



Home of Rest for Old Horses General Volunteer Risk Assessment

1. Overview This risk assessment is designed to identify potential hazards associated with volunteer activities at The Home of Rest for Old Horses and outline measures to minimize risk. Volunteers must take personal responsibility for their safety and follow all guidance provided.

2. Potential Hazards & Control Measures

Café

Hazards:

- Slips, trips, and falls due to spills or cluttered walkways.
- Burns from hot liquids or kitchen equipment.
- Food hygiene risks (cross-contamination, allergies).

Control Measures:

- See Café Risk assessment.
- Clean spills immediately and keep walkways clear.
- Use heat-resistant gloves and handle hot items with care.
- Follow food safety guidelines and wash hands regularly.

Retail

Hazards:

- Slips, trips, and falls from stock placement.
- Cash-handling risks (security concerns).
- Repetitive strain injuries from stocking shelves.

Control Measures:

- Maintain clear pathways and store items securely.
- Avoid displaying large amounts of cash and follow security procedures.
- Take breaks and use proper lifting techniques.

DIY & Maintenance

Hazards:

- Use of power tools and vehicles is not permitted.
- Falls from ladders or uneven surfaces.
- Heavy lifting injuries.

**Control Measures:**

- Wear PPE (gloves, safety goggles).
- Use ladders safely and maintain three points of contact.
- Lift with legs, not back, and seek help for heavy loads.

Gardening**Hazards:**

- Use of sharp tools (cuts, punctures).
- Exposure to allergens or chemicals.
- Uneven terrain causing trips or falls.

Control Measures:

- Wear gloves and handle tools carefully.
- Avoid direct contact with irritants and use safe garden products.
- Watch footing in uneven areas and wear sturdy footwear.

Mucking Out**Hazards:**

- Heavy lifting (bedding, feed, manure).
- Slips from wet or dirty surfaces.
- Dust exposure (respiratory irritation).

Control Measures:

- Use correct lifting techniques and seek assistance when needed.
- Wear non-slip boots and clean surfaces regularly.
- Use masks if working in dusty environments.

Horse & Donkey Handling**Hazards:**

- Kicks or bites from animals.
- Tripping hazards in stables or fields.
- Allergies or zoonotic diseases.

Control Measures:

- Approach animals calmly and always be aware of their body language.



- Wear appropriate footwear and handle equipment properly.
- Wash hands after contact and avoid touching face.

3. General Safety Guidelines

- Volunteers work at their own risk. The Home of Rest for Old Horses is not responsible for injury or loss.
- Suitable clothing is required: sturdy boots, gloves, riding hats (for horse handling), and weather-appropriate clothing.
- First-aid kits are available on site.
- Volunteers should report any hazards or injuries to a staff member immediately.

4. Zoonosis Awareness & Prevention

What is Zoonosis?

Zoonotic diseases are illnesses that can be transmitted between animals and humans. At our facility, we work closely with horses and their environment, so it's important to understand how to protect yourself and others.

Common Zoonotic Risks at the Home

Disease	How It Spreads	Symptoms in Horses	Human Risk
Lice	Direct contact, grooming tools	Itching, hair loss	Skin irritation
Leptospirosis	Contaminated water/urine	Fever, weakness, kidney issues	Flu-like symptoms
Aspergilliosis	Dusty hay/bedding	Respiratory issues	Breathing problems
Worms	Manure, contaminated surfaces	Weight loss, dull coat	Low risk, hygiene-dependent

Prevention Guidelines

- Wash hands before and after handling horses, equipment, or feed
- Wear gloves when handling manure, bedding, or bodily fluids



- Use masks/eye protection in dusty areas (e.g., hay lofts)
- Avoid eating or drinking in horse areas
- Clean tools and equipment regularly
- Report any horse illness to staff immediately

5. Volunteer Acknowledgment I acknowledge that I have read and understood the risk assessment, and I agree to follow all safety guidelines while volunteering.