



RULES & REGULATIONS*

PURPOSE:

The mission of the Mustang Heritage Foundation is to increase the adoption of BLM-housed American Mustangs through innovative gentling competitions and awareness programs. In keeping with this mission, the Extreme Mustang Makeover event will visit locations across the United States in order to promote adoption by showcasing the Mustangs' value and trainability through competition.

OVERVIEW:

The Extreme Mustang Makeover is produced by the Mustang Heritage Foundation with the support of the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse & Burro Program.

- Interested trainers must complete and submit the Trainer Application on or before the appropriate application deadline. The Trainer Application and application deadlines can be found online at www.extrememustangmakeover.com.
- Selected trainers will pick up their Mustang at the specified pick-up date and location for that event. Pick-up dates and locations can be found online at www.extrememustangmakeover.com.
- The Mustangs will be as uniform in size and age as possible. Mustangs will have current vaccinations and hooves trimmed.
- Mustangs will be pre-assigned to the trainer randomly prior to pick-up.
- Trainers must meet all requirements listed below for hauling and stabling their Mustang.
- Trainers will have from the day they pick up their Mustang until the day they arrive at the event to train and work with their Mustang.
- During the event Mustangs and trainers will be assessed by a panel of accomplished horsemen and women. Judges and class outlines for each event can be found online at www.extrememustangmakeover.com. A finals competition will be held for the top 10 highest scoring competitors.
- Cash plus prizes will be awarded to the Top 10 Finalists. Estimated purses for each event can be found online at www.extrememustangmakeover.com. Prize money amount is determined by number of trainers entered.
- Incentive Awards will also be presented to the trainer with the highest combined preliminary scores in the following categories: Rookie (trainers who have never previously competed in an Extreme Mustang Makeover event), Young Gun (trainers 18-21 years old) and Silver Bullet (trainers 50 years old or older).
- All competing Mustangs will be available for public adoption through a live bid process at the conclusion of the event.
- In addition to prize money, trainers competing in the event will receive up to \$700 in reimbursed expenses for reasonable training and veterinary costs and 20% commission (over the \$200 adoption and processing fee) on horses adopted for \$200 or more.

*This Rules and Regulations document pertains to all Extreme Mustang Makeover events EXCEPT the Supreme Extreme Mustang Makeover. The Supreme Extreme Mustang Makeover adoption and competition rules and regulations are available online at www.extrememustangmakeover.com.

REGULATIONS:

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 979, Georgetown, TX, 78626 or fax date to (512) 869-3229 by the **appropriate application deadline**. Application deadlines can be found online at www.extrememustangmakeover.com.
2. Trainers must be 18 years of age or older as of date of entry.
3. No substitution or replacement of approved trainer will be allowed.
4. Trainer selection will be made based on experience, references and facility approval. Alternate trainers will also be notified should one of the selected trainers be unable to pick up their Mustang.
5. BLM and MHF employees and their spouses are not eligible to compete.
6. 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.
7. The Mustang Heritage Foundation Board of Trustees may at any time conduct a criminal background check on applicants or remove any applicant from the process for any reason or for no reason.
8. **Trailer requirements:** 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 a rear swing gate to transport animals. Drop ramp, divided two-horse trailers and trucks with stock racks are not acceptable.
9. **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 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. Tarps are not acceptable. Contact your administering BLM office for shelter requirements in your area.
10. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged.
11. Trainers are responsible for all care related costs from the day the Mustangs are picked up through the competition. Trainers that complete the training and compete in the Extreme Mustang Makeover will be reimbursed up to \$700 for veterinary, farrier, hauling or feeding costs. Receipts must be submitted in order to receive reimbursement no later than 30 days following the conclusion of the event.

12. 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.
13. 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 \$700 REIMBURSEMENT.**
14. For any and all reasons, the trainer is responsible for returning the Mustang to his/her nearest BLM facility if the trainer is unable to complete the training and participate in the competition.
15. *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.*
16. Trainers may ONLY adopt their Mustang during the event through the public bid process during the adoption. Trainers must complete a separate BLM adoption application and be approved by the BLM prior to bidding.
17. Trainers are required to submit a signed release with their application so that all photos and filming may be used to promote the event and will be the property of the Mustang Heritage Foundation.
18. Trainers are required to provide a digital head shot photo of themselves and short bio with their applications – *applications received without photos or bios will not be considered.*
19. At least one bag of shavings and one stall per competing Mustang will be provided free of charge. Additional shavings will be available for purchase. One shared tack stall will also be provided free of charge (tack stall may be shared with up to two other individuals).
20. An arena will be available for warm up and scheduled practices.
21. Competition schedule to be announced.
22. Winners will be announced following the competition.
23. Trainers are asked to demonstrate their Mustangs during the adoption on the final day of the event in a manner that showcases the trainability of the horse.
24. **Conduct:** Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and **humane in the treatment of Mustangs**, such as to promote the implementation of the event and 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 form of misconduct, such as illegal, indecent or profane, and **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.

