



Job Description —Weekend Barn Lead/Horse Handler

TITLE: Weekend Barn Lead/Horse Handler
EMPLOYMENT TYPE: Non-exempt, Hourly
REPORTS TO: Equine Program Manager

SUMMARY:

Barn Leads manage the care of horses and the barn during weekend hours. Horse Handlers are responsible for preparing and handling horses during therapy sessions, ensuring safety in situations involving equines, and assisting the equine team with overall horse and facility care.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

The following functions describe the essential duties of this role. Other additional related duties may be assigned from time to time.

Independently manage horse/barn care, including daily tasks such as feeding, cleaning, and bedding stalls, turnout, cleaning/filling water buckets, horse health care, and sweeping barn aisles.

Ground drive or head lead horses for physical and occupational therapy sessions. Ensure safety of client, therapist, and horse during each hippotherapy session. Walk several miles throughout the course of a day on uneven terrain.

Demonstrate horsemanship skills and equine knowledge. Team members should be able to interact with horses independently and with confidence.

Effectively communicate with Equine Program Manager regarding any daily changes such as feed, medications, turnout groups, weather contingencies, etc.

Recognize veterinary emergencies and notify Equine Program Manager and veterinarian promptly.

Responsible for daily care of horses and stable including feed, turnout, cleaning stalls, special care as needed and stable clean-up on weekend shifts.

Responsible for emergency vet care, night check, call-offs, staffing questions and issues that arise on weekend shifts.

Responsible for training new weekend shift staff.

Responsible for cleaning stalls for a minimum of one weekday shift per week.

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE:

3+ years of experience with horses; prior experience with stable care or management preferred.

PREREQUISITE SKILLS:

- Working equine knowledge, comfort, and confidence around horses.

- Ability to detect illness/injury in a horse and ability to interpret equine behavior.
- Ability to blanket, halter, and lead horses independently.
- Ability to problem-solve without direct supervision.

WORK SCHEDULE:

1 weekend day per week, 1 stall shift per week, on call 7:30 am Sat-7:30 pm Sun 3x per month, Horse Handling as needed M-F.

PHYSICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to lift to 70 lbs.
- Ability to walk up to 10 miles per day.
- Ability to work safely around horses.
- Ability to work in cold or hot weather environments.
- Ability to sustain frequent standing, walking, bending (forward and sideways), grasping, twisting at the waist, squatting, kneeling.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW:

Located in Carmel, Indiana, The Children's TherAplay Foundation is a not-for-profit outpatient pediatric rehabilitation clinic providing physical and occupational therapies for children with special needs. A unique aspect of Children's TherAplay's programs is that we incorporate the movement of horses (known as *hippotherapy*) as a therapy tool during physical and occupational treatments.

Children's TherAplay is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We are committed to the inclusion of and full participation by all persons in the achievement of our mission.

Would you like to learn more about how you can use your skills to impact an extraordinary mission? We would love to hear from you! Please submit a cover letter, resume and three references to Emma Meeks at emeeks@childrenstheraplay.org. Please no phone calls.