

**Norco Extreme Mustang Trail Challenge**  
**May 15-17, 2009**  
**Norco, California**

**Event Overview:**

Fifty wild Mustangs from the hills of Nevada will be brought to the Bureau of Land Management's Fallon facilities in Ridgecrest, California, Regional Wild Horse and Burro Corrals. The 50 Mustangs will be as uniform in size, age and color as possible.

Fifty approved horse trainers, selected through the Mustang Heritage Foundation will come to the Ridgecrest Regional Wild Horse and Burro Corrals and pick up a pre-assigned (by computer) Mustang on February 13-14, 2009. Trainers must meet all BLM requirements listed below for hauling and stabling their Mustang. The trainers will then take the Mustang home and have until May 15 to train their Mustang and return to the George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center in Norco, California. At that time the trainers will compete in three areas – 20% on an endurance and body condition score, 40% on a natural trail trial score (held in the arena and on a trail in the foothills) and 40% on an urban trail score (held in downtown Norco). A panel of accomplished horse trainers will determine winners. **More than \$10,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded.**

The participating Mustangs will then be up for adoption through a live bid process on Sunday, May 17, at the George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center in Norco. In addition to prize money, trainers will receive up to \$500 in reimbursement for reasonable training and veterinary expenses and 20% commission on horses adopted for \$200 or more.

**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 January 1, 2009.
2. Trainers must be 18 years of age or older.
3. No substitution or replacement of approved trainer will be allowed to compete for awards.
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 following pick up 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 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 January 1, 2009. Applications may be printed from [www.extrememustangmakeover.com](http://www.extrememustangmakeover.com) and mailed (P. O. Box 703, Bertram, Texas, 78605) or faxed (512-355-2737).
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](http://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.
10. Conduct:

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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. **THE EXTREME MUSTANG MAKEOVER MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE COMPETITION.**

*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.*

13. 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, hair coat, overall presentation and physical fitness.

- 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. Forty (40%) of the overall score will be based on a Rural Trail Trial Competition.**

This part of the competition showcases the Mustangs ability to be used on natural trails which surround the Norco facility.

- a. Trainers will be asked to lead their Mustang into the arena and pick up their feet, load and unload out of a stock trailer, mount and complete a simple pattern incorporating walk, trot, lope or canter both directions, stop and back. Trainers will then depart the arena horseback and ride to the trail head where they will be scored on obstacles on the trail which will include but not be limited to stepping over logs, up and down hills, maneuvers which include backing and turning, crossing draws or creeks. Trainers will also be required to cover ground at three gaits – walk, trot and lope or canter.
- b. Mustangs will be scored at the end of the competition on body condition, including a physical fitness score.

### **3. Forty (40%) of the overall score will be based on the Urban Trail Trial Competition**

- a. Trainers will be asked to haul their Mustangs to a designated location in downtown Norco where the Urban Trail Trial Competition will be held. A course of urban trail obstacles, such as crossing the street, getting the mail, using tie rails or honking horns, etc. will be included to reflect the lifestyle of Norco, California, where there are bridle paths on every street. Obstacles will require skills that include stopping, backing and turning.

### **4. General Competition Rules**

- a. Training aides will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown without the use of training aides may be scored higher.
- b. 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.
- c. Trainers will be given a time limit to complete the competition course. If a Mustang refuses the trail element the judge will excuse the horse from that element.
- d. In case of ties a tie-breaker judge will be determined prior to the start of the event.
- e. Trainers will be able to “walk through” the course without their Mustang prior to the competition.
- f. Any bit or equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed.
- g. Tie downs, martingales and mechanical hackamores are discouraged. Bits may be examined by an equipment judge.
- h. Mustangs may be shown with two hands.
- i. In case of ties a tiebreaker 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 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. Trainers will have four minutes prior to their performance to stage or set the arena
5. 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 to the left or right – then simple or flying lead change and lope or canter circle in the opposite direction.
  - d. Pivot or spin 360 degrees to the right and left.
6. Trainers will receive two scores. One score will be on required maneuvers and horsemanship. The second score will be on artistic/creative performance and overall athletic ability.
7. Trainers are encouraged to use music and theatrics 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.
9. One cow will be available for those finalists requesting one.

## **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. \$10,000 in prize money will be awarded as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	\$3,000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$2,000
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$1,500
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$1,000
5 <sup>th</sup>	\$750
6 <sup>th</sup>	\$550
7 <sup>th</sup>	\$400
8 <sup>th</sup>	\$300
9 <sup>th</sup>	\$250
10 <sup>th</sup>	\$250

**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 Norco Extreme Mustang Trail Challenge, please contact Randi Blasienz at [rblasienz@gmail.com](mailto:rblasienz@gmail.com)**