



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORIENTATION COMPLETION DATE \_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 1192  
Yreka, CA 96097

[www.rrdog.org](http://www.rrdog.org)

# **Safety and Release Forms for Volunteers**

## General and Specific Release

### I agree that:

- 1. I am here of my own volition.** No one has nor will demand that I participate in any activity at Rescue Ranch, Inc. (“Rescue Ranch”). My role at the Rescue Ranch is as a member of a support group and I will look to a staff member for direction when I have completed any task.
- 2. I have read and will obey all safety rules and regulations** of Rescue Ranch. In the interest of the safety of the animals, staff, and volunteers, I acknowledge that Rescue Ranch has the right to revoke volunteer privileges if these rules and regulations are not followed.
- 3. I will be participating in varied activities, which will include constant or intermittent interaction with animals.** I will be participating in a variety of support activities that could also include maintenance and/or repair of various facilities within Rescue Ranch. I understand there may be certain risks involved in working with animals. These include, but are not limited to, being bitten, kicked, clawed, tripped, and possibly exposed to zoonotic diseases.
- 4. I will disclose any physical or psychological limitations to the staff before participating in any activity.** Since I will be interacting with animals, both healthy and sick, big and small, and may also be lifting, carrying, moving or otherwise engaging in physical labor, I will be respectful of my limitations and inform the staff immediately of those limitations.
- 5. I will not be compensated for my efforts nor am I an agent or contractor of Rescue Ranch.** Rescue Ranch is a nonprofit corporation qualified under the laws of the State of California. As such, Rescue Ranch is grateful for the assistance provided by volunteers like me who are willing to perform varied tasks for free. I will refer all visitors or persons seeking to conduct any business at Rescue Ranch to a staff member.
- 6. I will be legally and financially responsible, and will indemnify and hold Rescue Ranch harmless from my own acts and omissions relating to the service I am voluntarily providing to Rescue Ranch.**
- 7. In exchange for the privilege of participating in the activities at Rescue Ranch, I agree that neither I nor my family, nor any legal guardian, heir or assignee, will sue or make a claim against Rescue Ranch or attach the property of Rescue Ranch for death, injury or damage resulting from any act or omission, whether the injury or the damage occurs by act of negligence or any other act by human, by physical condition of the property or by animal.** I understand that I am releasing Rescue Ranch from all claims, demands or actions that I, my family, my heirs or any legal guardian, assignee or legal representative may have now or may have in the future for any death, injury or damage resulting from my participation in the activities at Rescue Ranch.



**8. I am fully aware that I am assuming any and all risks associated with the activities at Rescue Ranch.** I am fully aware that there are many risks and dangers involved in participation in the activities at Rescue Ranch and I agree to accept the consequences of such risks, including, but not limited to, the risk of injury, death, and damage to personal property. If I do not fully understand the risks, I will consult with a staff member immediately. **If I do understand the risks associated with my/my child’s participation, I will verify that I do understand the risks by placing my initials here: \_\_\_\_\_**

**9. Any controversy or claim relating to this Release Agreement will be settled by binding arbitration in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association.** Judgment on the award as rendered by the Arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction over the award. **I understand that by initialing here I have waived the right I/my child would otherwise have to a jury trial. \_\_\_\_\_**

**10. This Release Agreement pertains to my current visit as well as to all future visits.**

**11. This Release Agreement will be governed by and interpreted by the laws of the State of California. The proper venue for any dispute shall be Siskiyou County, California.**

**12. I have read the Release Agreement and fully understand that I will relinquish all claims or actions known now or in the future against Rescue Ranch.** I am of legal age and legally competent to sign this agreement. I am signing this document of my own free will without the influence of a Rescue Ranch staff member.

