropractor, etc.

If a horse does get loose.... RUN to the front gate at the road and make sure it is shut... we do not want any horses in the road or near traffic.

When stalls are clean, take care to NOT rake up all stall pellets... they are there to absorb urine.

Each morning and evening, horses are fed hay/grain and all water tubs will be checked to make sure there is available drinking water and that it is clean. On Saturdays, large tubs are dumped and then scrubbed, and then refilled. We always feed our grain "WET" ..... warm water added. We NEVER feed dry

grain by itself. Why? Because the grain is dry and horses can choke if it clogs together in their mouths or throats.... Leading to a very stressful situation for us and the horse. Always add warm water until grain mixture is soupy.

While attending to horses, please notice if a horse seems ill or if there is a wound.... Report injuries, wounds, snotty noses to Rosemary @206.910.2136. If an injury is severe.... Call the vet immediately... vet numbers are posted on the board by feed bin.

If you find something broken that needs to be fixed...if it is not life threatening... make a note on the blackboard..... if it is life threatening or dangerous... call Rosemary @206.910.2136. If it seems like a fence is down and a horse could get out... call .

Inspect and smell hay for mold if it seems wet or damp..... we DO NOT EVER feed moldy hay or hay that seems dirty.

Please NO children on the farm unless by arrangement. We do not take volunteers under age 16 unless parent is with the child and it has been prearranged with staff. No visiting is allowed by anyone unless it has been arranged with staff.

No pictures and no videos are allowed on farm without explicit permission from Pony Up Staff.

You must sign a release form to volunteer. You must also work an orientation with another volunteer.

NO dogs are allowed on the farm... period. We have chickens and barn cats ... their safety is our concern.

Before you leave the farm:

Did all horses have drinking water?

Are lights shut off?

Is water shut off?

Are stall doors locked/shut?

Is barn locked?

Front gate locked.