

Mini Therapy Outreach Training

Presented by Kenzie Lareau

Hello!



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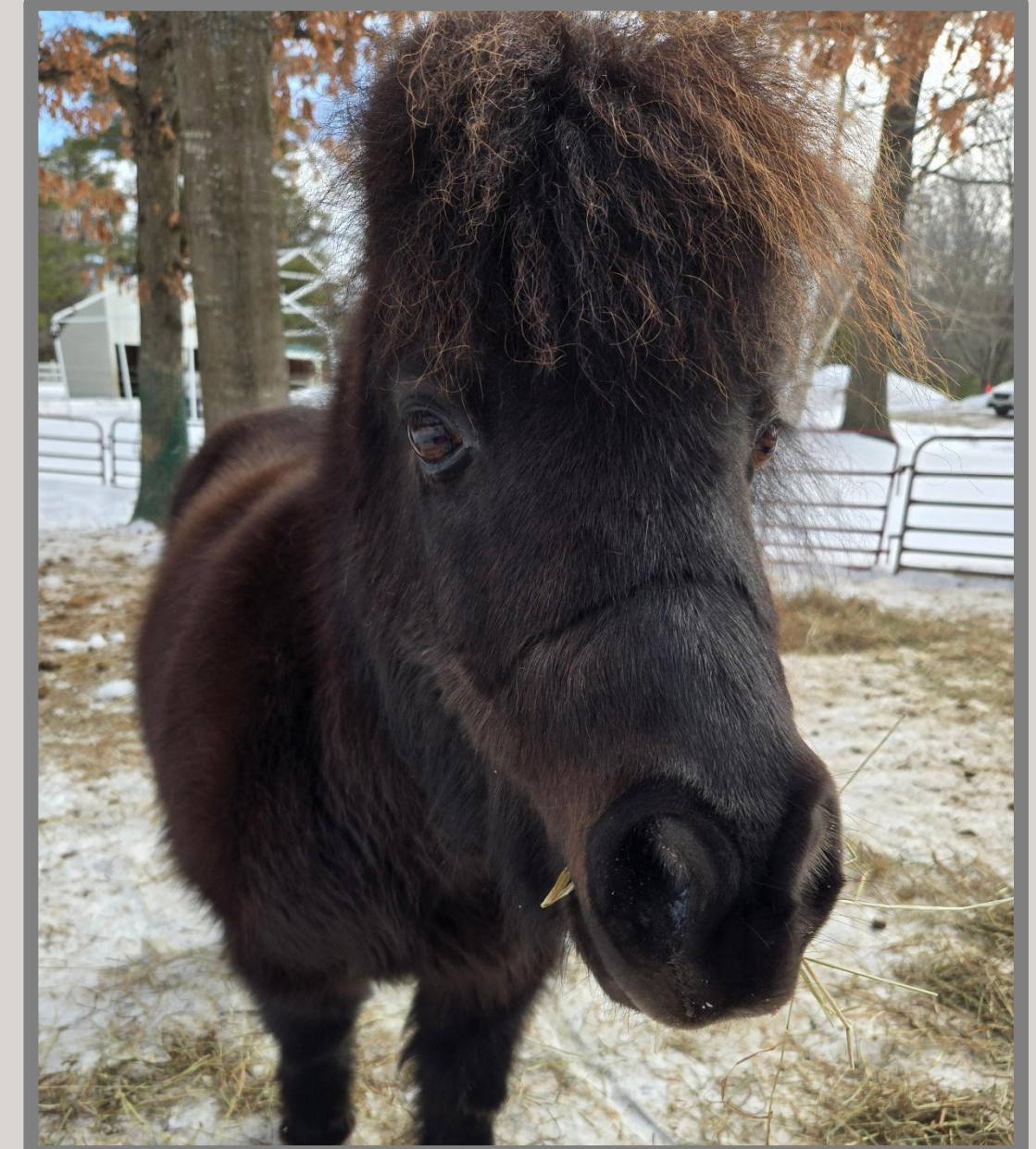
Meet The Crew!