Name (*print*) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian (if under 18)

I am the parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, a minor child. On behalf of this minor child, I agree to voluntarily assume any and all risks related to my child’s participation in any Rescue Ranch activity under the terms described in this Release Agreement. I further agree that any and all disputes related to my child’s participation in any Rescue Ranch activity shall be governed by this Release Agreement as set forth above.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Waiver for Videotaping and Photography

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby give Rescue Ranch, Inc. the authority to take videos and photographs while I am visiting, volunteering or interning at Rescue Ranch. I understand the videos or photographs may be used for Rescue Ranch magazine, newsletter or other publications. They may also be used as part of videos that relate to Rescue Ranch: either produced by Rescue Ranch or as part of public relations projects for Rescue Ranch.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian (if under 18)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# General Volunteer Safety Guidelines

These guidelines are designed to ensure a safe environment for the animals here at Rescue Ranch, and also for our visitors and staff. Please study them and abide by them.

- Let us know if you have any health or physical issues of which we should be aware.
- Children (anyone under the age of 18) must always be under the supervision of a parent or guardian.
- Non-staff members are allowed in the animal areas of the property only during normal business hours: 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The animal areas are closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.
- It is important to wear clothing that is appropriate to this environment and to the work that you are doing. We recommend closed-toe shoes or boots, long pants such as blue jeans, a shirt that will protect you from scratches and sunburn, and a hat.
- In the summer, you may encounter wasps and rattlesnakes. Snakes generally don't attack unless they feel threatened, so if you see a snake, stay calm and walk slowly away.
- When entering or leaving an animal run, be sure to close and latch the gate behind you. If there is an airlock system, make sure one door is shut before opening the other.
- When volunteering in an animal area, don't go beyond your own "comfort zone." The Rescue Ranch is located at over 2,500 feet, so the altitude can affect you. In the summer it can be hot, so be sure to drink plenty of fluids and protect yourself from the sun. Tell the volunteer coordinator if you would like to change to a different activity.
- Please be aware that your behavior will have an effect on the animals. Calm and gentle behavior has a soothing effect; loud noises, exaggerated gestures, running, and horseplay tend to disturb the animals.
- Any injury, no matter how small, either to an animal or to yourself, should be reported at once to the manager of the department in which you are working.
- Good hygiene can prevent the spread of illness. To protect your health and the health of our animal friends, please wash your hands after working with the animals and before leaving the animal area. Soap and/or hand sanitizer should be available in every area. If you don't see any, please ask the nearest Rescue Ranch employee.



- Safety equipment (earplugs, dust masks, gloves) is available. Please use this equipment as needed.
- Every time you arrive at an animal department, please check in with your designated staff person.
- If you observe a situation with an animal in Yreka or the surrounding area of which you do not approve, please inform a staff supervisor. He/she will notify the proper authority.

*Thank you for volunteering your time and your caring for the creatures. We appreciate your contribution very much, and hope that you and the animals will have a great time together!*

# Safety Guidelines for Volunteering with Dogs

There are many dogs at Rescue Ranch and such a large population obviously creates an environment that is very different from a home with one or two animals. So, for the safety and well-being of the animals, and also for your own safety, we ask that all volunteers attend an orientation.

Orientations are designed to give you basic knowledge about Rescue Ranch and how it works. For children, there is an orientation video. At the orientation, the volunteer coordinator will give you your assignment and answer any questions.

The volunteer coordinator will also explain the meaning of collar colors and the various notices on the runs. Some of the dogs have behavior issues, and need to be treated in particular ways. And there are some dogs with severe behavior problems; volunteers do not work with them. For the safety of the other animals, their gates are padlocked and there is a notice saying "Beware of Dog".

Most of the dogs can go on walks with volunteers. The volunteer coordinator will tell you the simple rules we have developed to ensure the safety and enjoyment of both you and the dogs.

- For the safety of the animals, parking and driving are permitted only in designated areas.
- Children under 10 are not allowed in the dog runs and they are not allowed to walk dogs.
- It is very important to clip all gates closed when entering or leaving a dog run.
- Pregnant women should be aware that dogs often like to jump up on people.
- If you see a dog fight starting, find a staff member to break it up. Please don't try to break up a fight yourself.



## **Volunteer Acknowledgement of Safety Rules**

I have read, understand and will follow the safety rules for the areas listed below (check those that apply):

General policy \_\_\_\_\_

Dog area \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_