25. Mustang Heritage Foundation Humane Treatment Policy

Every Mustang and all animals shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion. Any participant using abusive or excessive training techniques or being inhumane to a Mustang in his/her care (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Mustang Heritage Foundation and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. If a participant's horse enters the contest or if the trainer/participant at any time presents a horse with questionable training/care related injuries (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Mustang Heritage Foundation and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) the participant may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. The following list, while in no way exhaustive, includes examples of unacceptable behavior and training techniques:

- No horse which appears to be emaciated, drawn or injured may be exhibited.
- Use of inhumane training techniques or methods such as striking horse with objects, excessive spurring and/or excessive jerking of reins.
- Any inhumane treatment which results in wounds.

26. **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 have small banners and brochures or small printed materials in their stall area ONLY to promote their training business and their sponsors during the event.

COMPETITION RULES:

1. Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
2. Mustangs may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine styles and equipment. Exhibitors are asked to wear appropriate attire and head gear, which reflects the style of their riding. *Silver on your saddles or sequins on your shirts will not earn you any extra points.*
3. Any bit or equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed. Tie downs, mechanical hackamores, spade and high port bits are strongly discouraged. Judges may deduct points for what they feel is discouraged or severe equipment. National Snaffle Bit Association and American Quarter Horse Association rules are resources for preferred equipment. **JUDGES MAY CHECK EQUIPMENT.**
4. Mustangs may be shown with two hands in a snaffle bit or bosal. Showing a Mustang with two hands when using a curb or shank-type bit is strongly discouraged.
5. Training aides will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown without the use of training aides will be scored higher than those that use training aides.
6. Trainers will be given specific competition courses. Trainers will have an opportunity to "walk through" the course with the judges, *without their Mustang*, prior to the competition.
7. Ties will be broken by the trail class to determine the top 10 finalists. If a tie exists between trail class scores, the score from a predetermined element in the trail class will break the tie. The tiebreaker element will be determined prior to the start of the event. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. The tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.

8. **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 or enhance the Mustang's performance or appearance at the event is prohibited. *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 the medication and the prescribed amount.* **THE EXTREME MUSTANG MAKEOVER MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RANDOMLY OR DIRECTLY DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE 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 a Mustang to the BLM should the adopter wish to return the adopted Mustang.
9. **Preliminary Classes:** Trainers and Mustangs will be judged in preliminary classes. The Class Rules and Outline for each event can be found online at www.extrememustangmakeover.com.
10. **Finals:** The top 10 Mustangs with the highest combined total scores from the preliminary classes will return for a finals competition that includes compulsory maneuvers and a freestyle performance. The details of the Finals competition for each event can be found in the Class Rules and Outline posted online at www.extrememustangmakeover.com.

AWARDS:

1. **ALL TRAINERS** competing in the event will be eligible for \$700 in reimbursed expenses and 20% commission (over the \$200 adoption and processing fee) of the adoption price if the Mustang they trained is adopted for \$200 or more.
2. **INCENTIVE AWARDS** will be presented to the trainers with the highest combined preliminary scores – finals scores do not count toward incentive awards. Incentive award categories are:
 - Rookies – first-time Extreme Mustang Makeover competitors.
 - Young Guns – trainers who are 18-21 years old as of time of entry.
 - Silver Bullets – trainers who are 50 years old and over as of time of entry.
3. **OVERALL WINNERS**
The Top 10 trainers scoring the highest points in the overall competition will be awarded prizes and prize money. Estimated purses for each competition can be found online at www.extrememustangmakeover.com. Prize money is based on number of entries,

ADOPTION DAY:

1. Trainers are **REQUIRED** to present their horse during the adoption. Trainers are asked to present their horse in a manner consistent with the appearance and level of training demonstrated during the competition. Trainers may have an opportunity to speak to the adoption audience during their adoption presentation.
2. Trainers receive 20% commission (over the \$200 adoption and processing fee) on horses adopted for \$200 or more.
3. Trainers are encouraged to meet the adopter of their horse and are asked to leave food and water in the horse's stall prior to departing.

For more information on Extreme Mustang Makeover events, please call (512) 869-3225.