

RULES & REGULATIONS
2009 Mountain Valley Extreme Mustang Makeover

PLEASE NOTE - The Heber Cowboy Poetry Event Management requested that this event be restricted to Mustangs being exhibited in snaffle bits, bosals, halters or side pulls. The Mountain Valley event is the ONLY Extreme Mustang Makeover that has those competitive restrictions. Other Makeover events will allow the use of bits as described in both the National Snaffle Bit Association and American Quarter Horse Association rules. High port or spade bits will be prohibited.

Extreme Mustang Makeover Overview:

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 Extreme Mustang Makeover will occur during various events across the United States that attract thousands of horse enthusiasts and promote horse ownership. The goal of the event is to promote adoption through showcasing Mustangs' value and trainability through competition.

Wild Mustangs from various herd management areas will be brought to a designated Bureau of Land Management facility to be picked-up for the competition. The Mustangs will be as uniform in size and age as possible. Mustangs will be between 3-4 year of age with current vaccinations and hooves trimmed.

Approved horse trainers will pick-up their Mustangs at the Salt Lake Wild Horse and Burro Center in Salt Lake City, Utah August 7th and 8th, 2009. Mustangs will be pre-assigned to the trainer by computer draw prior to pick-up so that appropriate health papers may be created for trainers' home states. Trainers must meet all requirements listed below for hauling and stabling their Mustang. Trainers will have from the day they picked-up their Mustang until the day they arrive at the event to train and work with their Mustang. **During the event trainers will compete in two areas – Body Condition Scoring and riding the “Horse Course” (combination of pattern and obstacle work).** A panel of three accomplished horsemen and/or horsewomen will determine winners. *An ESTIMATED PURSE OF \$7,500 will be based on the number of participating trainers. It may be reduced or increased to reflect the number of competitors.*

The competing Mustangs will then be up for adoption through a live bid process on the final day of competition. In addition to prize money, trainers competing in the event will receive up to \$500 in reimbursement for reasonable training and veterinary expenses and 20% commission (over the \$200 adoption fee) on horses adopted for \$200 or more. Every effort will be made to promote participating trainers during the event.

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 trainers must complete the application and postmark to P. O. Box 703, Bertram, TX, 78605 or fax dated to (512) 355-2737 by the designated deadline. **Deadline for applications to be postmarked, faxed or emailed is July 1st, 2009.**

2. Trainers must be 18 years of age or older.
3. No substitution or replacement of approved trainer will be allowed.
4. Any applicant or selected trainer 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.
5. 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.
6. Trailer requirements. *TRAILER PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR APPLICATION.* You must provide transportation for your Mustang from the BLM 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.
7. Facility requirements. *FACILITY PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR APPLICATION.* 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 6 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.
8. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged.
9. Trainers are responsible for all care related costs from the day the Mustangs are picked up until they are adopted at the event. Trainers that complete the training and compete in the Extreme Mustang Makeover will be reimbursed up to \$500 for veterinary, farrier, hauling or feeding costs. Receipts must be submitted in order to receive reimbursement no later than 30 days after the event.
10. Should the Mustang be deemed untrainable, the trainer must notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation's office no later than 30 days after the Mustang is picked up by the trainer in order to be eligible for reimbursed expenses.
11. Trainers that notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation that they are not participating in the event as a result of an injury to trainer or Mustang will be eligible for reimbursed expenses. The trainer must submit a letter from a physician and/or veterinarian stating the

injury in order to be considered for reimbursement of expenses. **TRAINERS THAT DROP OUT OF THE EVENT FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN INJURY TO SELF OR HORSE WILL NOT RECEIVE THE \$500 REIMBURSEMENT.**

12. For any and all reasons, the trainer is responsible for returning the Mustang to the BLM facility nearest the trainer.
13. *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.*
14. Trainers may ONLY adopt their Mustang during the event through the public bid process on the final day of the event. Trainers must complete a separate BLM adoption application and be approved by the BLM prior to bidding on their Mustang.
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.
16. Trainers are required to provide a digital head shot photo of themselves and a short bio with their applications.

Rules:

1. Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
2. Trainer applications for the Extreme Mustang Makeover must be postmarked on or before the designated deadline. Applications may be printed from www.mustangheritagefoundation.org and mailed (P. O. Box 703, Bertram, Texas, 78605) or faxed (512-355-2737). **Deadline for applications to be postmarked, emailed or faxed is July 1st, 2009.**
3. Trainer selection will be made based on experience and geographic location. Alternate trainers will also be notified should one of the selected trainers be unable to pick up their Mustang.
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.
6. Bedded stalls will be provided for Mustangs at the competition.
7. Arenas will be available for warm up and scheduled practices – (schedule and location of arenas to be announced). Please refer to www.extrememustangmakeover.com for the competition dates for each Extreme Mustang Makeover event.
8. Winners will be announced following the competition.
9. Trainers are asked to demonstrate their Mustangs during the adoption on the final day of the Extreme Mustang Makeover event.

12. 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 Extreme Mustang Makeover logo 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.

11. 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. The Mustang Heritage Foundation may supply shirts with sponsor logos for trainers to wear during the event. Trainers will not be required to wear Mustang Heritage Foundation event shirts during the actual competition, but may be required to wear shirts during promotional and adoption events.

b. 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.

c. 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.

12. Drugs:

No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a Mustang, either before or during the Extreme Mustang Makeover competition or adoption, any medication, drug mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of such character as, could affect its 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 Extreme Mustang Makeover event manager as to the reason for medication and the prescribed amount.

THE EXTREME MUSTANG MAKEOVER MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG, AT ANY TIME, DURING THE EVENT AND COMPETITION. Positive tests may result in removal from the event, removal of reimbursement and prize money, refund of adoption fees paid by an adopter and return of Mustang to the BLM should the adopter wish to return the adopted Mustang.

