



"Ensuring excellence and changing lives through equine-assisted activities and therapies"

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PATH Intl. Initiative for Veterans and Service Personnel Receives New Name

Denver—We all know horses are herd animals. But every now and then a special creature will break from the herd to blaze its own trail and set itself apart from others. In following the lead of our equine partners, that is exactly what PATH Intl. has chosen to do. From now on, the initiative formerly known as NARHA Horses for Heroes will be referred to as the trademarked name PATH Intl. Equine Services for Heroes™.

Veterans of any age can benefit from being involved with equines. PATH Intl. Equine Services for Heroes assists military veterans through services provided by PATH Intl. members and by providing leadership and guidance for equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT). To accomplish this mission, PATH Intl. centers connect with Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and Clinics, as well as individual veterans.

When the NARHA Horses for Heroes initiative launched in 2006, the association was made aware that the name had already been trademarked. It was determined at the time that it would likely be okay to use the name as long as we always used the name NARHA with it. The name spread and is being used by innumerable groups. Not all of these entities provide EAAT, and because they are not affiliated with PATH Intl., they are not operating within PATH Intl. standards and guidelines.

Since that time, it has become increasingly apparent that the association, and its members offering services to veterans and wounded service personnel, must set themselves apart from the pack, and a new name was deemed necessary.

PATH Intl. remains committed to helping veterans and wounded service personnel experience the benefits of EAAT. The association will continue to help centers provide services to veterans and wounded service personnel and provide a network of mentors who have been successful in initiating partnerships with their local Veteran's Administration.

Click here for information on [PATH Intl. Equine Services for Heroes](#) or email [Karen Province](#).

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About PATH Intl.:

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.), formerly NARHA, was formed in 1969 to promote equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. At more than 800 member centers, nearly 48,000 children and adults find a sense of independence through involvement with horses. These member centers range from small, one-person programs to large operations with several certified instructors and licensed therapists. In addition to therapeutic equitation, a center may offer any number of equine-assisted activities including hippotherapy, equine-facilitated mental health, driving, interactive

vaulting, trail riding, competition, groundwork or stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. There are more than 43,000 volunteers, 3,700 instructors, 6,000 therapy horses and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at PATH Intl. centers.