Phoenix
11 Year old Mini
Master Handler Certified



Apollo
20 Year old Mini



AJ
12 Year old Mini

Certification Options

Pet Partners – many different species of therapy animals. Cannot wear poop bags. Cannot charge for visits but can charge for fuel

American Miniature Therapy Horse Association - recertification every 2 years

Seven Oaks Farm - Master Handler

Certification – The only one that is a curriculum based course with mentorship feedback

Seven Oaks Farm

Master Handler Certification:

Online course, no deadline

Seven Oaks Farm have created a training and registration program specific to miniature therapy horses AND their handlers. They help the handler and trainer from start to finish.

“Right now in the US, there is no legal requirement for any certification or registration for miniature therapy horses and/or their handlers”



Opportunities

Schools – Primary and Higher Ed

Hospitals

- In lobby before operation/appointment
- Ronald McDonald House
- High stress areas for staff

Nursing/veterans homes

Hospice

Anti-bullying:

- Just Say Whoa to Bullying
- Valor VIP – Seven Oaks
- Horse Powered Reading



Certification Requirements

Handler

- Federal Background check
- Negative TB test
- All logs
- All assignments completed

Horse

- Health & Vaccine records
- Level 1 test video
- All videos and assignments
- All logs

- Take the Final Exam



Course Material

Section 1 Who We Are

HANDLER:

- Watch this: [Lecture Section 1](#)
- Read this: [Section 1](#) (pages 3-6)
- Take the quiz:** [Section 1: Who We Are](#)
- Watch these videos:
 - [About Us](#)
 - [Together by Star Stable](#)
- Record handler activity in your log notes

HORSE REGISTRATION:

- Read and download this: [Level I Test](#)
- Watch this overview video: [Expectations for first Level 1 Test](#)
- Record horse activity in your log notes
- Submit Video Labeled “Section 1 Level 1 Test”:** *Level I Test. This is a practice test that will serve as a pretest to evaluate where you are starting from. You will submit another practice test in Section 12 and then the Final Exam. Please don't worry about your own or your horse's level of expertise in the video. We just want to see where you both are in your training. This video will allow us to see your improvement throughout the course. If you don't know how to do a section on the test, feel free to note “PASS” in your submission and move on to the next section. Some items you may not be familiar with or have even been exposed to, that is ok. If you or your horse have not experienced one of the activities **please do not force your horse into the experience**. You are the horse's advocate and should determine what your horse is capable of doing. Your horse must know they can trust you.*

● Section 1 Completed

- Submit a Document Labeled “Bathing Procedures” to Google Drive:** *Write out your own procedures for bathing/grooming with your horses. The purpose of this document is to set your personal standards of cleaning/grooming for your program. This is a document you will be able to keep and use. It will be a handy reference for volunteers and others who help out in your organization. Please share with: therapyhorsecertification@gmail.com.*

HORSE REGISTRATION:

- Record horse activity in your log notes. *It is your responsibility to keep a tally of your hours for each month. Logs must be turned in monthly. Please share with: therapyhorsecertification@gmail.com.*
- Submit Video Labeled “Horse Section 7”:** *Demonstrate a proper “stand” with your horse. The purpose of this video is for us to see that your horse is gaining an understanding of the command “stand”. We want to see you use the proper handling techniques you have learned in the course. You do not have to have a visitor present to do this video. Stand for a few minutes, if possible. If your horse is not ready for longer periods, please set up several times and say the command “stand”.*

Everything is submitted through google drive

20 different sections

Handler and Horse certifications do not have to be done at the same time

Horse and Handler Logs

Document, document, document...
Submitted every month to Google Drive
Records hours spent each month

Handler Log:

- Coursework
- training with horse

Horse Log:

