

Volunteer 411

By: Nanzie Dock

Volunteers are an integral part of the daily routine at Equine Voices. If you ask them why they choose this particular organization in which to volunteer, most will say "it's the horses". What many don't realize until they've been volunteering for a while is that being, and working with the beautiful horses at the ranch is just icing on the cake! Of course there is always the meeting of new people and opportunities for new friendships, but benefits are so much greater. For instance, Judie Murdock has noticed that her tennis serve has become more powerful since she started volunteering (who would have thought that mucking stalls and corrals has a benefit beyond keeping the corrals clean?) Others may have noticed that working on the ranch has helped them drop a few pounds. Personally, I have lost over 30 pounds since committed to my volunteer work (and work-out) over a year ago. When I started in June of last year, I could barely move. To walk the length of the ranch was a major feat. Now, I find I am able to walk from one end to the other, around the ten acre property with little effort. Being able to slip between the bars of a corral, while wearing a camel pack on my back, is another sweet advantage (beats having to unchain and unlatch the gates)! If you have a story about the benefits of volunteering at Equine Voices, we'd love to hear from you!. Whatever the reason for volunteering, please know that all efforts, no matter the size of the task, help us to continue our quest to save, rehabilitate, and ultimately find homes for as many of these beautiful spirits as possible.

Summer is a time when many of our regular volunteers leave to revisit their primary homes around the globe...Hence; there are less people to do the same amount of work. Therefore, it is beneficial to Equine Voices, for those volunteers who want to become more versed in horse care, to take the extra training, shadowing, and testing, so that they can ultimately help with "horse chores." Having more Red Shirts to carry out the every-day horse chores facilitates other unique training for those horses with special needs. Erica Limmer and Keith Dock (to name a couple), both currently Green Shirts, have just advanced to the shadowing phase toward the next step to acquire a Red Shirt.....No matter the level, nor the color, each and every person, task and commitment, is changing the lives of the equines that reside at Equine Voices. Thank you for being part of our volunteer family, and for those who are thinking about it, come for a visit, or join us for our next orientation, you may get hooked!