

## RULES & REGULATIONS

**2009 Western Mission :008  
Fort Worth, Texas  
September 18-20, 2009**

**&**

**2009 Eastern Mission :008  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee  
October 23-25, 2009**

**Purpose:** The mission of the Mustang Heritage Foundation is to increase the adoption of Mustangs to good homes. In keeping with the mission of the Foundation, the Yearling Mustang Makeover has been created to place Nevada Mustang yearlings in adoptive homes through a yearling training event. The goal of the event is to promote adoption through showcasing Mustangs' value and trainability through competition.

**Executive Summary:** Yearling Mustangs, on average, are easier to train than mature Mustangs. In an effort to increase adoption of Mustangs the Mustang Heritage Foundation worked with the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program to create incentive adoption programs, including the Yearling Mustang Makeover. Youth will be able to receive one yearling Mustang, condition and train it for 90 days or more and then enter a competition during the Western and Eastern Extreme Mustang Makeovers restricted to the yearlings. **Approximately \$5,000\* in prize money will be awarded during each competition (\*prize money amount determined by number of trainers entered).** Following the competition, yearlings will be available for adoption through the live bid adoption during the Western Extreme Mustang Makeover on Sunday, September 20, 2009 and during the Eastern Extreme Mustang Makeover on Sunday, October 25, 2009. Trainers will be able to either adopt the yearling Mustang they worked with or trainers may receive 50% of the amount the yearling adopts for during the live adoption over a \$125 adoption fee.

**Overview:** Approximately 25 wild Nevada Mustangs will be available for each competition. These yearling Mustangs will be as uniform in size and age as possible. Mustangs will have current vaccinations, health papers and hooves trimmed. Colts will be gelded. Youth and their family may apply to train one yearling Nevada Mustang. **Youth accepted into the program will receive \$200 reimbursement at the conclusion of the event to offset hauling and horse care expenses.** Contestants accepted into the program will be eligible to pick up a yearling, condition and train for 90 days and compete during the Mission :008 Yearling Mustang Makeover with approximately \$5,000\* in prize money for each yearling competition (\*prize money amount determined by number of trainers entered). Yearlings will be assigned through a lottery system – contestants may not select their yearling. The Western Mission :008 yearlings will be picked up at the BLM facility in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, on June 12-13, 2009. This is the only pick-up date and location for the Western yearling event. The Eastern Mission :008 yearlings will be picked up at the Carr's Wild Horse & Burro Center in Cross Plains, Tennessee, on July 10-11, 2009. This is the only pick-up date and location for the Eastern yearling event. Yearlings will be scored in body condition (not conformation) and an in-hand competition, including picking up feet and leading through a pattern with obstacles. Following the competition, yearlings will be available for adoption during the Extreme Mustang Makeover event. Contestants may adopt their Mustang following the competition for a fee of \$125 (contestant must notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation office of this choice prior to the competition) – or place their Mustang up for adoption through the live adoption during the

Western & Eastern Extreme Mustang Makeovers. Contestants will receive 50% of adoption funds in excess of a \$125 BLM adoption fee.

**Requirements:**

Participation in this event is by invitation only; therefore The Board of Trustees of the Mustang Heritage Foundation has the unqualified right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove an applicant or contestant from a Mustang Heritage Foundation program and/or competition for any reason or for no reason.