- training with horse



Entry: 12/16/24

30 mins - section 8 Quizzes: Handlers/Trainers and Handling Safety

Total time: 30 min

Entry: 12/19/24

1 hour 15 mins - section 9 Lecture and readings

Total time: 1.25 hr

Entry: 12/27/24

15 min - stand position inside indoor setting

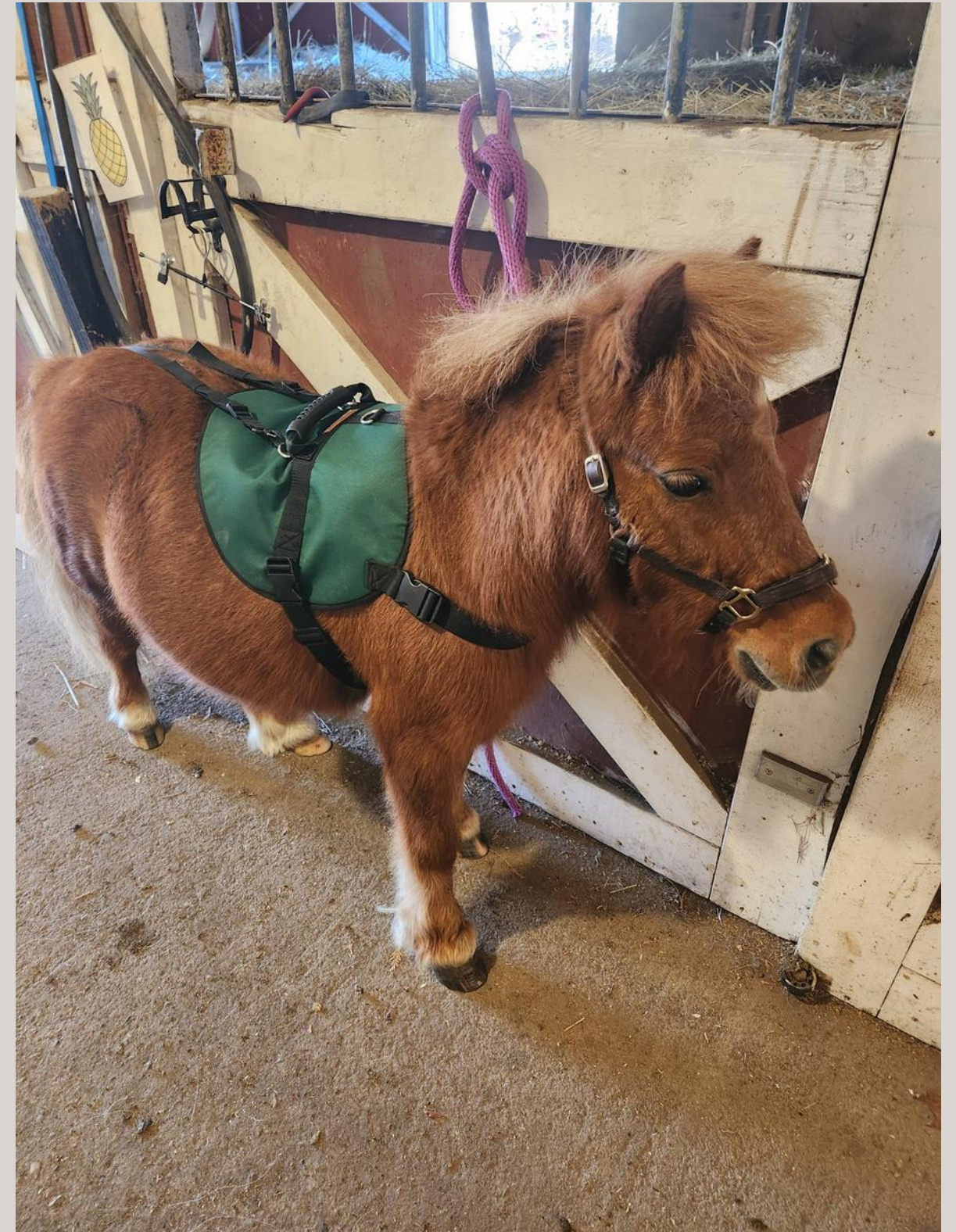
- Phoenix greeted me at the fence and helped me put his halter on
- We walked towards the barn and went right into the little heated room
- With snow on his hooves, I used commands "step" for him to step over the threshold and onto the laminate flooring. His hooves did slip but he was calm and relaxed
- I let him have a long lead to sniff around the ground and see the difference in carpet and flooring.
- We stood in a stand position for 30 sec intervals. He did swing his high end away from me 2x but then relaxed and licked and chewed.
- There were many Christmas decorations that he just sniffed and then ignored.
- I will work on longer intervals next time we return to the room.

