



## **Horse Trainer - Part time**

25 hours/week up to 30 hours

Dove Creek Equine Rescue has an opening for an experienced head Horse Trainer to provide comprehensive training and support to our horses of all ages, including horses that are feral or have behavioral issues. The Trainer is responsible for the under-saddle training of our rescue horses to make them ready for adoption as riding horses. This entails having approximately 4 – 8 horses under saddle at all times (from start to basic under saddle training.) The Trainer is responsible for the individualized evaluation and development of a training program for each eligible horse onsite. Due to the nature of our rescue, our horses arrive without background information, and some have not had much handling - what is often described as a “problem horse”.

This position reports to the Rescue Operations Director with additional oversight by the Executive Director.

## **Qualifications**

- Minimum 5 years as a professional trainer
- A proven track record of successfully leading a comprehensive equine training program
- Background and adherence to a “natural horsemanship” training methodology
- Knowledge of and comfort with training feral and/or difficult horses
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team structure
- Ability to maintain an active year-round outdoor schedule
- Ability to lift 50lbs
- A valid driver’s license
- Computer proficiency

## **Responsibilities**

- The Trainer is responsible for the under-saddle training of our rescue horses to make them ready for adoption as riding horses
- This entails having approximately 10 horses under saddle at all times (from start to basic under saddle training.)
- The Trainer is responsible for the individualized evaluation and development of a training program, for each eligible horse onsite
- Actively implement each equine’s specific training including general, ground, and under saddle work
- Identify and attempt to correct equine behavioral issues
- Assist the Rescue Operations director in overall evaluation of equines (behavioral and adoptability)
- Complete timely and accurate training logs
- Assist in up-to-date photos and videos of horses in the training program
- Submit monthly Training Reports to the Rescue Operations Director and Executive Director

- Work with and teach an intern from WTAMU or Amarillo College on a seasonal basis as needed.
- Contribute to and support initiatives to improve processes and procedures
- Assist the Veterinarian/Dental Tech and Farrier when needed
- Administer medications and wound care, when needed
- Assist with Adoption Appointments to find the best match for each individual horse and rider
- Horse Emergency management
- Willingness to feed, in case of emergency
- Act as DCER ambassador

#### Minimum Saddle Training Expectations:

##### Ground Work:

Lead, back, yield hindquarters/forequarters 360 degrees right and left.

Lateral flex left and right.

Send on a circle (on lead rope or lunge line) right and left at a walk and trot.

Send over stationary obstacles (bridge, tarp, etc.) left and right.

Load/Unload trailer quietly.

Stand tied.

Pick up all four feet.

Accepts spray (fly, conditioner, etc.) and bathing.

##### Under Saddle:

Stands still for mounting and dismounting from the left and right.

Walk, trot, canter (can pick up correct lead), stop both directions.

Reliable stop when asked.

Circles right and left at walk, trot, canter (in correct lead).

Back at least 10 steps and stays straight.

Rides in an open pasture

Trailer loads well

Works with farrier well

**About Dove Creek Equine Rescue:** Dove Creek Ranch is located 6 miles west of Canyon, Texas in the Tierra Blanca creek draw – 6 miles west of Canyon, Texas. The ranch is home to Dove Creek Equine Rescue on which the horses to roam 500 acres of canyon valley and prairie land. Celebrating our 12th year, DCER rescues, rehabs, retrains and rehomes horses in the Texas panhandle that need our assistance. Our aim is to restore the dignity, purpose, and wholeness of unwanted horses who need a second chance in life. We adopt horses that are able to be adopted to environments that support their well-being and future long-term care. Total capacity of horses is 30 onsite. Horses are brought in every morning to a pen to be fed, examined, and some pulled for training. There are several pens that hold other horses depending on the needs. 2 barns are on the property – both have indoor arenas. The horses that live at DCER permanently (10- 12) make up the “Led By Horses” herd – Equine Assisted Learning program at DCER which provides assistance to individuals and groups. To date we have taken in and assisted 245 horses and barnyard animals.

Serious Inquiries: CONTACT: Laurie Higgins-Kerley 806-236-2660 or [laurie@dovecreekequinerescue.org](mailto:laurie@dovecreekequinerescue.org) with 3 reputable references.