



## How to Become a Volunteer

### **To become a volunteer with SB Equine Evac you must:**

1. Be at least 18 years of age
2. Get sworn in by an officiate of State of CA as service disaster worker
3. Complete our Volunteer Application and Waiver forms
4. Attend one of our Volunteer Training Sessions

To get started - send an email to us at [sbequineevac@gmail.com](mailto:sbequineevac@gmail.com) with your contact information (full name, phone and email address)

We will then contact you and put you on our lists for our upcoming Swearing In and Training Sessions. We typically hold these a couple times per year.

The Swearing In Sessions are done in a group and usually take approximately 30 minutes. You will also fill out the application and sign our waiver at this time.

### **The Training Sessions cover the following:**

- How to inspect and prepare barn stalls for sheltering evacuated horses and basic barn management during an incident
- Basic safety standards for how to handle and care for large animals
- Trailering safety and procedures for loading and unloading horses during an evacuation
- Horse check-in/check-out office procedure during an incident

### **What trained volunteers should bring to emergency events if called in:**

- Dress appropriately – no short shorts, flip flops or open toed shoes. Long pants and gloves are recommended
- Bring a mask if the environment is smoky
- Bring a small flashlight (even if daytime to use to look in barn stalls)
- Bring a small pocket knife if possible to open bales of bedding and hay

## Santa Barbara Equine Assistance and Evacuation Team Volunteer Application Form (You must be 18 years of age or older to volunteer)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact:     ( ) text   ( ) email   ( ) mobile phone   ( ) home phone

Emergency contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any physical, pre-existing medical or psychological limitation that might hinder you from participating any area of our Volunteer Program? (e.g. heart condition, back injury, allergies, phobias etc....) If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you volunteered with any other organization before? ( ) Yes ( ) No  
If yes, where and what did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you able to volunteer immediately in an emergency?: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate what type of experience you have. Mark all that apply.

( X )	ANIMAL CARE	( X )	TRAILER CREW
	Horse handling experience		Hauler/driver
	Horse care/stall prep and cleaning		Crew Member
	Other livestock care experience:		Do you own your own trailer?
	Fundraising		Size? Type?
	Communication		
	Web Design/Newsletters		
	PR/Marketing		Other – please list:
	Telephone Calls		
	Sheltering/Check In		

Do you have any special interests/skills/experience that you would like to use while volunteering?

Do you have any special Certifications or Training? (e.g. CPR etc) \_\_\_\_\_

***As a volunteer for the Santa Barbara Equine Assistance and Evacuation Team (Equine Evac), I understand and agree to the following:***

- I agree to be supervised by the coordinator of volunteers, or a designated Incident Commander.
- If I feel that a communication problem exists between another volunteer and myself, I will report the problem immediately to the coordinator of volunteers or Incident Commander.
- I will treat all of the animals, people, and property associated with Equine Evac with respect.
- I will refrain from using profanity and conduct myself with courtesy and professional manner at all times.
- I will not behave in a manner which causes harm or stress to the animals. Any reckless action will result in the volunteer removed from the Equine Evac Team.
- I agree to stay in areas designated for volunteers and not to trespass into restricted areas.
- I agree to direct animal owners to the Incident Commander or Billeting Manager.
- I agree to wear my volunteer vest while I am acting in a volunteer capacity.
- I give permission to Santa Barbara Equine Assistance and Evacuation Team to use photographs or video footage of my volunteer activities.
- I agree not to speak to the media unless asked to do so by the coordinator of volunteers or Incident Commander.
- I understand and agree that as a volunteer I will keep all information pertaining to Equine Evac, animal owners, or other volunteers confidential. Furthermore, I agree to maintain confidentiality and will refuse to disclose to any unauthorized individuals, either within or outside of Equine Evac, information of a proprietary nature regarding operations, products, processes, work assignments, personnel or business.
- I authorize Equine Evac to seek emergency medical treatment for me in case of an accident, injury or illness and not to hold Equine Evac responsible in such an event. I understand that under Equine Evac Workers Compensation policy, volunteers are not classified as “employees” and therefore are not eligible for coverage for injuries sustained while volunteering.
- I understand that Equine Evac shall not be liable in any manner or form for negligence or unlawful acts of volunteers.
- I waive all claims against Santa Barbara Equine Assistance and Evacuation Team, Inc., the City and County of Santa Barbara, the State of California, and/or members, directors, employees, and volunteers for all personal

injury and property damages resulting from volunteer work with Santa Barbara Equine Assistance and Evacuation Team, Inc.

All of the information I provided in this application is true and correct. If any of the information changes, I will advise you promptly. If any of the information is false, I forfeit the right to be accepted as a volunteer with the Santa Barbara Equine Assistance and Evacuation Team, Inc.