Total time: 15 mins

Horse Log

**Handler
Log**

Equipment



Diaper Bag

One with each handler

Doggie pad with plastic backing

5 gallon thick plastic bags

Antibacterial wipes

Paper towels



Commmands

- Walk on
- Whoa
- Stand
- Over
- Back
- step
- Positive reinforcement
- Negative reinforcement



Types of visits

- Soft: local hardware stores, Lowes, Tractor Supply, empty schools
 - Few people, slow movement
- Medium: Kids events, more people, quicker movements
- Hard: Crowds, parades, loud sounds



Horse Registration Levels

LEVEL I REGISTRATION

The Apprentice Level I Registration is designed to test the horse's competency in various situations. The *horse* is required to maintain a sense of ease and order and show no signs of intense fear like rearing, kicking, biting or refusing a command by its handler. The *handler* is expected to show they have an understanding of the horse's behaviors and is at the horse's side as a leader and advocate.

LEVEL II REGISTRATION

The Intermediate Level II Registration is designed to test the horse's ability to do *soft visits* while still having the ability to pass the Level I requirements. The *horse* is expected to accept simple petting and behave during visits with residents, kids, or other people. The *handler* is expected to be the horse's leader and advocate, as well as effectively communicate with visitors.

LEVEL III REGISTRATION

The Advanced Level III Registration is designed to test the horse during *hard visits*, such as daytime to night-time events while still having the ability to pass the Level I and II requirements. The *horse* is expected to visit with people in closer proximity as well as deal with shadows and night lights. The *handler* is expected to be the horse's leader and advocate, effectively communicate with visitors – most importantly, having an awareness of the horse's behavior.

LEVEL IV REGISTRATION

The Master Registration (Level IV) is designed to test the horse during high stress visits and parades while still having the ability to pass the Level I, II, and III requirements. The *horse* is expected to go into most all situation with ease or little introduction to a new situation because the training has been intensive. The *handler* must have a keen eye and be aware of their surroundings, while also effectively communicate with visitors, plus have an ability to control and lead the horse during any circumstance.

“The maximum amount of time a horse can be at a visit per day is two hours.”

“Once a horse is given registration, the horse has ONE year to complete the next test in order to qualify for the next registration level.”

No one knows your horse better than you do.

Cost?

Pet partners – cannot charge

Majority of programs do not charge and they are strictly donations \$350-400

Some are for-profit businesses that donate proceeds of services to a specific nonprofit rescues
Massachusetts - \$175 for 1 hr



Transportation



Miniature Horse Haulers by Bob



Mane in Heaven Miniature Therapy Horses







Questions?



Sources

Seven Oaks Miniature Horses: <https://www.therapyhorses.com/>

Master Handler Course: <https://www.therapyhorses.com/master-handler-certification>

Horse Powered Reading <https://www.horsepoweredreading.com/>

VALOR VIP <https://www.therapyhorses.com/valor-vip>

Just Say Whoa to Bullying <https://www.justsaywhoatobullying.com/>

Pet Partners <https://petpartners.org/>

American Miniature Therapy Horse Association <https://www.amtha.org/>