1. All participants must complete a trainer application and parent/guardian must complete a BLM Adoption application and submit both by mail (P. O. Box 703, Bertram, TX, 78605) or fax (512) 355-2737 by **May 1<sup>st</sup>** for the **Western (Texas)** event and **June 1<sup>st</sup>** for the **Eastern (Tennessee)** event. Applications must be postmarked or fax dated no later than these dates.
2. All participants parents/guardian must complete and submit a BLM Wild Horse and Burro adoption form to submit with application. This does not mean that participants are obligated in any way to adopt the Mustang they are working with, but we must have the application on file.
3. Age and competitive requirements: 4-H, FFA and Youth (ages 8-18). **Parents and/or guardians must sign all appropriate applications and Mustang adoption forms and must ultimately be responsible for the care of horses. *Children may not receive assistance while in the arena competing.***
4. No substitution or replacement of approved individual will be allowed. The individual accepted must be the individual that competes. Contestants may receive help in the training and conditioning of their yearling.
5. Contestants will receive \$200 to offset horse care and travel expenses.
6. Contestants may apply for one yearling Mustang, if facilities are approved by the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program.
7. Any applicant or selected individual may be removed from the selection process or competition at any time if found to have any alleged history of cruelty to animals or humans. Applicants must meet all BLM Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Requirements. Removal of any trainer from the application process or competitions is at the discretion of the Mustang Heritage Foundation's Board of Trustees.
8. The Mustang Heritage Foundation Board of Trustees may at any time conduct a criminal background check on applicants and remove any applicant from the process for any reason or for no reason.
9. Trailer requirements. You must provide transportation for your Mustang from the equine facility to your facility. While someone else may transport the animal, all trailers must meet these minimum standards: covered top, sturdy walls/floors, and a smooth interior free from any sharp protrusions; ample head room; removable partitions or compartments to separate animals by size and sex, if necessary; floor covered with a non-skid material; and, adequate ventilation. The BLM requires stock-type trailers with rear swing gates to transport adopted animals. Drop ramp, divided two-horse trailers, and trucks with stock racks are not acceptable.
10. Facility requirements. Facility can consist of a corral/paddock/stall/round pen. Facility must be a minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet x 20 feet) and at least 5 feet high. Facility must be sturdy and constructed of materials such as poles, pipes, or planks (minimum 1.5 inch thickness) without dangerous protrusions. Barbed wire, large-mesh woven, stranded and electric materials are unacceptable for fencing. You should not release the Mustang into a large open area, such as a pasture, since you may not be able to recapture the animal for training or to provide veterinary

care. However, once the animal is gentled, you may release it into a pasture or similar area. You must provide shelter from inclement weather and temperature extremes for your Mustang. Shelters must be a two-sided structure with a roof, well drained, adequately ventilated, and accessible to the Mustang. The two sides need to block the prevailing winds and need to protect the major part of the bodies of the horse or burro. Tarps are not acceptable. Contact your administering BLM office for shelter requirements in your area.

11. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged.

12. Trainers are responsible for all care related costs from the day the Mustangs are picked up through the competition.

13. Should the Mustang be deemed untrainable, the trainer must notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation's office as soon as possible. For any and all reasons, the trainer is responsible for returning the Mustang to the BLM facility nearest the trainer.

14. *The purpose of this event is to showcase the talent and trainability of Mustangs; therefore the goal is for all trainers to participate in the event and adoption.*

15. Trainers are required to sign releases so that all photos and filming may be used to promote the event and will be the property of the Mustang Heritage Foundation.

### **Rules:**

1. Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.

2. Trainer applications may be printed from [www.mustangheritagefoundation.org](http://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org) and mailed (P. O. Box 703, Bertram, Texas, 78605) or faxed (512-355-2737). Applications must be postmarked or fax dated by May 1<sup>st</sup> for the Western (Texas) event and June 1<sup>st</sup> for the Eastern (Tennessee) event, to be eligible.

3. Trainer selection will be made based on experience and fulfillment of BLM requirements.

4. BLM and Mustang Heritage Foundation employees and their spouses are not eligible to compete.

5. Trainers are responsible for hauling the Mustang from the BLM facility to their training stable and from their training stable to the competition at the Extreme Mustang Makeover.

6. Bedded stalls (2 bags of shavings) will be provided for Mustangs at the Extreme Mustang Makeover. Additional shavings will be available for purchase. There are no entry fees for the yearling contest.

7. Arenas will be available for warm up and scheduled practices – (schedule and location of arenas to be announced). Competition schedule to be announced.

8. Winners will be announced following the competition.

9. LIVE AUCTION adoption on will be held on Sunday, September 20, in Texas and Sunday, October 25, in Tennessee.

11. Trainers are required to stay with their yearling until the Mustang is adopted. Trainers are asked to work with potential adopters by answering questions honestly and representing the Mustang they trained.

12. Trainers may adopt their Mustang following the competition for a fee of \$125 (contestant must notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation office of this choice prior to the competition) – or place their Mustang up for adoption through the live adoption. Trainers will receive 50% of adoption funds in excess of a \$125 BLM adoption fee.

