



# Mini Hooves Providing Smiles



a Loving Animals Providing Smiles Program

## Getting started in Animal-Assisted Therapy with your Mini-Horse or Mini-Donkey

### Miniature Equine Animal-Assisted Therapy Team Handling Skills Class → Oct 7<sup>th</sup> – Nov 11<sup>th</sup>

MINI HOOVES PROVIDING SMILES {MHPS} is a Loving Animals Providing Smiles (LAPS) Program. Each team completes comprehensive training to develop advanced skills allowing them to work safely and effectively with clients of all ages and in a variety of settings.



**Please contact Alyssa/WCEST Facility Manager and MHPS trainer**

**at (310) 701-9855 or [info@wcequinesportstherapy.com](mailto:info@wcequinesportstherapy.com). She will assist in accessing your miniature equines current skills. All equines must have certain skills prior to enrolling in the LAPS Mini Equine Training Classes. Additional training can be provided by WCEST if your equine needs basic training or simply to prepare for the Therapy Training Class. Once you have contacted Alyssa an application will be emailed or mailed to you.**

### MHPS - ANIMAL-ASSISTED THERAPY TEAM HANDLING SKILLS CLASS SCHEDULE

**Classes – Thursdays 10:00am - 12:30pm (Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, Nov 4<sup>th</sup>) student handler, assistant & pet.**  
**Field Trips - 10:00am – 1:00pm (Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>) student handler, assistant & pet.**

➔ **Thursday classes held at West Coast Equine Sports Therapy (WCEST) facility in Penn Valley from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. WCEST facility is located at 19600 Kneebone Court, Penn Valley CA 95946.**

➔ **Friday field trips will begin at the WCEST facility. Trailer loading/unloading and transport safety will be demonstrated and students will have hands-on practice.**

- MHPS goal is to give you the tools to help your pet be a successful therapy partner. During the class you will learn the best way to communicate with your pet, and honestly assess your pet's behavior and comfort level.
- Class includes extensive written materials, practicing required skills, building team work, role play scenarios, working around healthcare equipment and distractions and three field trips.
- Because lessons build on skills learned in earlier weeks, we ask that participants plan to attend **ALL** sessions. If you have a scheduling conflict, please let us know at the time of registration. **Each team should have a second person attend the classes as well** since once certified each mini-equine team will require an assistant to accompany the team during visits with clients. The assistant will not be a handler but present to provide safety and support to the handler/equine Therapy Team as needed..
- Teams who attend **all** class sessions will receive a certificate of class completion. [This certificate does not indicate team registration or membership in LAPS; nor does completion of the class imply certification / registration as a Therapy Pet or Therapy Team.](#)

### MHPS Team Evaluations on Saturday Nov 13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday Nov 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-1:00pm

➔ **Teams interested in joining LAPS/MHPS will be offered evaluations on one of these dates. Each evaluations takes approximately 45 minutes.** Following a successful evaluation, the team will join MHPS as a Trainee Team and begin working alongside experienced MHPS teams during a short 3-month period. With successful completion of this trainee mentoring period, and determination that the team has demonstrated satisfactory skills, the team will become a Certified LAPS/MHPS Therapy Team.

