

Welfare Adviser Volunteering Opportunity

The BHS strives to make a difference for horses by providing advice and support for owners, riders and guardians. We are not a rescue or rehoming service; we work with people to improve horse welfare through education, by improving knowledge and awareness of horses' needs. If you are passionate about equine welfare and will enjoy supporting and educating others to make a difference, this could be the volunteer opportunity for you!

Who are we looking for?

This opportunity may suit you if you:

- have a desire to educate and support others to improve the care of their horses
- are passionate about equine welfare*
- have equestrian knowledge (equivalent to BHS Stage3 Care)
- have excellent attention to detail and can complete confidential, clear and comprehensive reports
- are a strong communicator with great listening skills (diplomacy, discretion and sensitivity essential)
- are seeking to extend your own equine welfare knowledge
- have access to a vehicle and able to travel
- are computer literate and have access to a personal email address**
- want to belong to a local network of other BHS volunteers

*To avoid conflict of interest we are unable to consider you for this role if you are employed or volunteer in the assessment and assistance of equine welfare concerns with another welfare organisation.

** All correspondence relating to welfare concerns must be treated with utmost confidentiality and so be received and handled personally. We are unable to use a family members address, contact number or email.

What's in it for you?

As a BHS volunteer Welfare Adviser you will be helping to improve equine welfare in your local area. You can expand your own skills, knowledge and experience and be part of a strong team of like-minded volunteers.

Example activities of a volunteer Welfare Adviser

We aim to prevent welfare issues through education, and our volunteers provide advice, guidance and support to equine owners and enthusiasts in their local area. We know people have differing amounts of time available, and so there are many ways in which you can help, for example:

- advising and supporting a first-time horse owner
- arranging or supporting a local veterinary talk
- raising awareness on the latest advice on a topical health issue
- responding to non-emergency welfare concerns
- buddying or mentoring another Welfare Adviser
- contributing to other local BHS initiatives, such as Horse Health Days, local events or road safety awareness campaigns

In time, you can choose to undertake additional training and extend your role to include **BHS Friends at the End**. This training will provide you with the skills, confidence and knowledge to support horse owners considering end of life decisions for their companion. If you would like to know more about this, our Welfare Team will be pleased to discuss this with you.

What help will you receive?

All new Welfare Advisers attend initial training and can shadow/buddy with more experienced Welfare Advisers if, for example, you are attending a welfare concern (we will never ask you to assess/attend a welfare concern until you have been fully trained and supported to do so).

You will have local support from BHS regional staff, other Welfare Advisers and your local BHS volunteer committee. You will also be able to call upon the technical support, guidance and training from the dedicated Welfare Team at Head Office, whilst the Volunteer Support Team are on hand to help and assist throughout your personal volunteering journey with us.

Commitment

We commit to providing all the necessary BHS training and resources. We provide regular updates on welfare legislation changes and information on our welfare campaigns. We also provide you with welfare reference documents and a BHS photo ID card. You do not have to pay for any BHS training or resources, and you can claim necessary travel expenses for carrying out your volunteering activities.

The BHS invest substantially in the training costs and resources for Welfare Advisers, and so we ask all volunteers to think carefully before considering this role. Events, talks and visits may involve evenings and/or weekends and the number/nature of local concerns will vary, so flexibility will be important. Additionally, you will need to commit to undertake additional training/on-going learning in order to keep your knowledge current.

Interested and want to know more?

Contact our Volunteer Support Team on dept

www.bhs.org.uk/our-work/welfare/reporting-horses-in-distress/what-is-a-welfare-concern