13. **Commissions:** Trainers will receive 20% commission of the adoption price (over the \$200 adoption fee) if the Mustang they trained is adopted for \$200 or more. Commissions will be mailed with reimbursed expenses.

Competition Rules:

1. Twenty (20%) 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.
- d. At the judge's discretion, he or she may request to see the Mustang at a trot to determine soundness.
- e. Mustang may be shown with or without shoes. Judges may question corrective shoes or pads.
- f. No leg wraps or equine protective boots are allowed during body condition judging.
- g. Trainers will receive a score on their ability to present and handle their Mustang. Mustangs should be responsive to trainer.
- h. No person shall alter in any way, change, or attempt to hide the natural marking and/or rubbed or raw skin of a horse by surgery, dye, powder or in any other manner.

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2. Eighty (80%) of the overall score will be based on the Mustang Horse

Course. A course will be set in the arena that will represent basic challenges faced while riding.

a. Mustangs will be asked to exhibit three gaits (walk, trot and canter or lope) within the course. In addition trail-type obstacles will be part of the course. The course will require skills that include stopping, backing, turning, and circles to the right and left and lead change.

b. Mustangs may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine style or equipment. Exhibitors are asked to wear appropriate attire and headgear, which reflects the style of their riding. *Silver on your saddles or sequins on your shirts will not earn you any extra points.*

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 ample time to attempt all obstacles. Should a mustang refuse an obstacle three or more times a judge will ask the trainer to move to the next obstacle.

e. Trainers will then be given an additional time limit to show their Mustang “at their best” with no required maneuvers in a designated area. . During this time, Mustangs may be shown astride or in-hand. Props and music are not allowed during this part of the competition.

f. Horses are to be shown in standard, plain, or silver headstalls (browband, shaped ear or split ear). References to snaffle bits mean the conventional O-ring, egg-butt or D-ring with a ring no

larger than 4". The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which could provide leverage. The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex wrapped. The bars must be a minimum of **5/16"** in diameter measured one inch in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. Optional loose curb strap (leather or nylon only and must be attached below the reins). The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2') which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable.

g. A braided rawhide or leather bosal or rope bosal may be used in lieu of a snaffle bit, no more than 3/4" (three-quarter inch) diameter at the cheek. The core may be of rawhide or flexible cable. The bosal must be a minimum one-finger space (approximately 3/4") between the bosal and nose. Absolutely no metal or rigid material is allowed under the jaw or on the nose or anywhere on the bridle regardless of how padded or covered it is. Bosals shall be soft and flexible. The bosal should be properly fitted relative to the horse's size and conformation. Horsehair bosals are permitted. This rule does not refer to so-called mechanical hackamores.

h. Any bit or equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed. Tie downs and mechanical hackamores are not allowed. All exhibitors must allow their equipment and/or horse to be examined by the Show Steward and/or Judge.

i. Mustangs may be shown with two hands.

j. Judges scorecards will reflect the execution of maneuvers and obstacles. An addition numerical score will be awarded for the Mustang's willingness to respond to rider's commands in an effort to reward positive horse and rider relationship.

k. Trainers may choose to show their Mustang "in-hand" or leading through the Trail Challenge course and will be scored. Trainers must either compete astride or in-hand, and NOT a combination of both.

l. Training aides will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown without the use of training aides might be scored higher. For example, a trainer competing with a running martingale or with a training stick will be scored lower than trainers competing without those aides.

m. In the event of a tie in any final placing, a predetermined tiebreaker judge will be used to determine placing.

Finals

1. The top ten Mustangs with the combined highest total scores will return for a finals 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 four minutes to perform during the finals.
4. Finals will require the following maneuvers to be incorporate into the performance.
 - a. Walk, trot and lope or canter
 - b. Stop and back
 - c. Lope or canter circle(s) to the left or right – then simple or flying lead change and lope or canter circle(s) in the opposite direction.
 - d. Pivot or spin 360 degrees to the right and left.
5. Costumes are allowed, but need to not distract or take away from showing the relationship between horse and rider.

6. Judges scorecards will reflect the completion and execution of required maneuvers. An addition numeric score will be awarded for the Mustang's willingness to respond to riders' commands in an effort to reward positive horse and rider relationship. Finals contestants will also receive a score for overall athletic ability and artistic/creative performance.
7. Trainers are encouraged to use music during their final performance. The event planners will provide sound system and operator for finals music.
8. Trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up. Approved props are restricted to the use of: Rope, **bullwhip, bedroll, slicker, hobble, dog, or cow**. If the trainer stands in the saddle, points will be deducted for dropping full body weight onto the horses back.
9. One cow will be available for those finalists requesting one.
10. Trainers showing without a bridle will be scored on the completion and quality of maneuvers, the same as horses with a bridle. Additional points may be given for horse/rider communication at the discretion of the judge(s).

Awards:

1. All trainers competing in the event will be eligible for \$500 in reimbursed expenses and 20% commission (over the \$200 adoption fee) of the adoption price of the Mustang they trained is adopted for \$200 or more.

2. OVERALL WINNERS

The Top Ten trainers scoring the highest points in the overall competition will be awarded prize money. Please refer to www.extrememustangmakeover.com for purse money amounts awarded in each Extreme Mustang Makeover event.

ADOPTION DAY

Trainers are REQUIRED to present their horse during the adoption. We ask that trainers ride their horses into the adoption area and tell the audience about their horse. Trainers receive 20% commission (over the \$200 adoption fee) on horses that adopt for \$200 or more.

For more information on the Extreme Mustang Makeover events, please contact Kali Sublett at kalimullins@yahoo.com or call 254-947-5530.