

## **Mission Statement for Rainbow Acres**

Rainbow Acres, a residential Christian community with heart, empowers persons with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose.

**Job Title: Animal Science Educator**

**Department: Programs**

**Reports to: Education Team**

**Prepared Date: September 2022**

**Summary:** The Animal Science Educator is a member of the Rainbow Acres Education team with primary responsibility for the overall care and well-being of a variety of animals on the Ranch as well as providing consistent, engaging, and resident-centered instruction to a variety of clients with a wide range of abilities. The incumbent is responsible for developing community relationships that enhance and assist in the continuous refinement of a high quality animal science program. This position is a combination of hands on barn work, animal interaction, traditional classroom instruction as well as community engagement. This is a safety sensitive position.

**Minimum qualifications:** Evidence of strong ethical standards and moral character is essential along with sensitivity to the needs of adults with developmental disabilities. A minimum of 3 years' experience in the following areas required: horse handling, horse management, riding fundamentals, experience feeding, raising and showing livestock, facility care, and equipment maintenance. Certification as a therapeutic riding instructor (PATH, CHA, etc.) is required or willing to obtain certification. EAGALA certification preferred. Ability to foster and build relationships in the community related to Rainbow Acres' program, resulting in opportunities for refinement and continuous growth of our program. Demonstrated ability to be flexible, adaptive, and creative in the development and implementation of strategies to ensure continuous quality improvement.

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## **Strategic Priorities and Professional Responsibilities**

1. Ensure the well-being and overall care of a variety of animals on the Ranch including equines, donkeys, sheep, goats and other small animals.
  - Oversees the daily feeding, watering and care of Ranch animals including the scheduling of necessary farrier and vet visits.
  - Monitors, exercises, grooms and trains a variety of domestic animals.
  - Responsibility for maintaining a safe, professional, clean, and healthy environment for the animals and residents.
  - Prepares specialized diets as needed; coordinates with the area veterinarian in the delivery of medications and collecting of samples for analysis.
  - Coordinates the scheduling of residents and/or volunteers to assist in ensuring continuous animal care throughout the week.

2. Prepares and maintains accurate and up to-date animal records assuring compliance with regulatory agencies and program requirements.
3. Primary responsibility for evaluating potential animal/livestock additions (while working within budget guidelines) as well as developing and implementing exit strategies for animals leaving the program.
4. Collaborates cross-functionally regarding the learning goals and objectives for each resident resulting in the development of an individual educational plan that can be monitored, measured, and evaluated quarterly.
5. Develops and delivers high quality and engaging instruction with a focus on positioning the resident to achieve his/her individual goals.
6. Develops and maintains safety protocols and training procedures specific to the animal science program.
7. Assesses the riding ability of the residents and appropriate programs/activities designed to build their skill set.
8. Instructs residents in equine safety, horsemanship, and riding.
9. Follows protocols for equine and animal assisted therapy interventions.
10. Continuously observes residents for physical or behavioral changes, completing and submitting incident reports as appropriate and/or seeking assistance to resolve concerns.
11. Works with the building and grounds staff by reporting maintenance concerns to ensure a safe environment.
12. Upholds the personnel policies, the mission and vision of Rainbow Acres to facilitate a quality Christian community on Rainbow Acres for the benefit of the residents.

**Physical Demands** The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to stand; walk; have great dexterity of hands and arms; stoop; kneel; twist; reach; grip; handle; lift/carry up to 50 pounds; and push/pull up to 50 pounds up to 2/3 of the work day; and talk; or hear. The employee is occasionally required to sit.

**Work Environment** The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally exposed to moving mechanical parts. The employee is occasionally exposed to both hot and dry and/or wet and/or humid conditions; fumes or airborne particles; toxic or caustic chemicals; outside weather conditions. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate to occasionally loud