

Rules and Regulations Mustang Magic Event

Event Overview:

Thirteen wild Mustangs from the hills of Nevada were brought to the Extreme Mustang Makeover on September 19, 2008. Thirteen trainers that had previously competed in Mustang Heritage Foundation events were invited to draw for one of the thirteen “Magic Mustangs”! The trainers then have 125 days to transform their Magic Mustang and compete in an exciting event during the Fort Worth Livestock Show and Rodeo on January 23 and 24th, 2009.

At that time the trainers will be scored in two areas – Body Condition Score and a Horse Course Score (representing both in-hand and riding components). Bonus Dollars will be awarded in a unique event titled “Last Horse Standing” The top “Magnificent Seven” will compete during a No Holds Barred Finals. See event descriptions below. **More than \$10,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded.**

All participating Mustangs will then be up for adoption through a live bid process on January 24, 2008, at the Will Rogers facilities. In addition to prize money, trainers will receive up to \$500 in reimbursement for reasonable training and veterinary expenses. Trainers will receive 50% of the adoption final bid, *after the \$125 BLM Adoption Fee is deducted from the adoption final bid*. The competition and adoption will be held at the world-renowned Will Rogers Equestrian Center in Ft. Worth Texas.

Requirements:

1. Trainers must be 18 years of age or older and have no prior conviction for inhumane treatment of animals or for violations of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act;
2. Trailer requirements. You must provide transportation for your Mustang from Ft. Worth, back to Ft. Worth for the event. 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.

3. Facility requirements. You must provide a minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet x 20 feet) for each Mustang. Fences must be at least 6 feet high. 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.

The acceptable corral must be sturdy and constructed out of 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.

Posts should be a minimum of 6 inches in diameter and spaced no farther than 8 feet apart. Horizontal rails should be 3-inch minimum diameter poles or 2 x 8 inch dimension planks. If you use poles, there should be a minimum of five horizontal rails, and when you use 2" x 8" planks, there should be at least four rails. No space between rails should exceed 12". You should fasten all rails to the inside of the post with either heavy nails or lag screws.

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.

4. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged.
5. Trainers are responsible for all care related costs from the day the Mustangs are picked up through Saturday, January 24, 2009. Trainers that complete the training and compete in the Mustang Makeover Contest will be reimbursed up to \$500 for veterinary, farrier, hauling or feeding costs. **Receipts must be submitted by February 15, 2009 in order to receive reimbursement.**
6. Should the Mustang be deemed excessively dangerous by the trainer, the trainer must be responsible for returning the Mustang to the BLM facility nearest the trainer or a centrally designated location in Texas. Trainers will be eligible to be reimbursed up to \$500 for reasonable veterinary, farrier, hauling or feeding costs. Receipts must be submitted in order to receive reimbursement.
7. Should the trainer choose to not participate in the competition – the Mustang must be returned to the BLM facility nearest the trainer or a centrally designated location in Texas. Trainers will be eligible to be reimbursed up to \$500 for reasonable veterinary, farrier, hauling or feeding costs. Receipts must be submitted in order to receive reimbursement.
8. Trainers will be asked to sign releases so that all photos and filming may be used to promote the event.

Rules:

1. Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
2. BLM and Mustang Heritage Foundation employees and their spouses are not eligible to compete.
3. Trainers are responsible for hauling the Mustang from Ft. Worth, Texas, to their training stable and from their training stable to the competition at the Will Rogers Equestrian Center in Ft. Worth, Texas for the January 23/24, 2009 event. Mustangs should arrive at the facility on January 22 or the morning of January 23, 2009.
4. Stalls and shavings will be provided for Mustangs at the Will Rogers Equestrian Center.
5. Arena and warm up areas will be available as determined by the Stock Show.
6. Competition will begin at 6 PM, on both Friday and Saturday, January 23/24.
7. Seven Finalists will be announced on Friday following the preliminary performance. Winners will be announced following the competition on

- Saturday, January 24 and all participating Mustangs (finalists and non-finalists) will be up for adoption immediately following the finals.
8. Trainers are asked to demonstrate their Mustangs during the adoption event.
 9. Trainers will receive up to \$500 in reimbursement for reasonable training and veterinary expenses. Trainers will receive 50% of the adoption final bid, *after the \$125 BLM Adoption Fee is deducted from the adoption final bid.*

Competition Rules:

Preliminaries:

1. **Twenty (20%) of the overall score will be based on body conditioning.**
Conditioning – weight, conditioning, hair coat, overall appearance. Trainers may clip or trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural.
2. **Eighty (80%) of the overall score will be based on the Horse Course.**
Trainers will present their horse, saddled and bridled, and lead into the arena. They will be asked to maneuver Mustangs through a series of obstacles in the arena. Mustangs will also be asked to load and unload from a stock trailer and pick up all four feet and mount. The trainers will continue to a course that will be set in the arena that will represent basic challenges faced while riding. Mustangs will be asked to exhibit three gaits (walk, trot and canter or lope) within the course. Other obstacles will require skills that include stopping, backing, the rider picking up items, circles to the right and left. Mustangs may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine equipment. Any bit or equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed. Tie downs, martingales and mechanical hackamores are discouraged. Mustangs may be shown with two hands.
3. In case of tie, the highest score in the Horse Course section will break ties. A tiebreaker judge will be designated for other ties.
4. The top seven scoring contestants will return on Saturday for a “No Holds Barred Finals”. Finalists will have four minutes to perform to music, using any and all types of props **EXCEPT FIREARMS – NO FIREARMS WILL BE ALLOWED**. If fire of any type is used, trainers must notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation on or before January 5th so that permits may be purchased.
5. Finals Judging will be made by three judges.
6. All trainers are invited to participate in the **LAST HORSE STANDING \$500** bonus bucks competition. This event will be held on Saturday evening during the finals tabulation. Trainers will enter the arena horseback and will be required to stand in an area marked by two electronic eyes. Horses will be required to stand in this 20’ wide strip in the arena while unknown obstacles of all sizes, shapes and substance enter the arena. The last horse standing in the 20’ wide strip will receive \$500.

Awards:

1. Trainers will receive up to \$500 in reimbursement for reasonable training and veterinary expenses. Trainers will receive 50% of the adoption final bid, *after the \$125 BLM Adoption Fee is deducted from the adoption final bid.*
2. Purse Distribution will be as follows: \$5,000 to winner, \$2,000 to reserve, \$1,000 to third, \$800 to Fourth, \$600 to fifth, \$300 to sixth, \$300 to seventh.

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.

For more information on the event, please contact the Mustang Heritage Foundation at 512-355-3225 or 254-947-5530.