
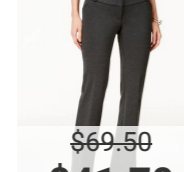
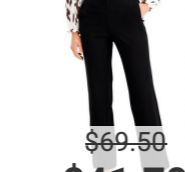

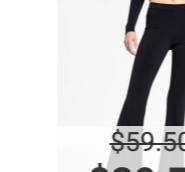

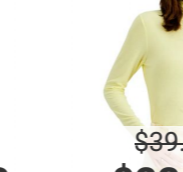





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HorseSensing to host first event

By Tammy Shaw
 Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 3:00 am (Updated: January 13, 3:01 am)

Military veterans carry battle scars both physical and emotional, and the pandemic has isolated these heroes more than usual in a very unusual time.



Photo submitted
 A new barn (below) houses HorseSensing activities. An Army veteran (above) works with a program horse. The organization will host its first event this weekend in Bagdad.

1 of 3

Organizations such as HorseSensing are reaching out to help these vets cope in a chaotic world.

Although events are rare in these social distancing days, HorseSensing will offer vets a chance to connect at an upcoming event on Jan. 16.

All ambulatory veterans are welcome to this specific event, however, other programs will be open to non-ambulatory vets.

And where best to host horse-related events than Shelby County, the Saddlebred Capital of the World.

Connections

Isolation is deadly to military veterans. Vets tend to avoid asking for help and with connections curtailed by the pandemic, suicidal thoughts creep in.

But events like this and unrelated events held by Veterans Club connect these men and women to one another during an especially uncertain time.

HorseSensing founder and executive director, Dr. Sally Broder, hopes 10 to 15 veterans will attend the event, open to all ambulatory military veterans due to the

nature of the program. The maximum of 15 participants is due to COVID-19 and social distancing restrictions.

Veterans will work individually and as a group with three gentle equine giants.

Activities

The event begins at 9:30 a.m. Saturday with coffee, pastries and introductions followed by yoga and basic instruction about how to read horse body language and how horses and people communicate, led by Broder at the facility in Bagdad.

Vets will learn to groom and lead horses, followed by lunch and discussion of the event progress then more hands-on time with horses.

The event closes with "a fun debriefing exercise" and time to say farewell to the horses.

These vets can come back and create a relationship with the horses and with the HorseSensing team.

New space

HorseSensing's new barn includes 10 stalls, a combination large classroom and tack room, office, feed room, wash rack and hayloft for yoga, plus a 120 foot by 60 foot arena, and riding and driving track.

Horse owners can rent up to half the stalls for their semi-retired or retired horses. "These horses will be groomed and exercised per owners' instructions," Broder said.

Stall rental is considered a donation to HorseSensing and rental fees range from \$500 to \$1,000 per month. "These donations will support the programs and horses."

Other services

Another event is tentatively scheduled for the spring. Workshops on horsemanship and equine related topics will be held through the year that the public can attend as well our program participants.

HorseSensing offers a Grooming Education, Certification, and Job Placement Program for veterans, a daily program to help vets with ongoing employment and housing. "That is our daily program that can help veterans not just for one day but with ongoing employment and housing," Broder said.

The program creates a win for both vets seeking employment and horse owners who need grooms, many who have been stuck in limbo due to changes in work visas.

"We are looking for new opportunities to partner with local Shelby County organizations and industries. Any way we can help Shelby County by becoming involved with folks in need here we would like to do."

Healing


HorseSensing is a 10-year-old program that began in California.

"Our goal is to help veterans find a relationship with horses that can also lead them to a better direction in their lives that can help sustain them, even to a new career and lifestyle.

"Horses are healing by their very nature, as many Kentuckians already know."

The organization also services people in recovery from addiction.



Visit www.horsesensing.org or www.horsesensing.com or go to the organization's Facebook page to find out more or call Louisville and Lexington veterans centers.

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