

## Equine Care Assistant Volunteer Role Description

Job Title	Equine Care Assistant Volunteer
Location:	ISPCA Longford/Mallow/Donegal
Department:	Animal Care
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 the Centre. 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. The ISPCA can have in excess of 30 horses, ponies, donkeys or foals on site at any one time at our National Animal Centre.

### 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 animals, particularly ponies, donkeys, foals and horses in similar capacity or in veterinary practice an advantage. Physical efforts/training is required for 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 required. Experience handling equines is an advantage but not essential as we provide full training.

### 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 ISPCA Volunteer Coordinator. All volunteers must be over 16 years of age for insurance purposes. No expenses are available. Volunteer should exercise judgement and follow Health and Safety procedures as set out by ISPCA Management.

### Time commitment

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