

Friends at the End (FATE) Volunteering Opportunity

The BHS strives to make a difference for horses by providing advice and support for owners, riders and guardians. BHS Friends help support horse owners through the difficult process of saying goodbye to their beloved equine. The BHS Friends at the End team can talk to owners about the options available if they can no longer keep their horse for any reason. This doesn't have to end in euthanasia and we can help the horse owner find other options if they are available. We offer free, confidential support to horse owners/carers/sharers/loaners before, during and after the death or loss of a horse.

Who are we looking for?

This opportunity may suit you if you:

- are a warm and empathetic with experience of making the end of equine life decisions, supporting others through this process or have previous bereavement or counselling experience
- feel comfortable supporting a horse owner before, during and after the loss of their horse. This may also involve being there on the day of euthanasia to hold the equine if needed
- have equestrian knowledge, including the euthanasia and disposal options available
- have good listening and verbal communication skills (diplomacy, discretion and sensitivity are essential).
- are computer literate and have access to a personal email address. *
- have access to a vehicle and able to travel
- want to belong to a local network of other BHS volunteers.

**All correspondence relating to Friends at the End support must be treated with the utmost confidentiality and so to be received and handed personally. We are unable to use a family member's address, number or email address.*

What's in it for you?

As a BHS Friend you will be supporting horse owners facing the loss of their beloved horse, making a difference during their time of need. Knowing that you supported someone during this very difficult time, even by just making that day a little bit easier, can be very rewarding. You will also be part of a team of like-minded volunteers and develop new skills.

Example activities of a volunteer Friends at the End Volunteer

- Offering email, telephone or face to face support to horse owners regarding end of life decisions. This can be before, during or after the loss of their horse.
- Offering support and advice to a horse owner about the euthanasia and disposal options available.
- Offering rehoming advice to a horse owner if required.
- Being present for euthanasia if necessary.
- Working with your local committee to raise the awareness of the Friends at the End initiative in your area.

What help will you receive?

All Friends at the End volunteers will receive training which includes a session from a veterinary surgeon and chance to gain counselling skills to assist you with the knowledge and skills needed for this role.

You will receive local support from BHS regional staff, other Friends at the End volunteers and your local BHS 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 through your personal volunteering journey with us.

Commitment

We commit to providing all the necessary BHS training and resources. We provide regular updates on any relevant information or welfare campaigns. We will also provide you with Friends at the End 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 volunteer activities through your local committee.

The BHS invest substantially in the training costs and resources for BHS Friends, and so we ask all volunteers to think carefully before considering this role. Events, talks and visits may involve evenings and/or weekends so flexibility will be important.

Interested and want to know more?

More information Friends at the End can be found here: <https://www.bhs.org.uk/our-work/welfare/our-campaigns/friends-at-the-end>

Contact our Volunteer Support Team on volunteer@bhs.org.uk

Ready to apply? Click for our [online application form](#).