

Equine Care Assistant Role Description

Job Title:	Equine Care Assistant Volunteer
Location:	ISPCA Centres Longford/Mallow/Donegal
Department:	Stable Area
Reports to:	ISPCA Centre Manager/Volunteer Coordinator
Time Commitment:	Flexible, but shifts are a minimum of four hours

The overall purpose of the role:

The Equine Care Assistant Volunteer plays a huge role in the day-to-day care of rescued horses, donkeys, ponies and foals at our Centres. Most animals the ISPCA rescues have been cruelly treated, and have had little to no contact with people or other animals. The Equine Care Assistant helps provide a comfortable and safe environment for the equines during their rehabilitation at the ISPCA. Previous equine experience is required for this volunteer role.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Mucking out the stables and replacing with clean, dry bedding.
- Feeding with special attention to the welfare of emaciated, sick, injured and nervous equines that require close monitoring and special diets.
- Assisting the care assistants with medications/veterinary assessments and treatments.
- Assisting the farrier and equine dentist.
- Help out with land/grass management, stable maintenance and yard duties.
- Spending time with nervous arrivals, helping to build their confidence and trust.
- The stable assistant role is working both indoors and outdoors in all weather conditions.

Skill levels required:

Experience working with equines such as ponies, donkeys, horses and foals in similar capacity or in veterinary practice is an advantage. Physical efforts will be required such as bending, stooping and lifting. Knowledge of zoonosis, equine behaviour, medical and treatment protocols is ideal. Excellent interpersonal skills and desire to work with animals and people is required.

Benefits of Volunteering:

There is huge satisfaction gained helping to rehabilitate Ireland's most cruelly treated and neglected equines. You will be involved in helping them prepare to go to new loving homes where they will be loved and cared for, for the rest of their lives. You will also be meeting new, like-minded animal lovers and gaining valuable experience working in an animal welfare environment.

Volunteer Procedure:

A copy of the volunteer procedure is available upon request from the Centre Manager/ISPCA Volunteer Coordinator. All volunteers must be over 16 years of age for insurance purposes. No expenses are available. Volunteer should follow Health and Safety procedures as set out by ISPCA Management and exercise good judgement.

Time commitment:

Due to the nature of the role, shifts are required to be a minimum of four hours based on a rostered system.

For more information about ISPCA volunteer opportunities, please email volunteer@ispca.ie.