

# DREAMCHASER HORSE RESCUE & REHABILITATION

## GENERAL HORSE & CHORE INFORMATION

### General Information

1. Prior to performing **any** volunteer duties the following must be completed:
  - a. Read, understand, complete and sign the Volunteer Application and Release form.
  - b. Read, understand, and sign the Dreamchaser Safety Instructions.
  - c. Submit Volunteer Application and Safety Instructions to Dreamchaser Horse Rescue.
  - d. Receive acceptance from Dreamchaser into their volunteer program.
2. Park in the cleared area just north of the horse area.
3. Upon arrival, always check in with Susan or Mike and sign the Volunteer Register located in the tack shed.
4. Recommended items to wear and bring with you:
  - a. Clothing appropriate for the weather. Be sure to only wear clothing that can get dirty and stained.
  - b. Sturdy shoes
  - c. Boots (for muddy weather)
  - d. Hat
  - e. Sun block
  - f. Jacket/Coat (weather applicable)
  - g. Work gloves
  - h. Drinking water
5. We haul in all of our water for both ranch and personal use. During the heat of the summer this can mean up to four trips a day to bring in enough water. Water conservation is **very** important. Please do your part to help us use only what is necessary.
6. Always feel free to ask any questions you may have, no matter how trivial they may seem to you. For everyone's safety and comfort it is important that you have the information you need to complete tasks and enjoy your stay with us.

Always remember that the safety of our volunteers and our animals is very important to us. If you are ever uncomfortable or unsure about approaching or being around any animal please ask Susan, Mike, or a seasoned volunteer for assistance.

### Daily Ranch Chore Information

All volunteer time is extremely valuable and very much appreciated by us. However, the daily chores are vital to the health, safety and comfort of our animals. Nothing else gets done until the chores are done, whether there is only one person doing them or ten. So, while it may be one of the dirtier volunteer duties it is one of the most appreciated! It is also very rewarding as you get to know the animals and spend time directly with them. Be sure to take the opportunity during your volunteer time to talk, pet and love on them!

#### 1. Main Chores Morning and Night

- a. Feed all animals
- b. Clean and fill water containers
- c. Clean stalls and pen areas, including goat, sheep, rabbit, chicken and duck areas
- d. Fly masks/blankets depending on season
- e. Moving horses

#### 2. Chore times

- a. We feed three times each day – 7:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m.
- b. Morning chores start at 7:00 a.m.
- c. Evening chores start at 7:00 p.m.

#### 3. Description of Main Ranch Chores

##### a. Feed All Animals

Because many of the animals require special feeds and varied amounts of feed, all feeding will be done under the supervision of Susan or Mike.

##### b. Clean and Fill Water Containers – Again, *all of our water is hauled in so conservation is important.*

- 1) **Not all water containers will be filled with the same amount of water - please check with Susan, Mike, or a seasoned volunteer.**

- 2) Possible tools needed: Skimmers, cleaning brush, Clorox
  - 3) Each stall, paddock and pen has one or more water container or bucket. They need to be cleaned and kept filled throughout the day. Water and containers should be kept reasonably clean.
  - 4) Floating debris can be removed from the containers using skimmers (pool/fish tank skimmers).
  - 5) If water is slimy or filthy, empty and refill the container. In stalls and areas with grindings (fine wood chips) empty water outside of stall or away from grindings to keep them as dry as possible. **Never fill a green or slimy water container. These must be cleaned!**
  - 6) In some cases it will be necessary to clean the container with Clorox to remove slime and film. Clorox and cleaning supplies can be found in the feed shed. **Always thoroughly rinse the container after cleaning.**
  - 7) If there is still more than 1/3 remaining water and it can be reasonably cleaned with the skimmer do not empty or fill the container. This will allow time for the water to be drunk down and cleaned when the majority of the water has been used.
  - 8) Always use your best judgment. If in doubt don't hesitate to ask.
- c. Cleaning Stalls, Pens, Paddocks and Open Areas
- 1) Tools needed: Wheelbarrow and rake, located behind the tack shed. Use the smaller wheelbarrows as they can become heavy when full. DE (white powder of crushed oyster shell) is also used to sprinkle over wet areas. DE is located in two garbage cans by the wheelbarrows.
  - 2) Again – if you are unsure about entering any space with a horse or if a horse scares you please ask for assistance.
  - 3) In areas with grindings, sift as much of the grindings out of the manure as possible. Most grindings will fall through the rake fairly easily. **Dig out any wet urine spots. Sprinkle DE on any wet areas.**

- 4) When cleaning stalls it is often easiest to leave the wheelbarrow outside the stall and empty the rake through the railing.
- 5) Empty the wheelbarrow on to the manure pile located outside of the south fence. Be sure to securely close the gate behind you.

d. Fly Masks

- 1) Generally used from late Spring to early Fall to keep the flies out of the horses' eyes.
- 2) They come in different sizes so as best as possible match the right size mask to the horse. Some horses have designated masks. The horses' names can be found on the masks.
- 3) There are generally two adjustable Velcro straps on a mask to create a good fit. One behind the ears and the other under the jaws.
- 4) Masks should fit snug enough to comfortably stay on and loose enough to avoid rubbing.
- 5) When putting on a fly mask the easiest way is to approach the horse from the side. If unsure how to put on a fly mask ask for assistance.
- 6) Not all horses are accustomed to wearing a fly mask or may not be willing to have one put on or taken off for whatever reason that day. These horses can be left alone or ask for assistance.

e. Horse Blankets

Blankets are used seasonally as the weather requires (winter or rainy weather). If blankets are needed at any particular time Susan or Mike will direct when and how to put them on a horse.

f. Moving Horses

To be done under the supervision of Susan or Mike. **DO NOT move any horse without permission to do so.**

- g. Sweep and organize tack and feed sheds. Make sure all feeding supplies and tack are clean and organized.

### **Other Animal Related Volunteer Opportunities**

These activities require some level of experience with horses and other animals. If interested let us know. When time is available we will work with you to learn.

1. Grooming
2. Gentling
3. Exercising
4. Training

### **Other Volunteer Opportunities**

We have many other volunteer needs in addition the ones outlined above. Some are even clean jobs and can be done from the comfort of your home!

1. Bookkeeping
2. General Office Work
3. Grant Writing
4. Thank You notes
5. General donation coordination
6. Fundraising
7. Water Hauling
8. Ranch maintenance
9. Equipment Repair/Maintenance
10. Event Coordination and participation
11. Public program coordination and participation
12. Newsletter
13. Publicity (Under the direction of the Board Members)

Volunteering your time is appreciated by the humans and animals of Dreamchaser Horse Rescue & Rehabilitation – more than words can ever say! The work can sometimes be dirty and may seem never ending, but the rewards are bountiful. Our animals say “Thank You” in a variety of ways and we are certain that at some point you will receive a special “Thank You” from one or more of them. Whether it is a soft nicker to greet you, a lick on the face, a gentle nudge up against you, a certain look from their soft eyes, or any other number of acknowledgements you will know it is heartfelt and you have touched a life. **You do make a difference!**