### **13. Conduct:**

***Participation in this event is by invitation only; therefore The Board of Trustees of the Mustang Heritage Foundation has the unqualified right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove an applicant or contestant from a Mustang Heritage Foundation program and/or competition for any reason or for no reason.***

Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and **humane in the treatment of Mustangs**, such as to promote the implementation of the event and promote fair competition. This includes, but is not limited to: conduct while trainers have Mustangs in their possession; conduct on the show grounds; conduct while trainers are wearing Mustang Heritage Foundation logos wear off the show grounds; and includes the conduct of individuals traveling with trainers, spectators or event managers and all other person being present on show grounds. Any alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct or any other form of misconduct, such as illegal, indecent or profane, and the **inhumane treatment of horses are prohibited** and shall be grounds for the disciplinary action against offending individuals. Further, event management may immediately expel offenders from the competition or show grounds in order to preserve the decorum of the show.

#### **14. Sponsorships**

The Mustang Heritage Foundation has entered into corporate sponsorship agreements with a variety of companies. The Foundation asks that trainers honor those sponsorships.

- a. Trainers will be restricted from wearing apparel or equine products during the competition that have logos that are larger than 4 inches wide and 2 inches tall.
- b. Trainers may not hang banners of any size in the stall area promoting any sponsors. Trainers may have brochures or small printed materials available in their stall areas to promote their training business and their sponsors during the event.

#### **15. Drugs:**

No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a Mustang, either before or during the competition or adoption, any medication, drug mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of such character as, could affect it performance or appearance at the event.

***If a Mustang is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the Mustang Heritage Foundation event manager as to the reason for medication and the prescribed amount.*** THE MUSTANG HERITAGE FOUNDATION MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE COMPETITION.

#### **Competition Rules:**

**1. Forty Percent (40%) of the overall score will be based on conditioning.** Conditioning – weight, muscling, conditioning, hair coat, overall presentation.

- a. Trainers may clip or trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural.
- b. No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails.
- c. The score will not reflect confirmation.

**2. Sixty Percent (60%) of the overall score will be based on groundwork and manners.**

Trainers will be asked to present their Mustang in-hand or haltered. If showing in English attire the Mustang may be shown in the bridle.

- a. Trainers will be asked to maneuver Mustangs through a series of obstacles in the arena. Mustangs will be scored on their ability to be responsive to leading, turning, walking, trotting, picking up their feet, loading and unloading out of a stock trailer, and stepping over obstacles.

- b. Training aides will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown without the use of training aides may be scored higher.
- c. Trainers will be given a specific competition course. Trainers will be shown a demonstration of the course and be able to “walk through” the course without their Mustang prior to the competition.
- d. Trainers will be given a time limit to complete the competition course. Tasks within the course will include but not be limited to the following:
  - 1. Walk and Trot
  - 2. Stop and Back
  - 3. Lead Mustang over poles/logs
  - 4. Pick up feet
  - 5. Load and unload from stock trailer
- e. In case of ties a tie-breaker judge will be determined prior to the start of the event.

### **Finals**

- 1. The top ten Mustangs (no more than 15 with ties) with the combined highest total scores will return for a finals in-hand performance.
- 2. Competitors will come into the finals with a “clean slate”. No previous scores will be counted toward the final placing.
- 3. Trainers will have three minutes to perform with their Mustang in a freestyle lead line. Trainers must incorporate walk, trot, pivot or turns to the right and left and backing within the freestyle performance.
- 4. Trainers are encouraged to use music, props and theatrics during their final performance. The event planners will provide sound system and operator for finals music.
- 5. Trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up.

### **Awards:**

- 1. All trainers competing in the event will receive \$200 for expenses related to horse care and travel.
- 2. Approximately \$5,000\* in prize money will be distributed among the Top 10 in each competition (\*prize money amount determined by number of trainers entered).

### **Adoption:**

**Sunday, September 20, 2009 in Fort Worth, Texas & Sunday, October 25, 2009 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee**

Trainers are REQUIRED to present their horse during the adoption. We ask that trainers stay near their stalls with their horses so that they can answer questions prior to the adoption and then present their Mustang during the adoption. The adoption will be in a Live Auction format. Should a trainer wish to keep their Mustang they may remove it following the competition and after they have completed all adoption paperwork. If they choose to place the Mustang in the Live Auction, trainers will receive 50% of adoption fees in excess of a \$125 adoption fee.