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“Riding horses is the highlight of my week...
it's what I look forward to doing.”

“The only time I don't feel pain is when I'm riding in the saddle.”

—Chris Petrone

LSCW, Program Manager, Operation Iraqi Freedom,
Veterans Administration, White City, OR
quoting two veterans



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SERVICES FOR HEROES®

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PATH INTERNATIONAL EQUINE SERVICES FOR HEROES®

Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies
for Veterans and Military Personnel

PATH International Equine Services for Heroes®

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WHAT IS

PATH INTERNATIONAL?

The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) promotes safety and optimal outcomes in equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs.

The mission of PATH International Equine Services for Heroes® is to assist military veterans through services provided by PATH Intl. members and by providing leadership and guidance for EAAT. To accomplish this mission, PATH International Member Centers connect with diverse veteran organizations such as the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans centers, community partners, local resources and individual outreach. PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Centers (PACs) are eligible to receive funding that could waive costs for qualified veterans.



★ ★ ★ OUR GOAL

To promote the healing and improvement of the physical, mental and psychological well-being of wounded military personnel and veterans.

WHY CHOOSE

EAAT FOR VETERANS?

Engaging veterans and military personnel as participants in EAAT has been very successful. EAAT has shown to be especially beneficial for those with the diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) and many other physical, social, cognitive and emotional conditions.

Since April 2007, more than 300 PATH Intl. Member Centers offer these activities with meaningful and effective outcomes.

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BENEFITS OF EAAT

FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL

PHYSICAL

Veterans with mobility impairments, including spinal cord injuries and amputations, and physiological dysregulation may benefit from the horse's simulated gait, which improves balance, posture, core strength, flexibility and confidence.

SOCIAL

The equine environment provides a safe space for veterans to come together to share triumphs and challenges. Veterans often report feeling a loss of community after leaving the service so the opportunity to bond with fellow veterans, staff and volunteers, as well as the horses, breaks patterns of isolation and disconnection associated with trauma.

COGNITIVE

Order and direction required while learning proper horsemanship are familiar skills to veterans and military personnel. Focus, organization, reasoning and attention are applied during EAAT sessions.

EMOTIONAL

Bonding with a large animal can be emotionally satisfying and comforting. EAAT provides veterans with opportunities to learn and practice emotional regulation, distress tolerance and resilience. These new skills can lead to increased self-confidence and self-worth resulting in hope and healing.