
CONTRACT EQUINE TRAINER/COLT STARTER



Background

We are Colorado Horse Rescue, a 501(c)(3) impact organization working continuously to reimagine what is possible and create a reality where safe solutions exist for every horse. We are advocates and strategists. Thinkers and doers. A passionate team with full hearts, helping hands and the vision to rescue and rehome horses in Colorado and beyond. For information about CHR's programs, services, and activities, visit www.chr.org.

Primary Role

Colorado Horse Rescue's Contract Trainers/Colt Starters are responsible for providing training for the equine herd of Colorado Horse Rescue. The CHR herd includes horses that are unstarted/unhandled through under saddle and needing refinement. This requires, but is not limited to, halter training, teaching to pick up feet/legs, tying, starting under saddle, assessing and correcting behavioral problems, refining overall equine education, round penning, trail riding, etc.

This role supports our adoption manager through interviewing potential adopters, providing basic medical information about assigned horses, hosting up to 3 adoption appointments with assigned horses to ensure proper fit of horse and rider/handler, ensuring all paperwork is complete and filed appropriately.

Core Responsibilities

- Maintain clean and organized tack to ensure proper and pain free training
- Assist in all aspects of equine training
- Enter training notes for every session into CHR's equine management system
- Assist in equine marketing
- Assist in CHR events and clinics
- Help to train horsemanship skills to volunteers and staff
- Assist veterinarians on medical evaluations, procedures, and euthanasia
- Communicate with clients and maintain good relations

Common CHR Team Responsibilities

All CHR team members have these common responsibilities:

- Understand and incorporate CHR's mission, goals, and brand in all outreach.
- Effectively represent CHR to relevant partners and the community to increase awareness, referrals, and contributions.
- Serve as an advocate for CHR before stakeholders, partners, and the general public.

Requirements

Our trainers must be patient, both with themselves and with their horses. They need to have excellent self-control of their emotions, as well as their bodies. CHR trainers have a deep understanding of horse behavior and of the horse mindset. We value trainers that are never satisfied with their knowledge, and constantly wants to learn more. Most importantly, CHR trainers have a passion to give every horse the second chance they deserve.

- Commitment to the goals, values, and mission of Colorado Horse Rescue

- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to work collaboratively with individuals across all organizational levels
- Colt starting/horse training background (including but not limited to taking a horse from no training and halter training it/putting it under saddle for the first time)
- Knowledge/understanding/skill in riding Western
- Preferred: Experience dealing with dangerous/unpredictable equines
- Preferred: Experience with mental/physical rehabilitation of equines
- Considerable physical strength/stamina
- Proper time management
- Good communication and problem-solving skills
- Professionalism and integrity

Salary and Benefits

The Contract Trainer/Colt Starter role is considered a contract position with number of hours a week to be determined. Some weekend days will be necessary. This is an hourly position with a pay range of \$17 to \$19 per hour, commiserate with experience.

All contract trainers will be required to fill out an I-9 form and sign a Declaration of Independent Contractor Status form, confirming that the contract trainer understands that he/she:

- Will not be entitled to any workers' compensation benefits in the event of injury
- Is obligated to pay all federal and state income tax on all money earned while performing services for Colorado Horse Rescue

Work Environment

Work is performed on site in both an outdoor and indoor setting. Employee is potentially subject to animal bites, kicks, scratches, and various other unpredictable behaviors. Frequent lifting of up to 75lb. Frequent walking, standing, bending, lifting, high intensity, repetitive motion. Work conditions include both extreme heat and cold (reasonable accommodations will be made). *All trainers are **required** to wear a helmet when riding on CHR property.*

Physical Requirements

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. The ability to walk, stand and host community members outside in all types of weather as well as the ability to sit for sustained periods of time. The vision requirement includes close vision.

EEO Statement

At Colorado Horse Rescue, we do not just accept difference — we celebrate it, we support it, and we thrive on it for the benefit of our employees, our services, and our community. CHR is proud to be an equal opportunity workplace. We celebrate diversity and do not discriminate based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, disability status, or any other applicable characteristics protected by law. We are committed to building a team that represents a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and skills. The more inclusive we are, the better our work will be.

Application Process

Let us know you are interested in this position by sending an email using the subject EQUINE TRAINER to Sarah Hofkamp at shofkamp@chr.org.

Please be advised that incomplete applications will not be considered.

In your email, please include the following:

1. Your resume attached in PDF or Word format
2. Two references with contact information (email address and phone number)
3. The answers to the following:
 - Why are you interested in joining CHR's Equine Training team?
 - Tell us about the process you went through when working with a horse that was shut down and afraid of humans.