Volunteer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**WAIVER AND RELEASE LIABILITY  
ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT  
Santa Barbara Equine Assistance and Evacuation Team, Inc.**

**IMPORTANT: By signing this agreement, you are giving up certain legal rights, including the right to sue and recover damages in case of injury, death, or property damage. Read this agreement carefully before signing it. Your signature indicates your understanding of and agreement to all terms contained herein.**

**1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INHERENT DANGER AND ASSUMPTION OF THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH HANDLING HORSES AND LARGE ANIMALS**

- A. I, \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Undersigned"), understand and acknowledge that handling horses and other large animals can be dangerous activities that involve inherent risk of serious injury or death due to the unpredictable nature and irrational behavior of such animals, regardless of their training and past performance.
- B. I understand and acknowledge that any horse or large animal, no matter how calm or well-trained may, without warning or apparent cause, step on a person's feet, push or shove a person, bite rear, buck, kick, bolt, spook, stumble, fall, jump obstacles, or otherwise behave in a manner inherently dangerous, thus creating the risk of serious injury or death.
- C. I agree to follow the safety rules and regulations set forth by Santa Barbara Equine Evacuation and Assistance, Inc. (hereinafter "The Team"), while participating in large animal rescue and sheltering activities. I understand and agree that The Team requires the use of closed-toed shoes and long pants for performance of any volunteer duties in furtherance of organizational aims.
- D. **I knowingly and voluntarily assume ALL risks**, inherent or otherwise, foreseeable or unforeseeable, arising from my voluntary handling and sheltering of horses and other large animals. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initials here)

**2. RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE**

- A. **PROTECTED PARTIES.** I waive, release, and discharge from all legal claims for liability for death or personal injury or damages of any kind, arising out of or related to my participation in, or my traveling to and from horse/large animal rescue and evacuation operations with The Team: Santa Barbara Equine Evacuation and Assistance, Inc., County of Santa Barbara, City of Santa Barbara, Earl Warren Showgrounds, and officers, employees, volunteers, and agents of these entities (hereinafter "Releasees").
- B. **PROMISE NOT TO SUE.** I **promise not to sue** Releasees for liability arising out of injury or property damage as a result of Releasees' negligence, acts or omissions, behavior of the horses/large animals, or failure of equipment used to handle and transport such animals. **ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS.** I acknowledge that showgrounds, ranch properties, and land upon which horses and large animals are located feature uneven terrain. I assume the risk of accidents that may arise from tree roots, gopher holes, fence posts, wildlife, rocks, and construction materials upon such premises. I promise not to sue Releasees for injury or damages arising from environmental hazards, known or unknown, natural or manmade on such properties.

**3. INDEMNIFY, SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS**

A. INDEMNITY. I agree that this waiver and release of liability agreement shall be binding upon me, my heirs, assigns, and administrators, and effectively bars such third parties from bringing any legal or equitable claim against releasees arising out of any property damage, injury or death incurred as a result of my participation in operations and functions carried out by The Team. I agree to indemnify, save and hold harmless Releasees from all legal claims arising from my participation with large animal rescue efforts carried out by The Team.

B. GOVERNING LAW. I expressly agree that the foregoing release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement is governed by the laws of the State of California and is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by California law. Furthermore, I agree that in the event any portion of this Agreement is determined to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, that the validity and legal enforceability of the balance of the Agreement shall not be affected or impaired in any way and shall continue in full legal force and effect.

C. ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS. I acknowledge that this document is a contract and agree that if a lawsuit is filed by me or any other party against the Releasees for any injury or damages in breach of this contract, I will pay all attorney’s fees and costs incurred by Releasees in defending such an action.

4. PHOTO RELEASE: I hereby grant Santa Barbara Equine Evacuation and Assistance, Inc., the right to use photographs of my face and likeness procured as a result of my volunteer efforts with the organization for purposes of public outreach, education, and promotion of organizational activities. Such photographs may be published in print format, social media, or websites on the internet, in perpetuity with global circulation, without compensation or consideration paid to me for such rights granted herein.  YES  NO \_\_\_\_\_ (Initials here)

***Capacity of Undersigned to waive all legal claims and release from liability “Releasees”:***

I certify that I am at least 18 years of age and have legal capacity to waive the right to sue, and to hereby discharge Releasees from liability, responsibility, and legal claims arising from my participation in horse and large animal evacuation operations with The Team.

**I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT. I UNDERSTAND IT IS A BINDING PROMISE NOT TO SUE AND A RELEASE AND INDEMNITY FOR ALL CLAIMS.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**