

Getting started in Animal-Assisted Therapy with your Miniature Horse or Miniature Donkey is easy as **A-B-C** !!



Attend our 5-week Mini Hooves Providing Smiles Class

Be successful on test day

Connect with clients



Mini Hooves Providing Smiles is a LAPS Program. Loving Animals Providing Smiles (LAPS) is a highly respected animal-assisted therapy organization with dog, cat, rabbit and miniature equine teams working in Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. Nevada County has working miniature equine teams. 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. LAPS teams provide quality animal-assisted interactions to challenging, fragile and often underserved client populations. For more information about LAPS, please visit our website: www.lovinganimalsprovidingsmiles.org

Contact Us

First, please contact Alyssa/WCEST Facility Manager and trainer at (530) 432-9531. She will assist in reviewing 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 to you.

Start

Once received, please complete and submit the Registration for Miniature Horse/ Miniature Donkey Handling Skills Class application along with a copy of your pet's current Vet vaccination records and class fee payment. Please make check payable to LAPS and mail with all documents to the host training location: WCEST (West Coast Equine Sports Therapy) 19600 Kneebone Court, Penn Valley CA 95946. All applications must be received by March 24, 2020. For additional information contact Valerie/LAPS MHPS Coordinator at (310) 701-9855.

These training classes are especially designed for miniature horses and miniature donkeys. Your pet should be at least one year of age and have lived with you for at least six months. Your pet should be well-socialized and accepting of attention from multiple strangers. Visit our website to download "What Makes a Good Therapy Team" for more information. www.lovinganimalsprovidingsmiles.org

"Bringing acceptance, laughter, and love into the lives of others."

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Loving Animals Providing Smiles

Animal-Assisted Therapy Team Handling Skills Class ➡ April 4th - May 17th

The course will begin on April 4th (10:00 am to 12:00pm - handlers only) Classes and field trips with handlers/equines and team helpers are scheduled on the following dates:

Classes on Sunday April 19 and Saturdays May 2 and May 16

Field Trips on Sundays April 26, May 10 and May 17

➡ All classes held at West Coast Equine Sports Therapy (WCEST) facility in Penn Valley from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. WCEST facility is located at 19600 Kneebone Court, Penn Valley CA 95946.

➡ Please contact Alyssa WCEST Facility Manager and trainer at (530) 432-9531. She will assist in evaluating your miniature equines current skills. Once you have contacted Alyssa an application will be emailed or mailed to you. For additional information contact Valerie at (310) 701-9855.

- LAPS 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 written materials, practicing required skills, building team work, role play scenarios, working around healthcare equipment and distractions and 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.](#)

LAPS Team Evaluations on May 23

Teams interested in joining LAPS will be offered evaluations on this date. Following a successful evaluation, the team will join LAPS as a Trainee Team and begin working alongside experienced LAPS teams during a short 3-month period. With successful completion of this trainee period, and determination that the team has demonstrated satisfactory skills, the team will become a Certified LAPS Therapy Team.

LAPS New Team Orientation on May 30

Upon passing the LAPS team evaluation, new LAPS volunteers will attend an Orientation (handlers/assistants only) to help them get ready for visits.



CLASS FEE:

New LAPS Team: \$200

Second Pet: \$165

Returning/Renewing LAPS Team: \$145 Non-LAPS team: \$280

We offer a discount to teams wishing to join LAPS because they will donate time and resources to our group that non-LAPS teams will not. We firmly believe all teams need these foundation skills to be safe and effective in their volunteer service. To that end, we invite teams to take our class even if they do not intend to pursue LAPS membership. ***If you do not intend to join LAPS, please indicate on the Class Registration that you are a "non-LAPS team."***