Research Participants Needed for an Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy Study!

**Topic:** Experiences of equine-facilitated psychotherapy (EFP) programs for women veterans with military-related posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

Purpose of Research
You are invited to participate in a study investigating the experiences of women veterans with military-related PTSD who participated in an equine-facilitated/assisted psychotherapy (EFP/EAP) treatment program. Participation in this study will help further the knowledge and appreciation of the unique experiences that women veterans have with equines during psychotherapy treatment.

Can I participate?
Women veterans of any age and location in the U.S. who served in the U.S. military from 1990 to present; who either have a verifiable PTSD diagnosis from a mental health professional or medical professional, or if unable to provide PTSD diagnosis would be willing to complete a clinician administered PTSD assessment; and who participated in an EFP/EAP program within the past three years.

What Does the Study Involve?
Your involvement will consist of:
1. Brief 15-20 minute screening interview either in-person or phone to determine eligibility: PTSD diagnosis and EFP program participation.
2. If unable to provide PTSD verification, agree to complete a private clinician administered PTSD assessment scale, which may take anywhere from 30-45 minutes, and this can be done in-person or over the phone.
3. Complete basic information form; may take 10-15 minutes, and this can be done in-person or at home.
4. Participate in a one-time 45-60 minute audiotaped interview in-person at an equine-facility or phone.

*Please note: All your identifying information will be kept strictly confidential under the limits of the law.*

Are There Any Benefits?
Although there is no monetary compensation and no guarantee of benefits, your participation may contribute to research helping veterans or others suffering from military-related PTSD. Specifically, it may benefit and further the research and appreciation of the experiences of women veterans as it relates to their unique lived experiences when working with equines in psychotherapy. It may also help your own understanding of how you respond to animal-based therapies and your military service experiences.

If You Are Interested
If you are interested in participating or have any questions about this study, please contact the principal investigator, Rebecca Wara-Goss, a doctoral student in the East-West Psychology program at California Institute of Integral Studies located in San Francisco, California, she can be reached at:
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Please note: This is an Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved research project.