



# National Wild Horse & Burro News

U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management

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## BLM Mustang on his way to the ABRA World Championship Show

*By Pam Fournier  
Bend, Oregon*

Although Steens Vaquero was a very difficult horse to gentle, as soon as we were able to ride him, it was obvious that he was a very talented horse. Sometimes it just takes a different approach, and with this horse we decided that if we could just get him under saddle everything else would fall into place.

Since then, Vequero has dominated every mustang show he has entered. Also, he has won more than 10 trophy buckles, including the Central Oregon Buckskin Club American Buckskin Registry Association (ABRA), and Open Reserve High Point First Year Green. There he competed primarily against registered Quarterhorses.

Since adopting our first mustang in 1993, we have adopted at least another twenty head and have found them to be a lot of fun and definitely a learning experience. Eventually, we looked for a special wild horse that could compete with domesticated breeds. On October 23rd, 1999, my husband and I adopted Vaquero. He was a 2-year-old grulla Kiger Mustang stallion.

We had made a few visits to the Burns Wild Horse facility before the adoption, because we knew the demand for the Kigers would be high. Our intuition told us to choose our horse and have our fees ready. During the adoption we chose Vaquero for his conformation, color, and size. We were looking for a tall Kiger stallion prospect and he exemplified the Kiger's sturdy build. He had a short back, good bone structure, and excellent feet. His broad forehead, noble profile and large-warm eyes are evidence of his intelligence and are a characteristic of the Kiger Mustang.



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# Reining in the Colors

By Chris Tincher, BLM Oklahoma, Moore Field Office

The Bureau of Land Management, (BLM), an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, is entrusted with administering 262 million acres of public lands located primarily in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The agency also administers 700 million acres of on-shore minerals located throughout the country.

The BLM manages public lands and their vast array of resources to benefit both current and future generations. One of the BLM's legislative responsibilities is to manage and preserve the wild horse and burro as a "living symbol" of the Old West. The BLM gathers excess wild horses and burros from the western range and offers them for adoption. The Adopt-A-Horse or Burro Program helps to maintain an ecological balance between wild horses and burros, native wildlife and domestic animals grazing on western public lands.

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Proudly displaying patriotic colors, the New Mexico Region hosted the 7th Annual Regional Wild Horse and Burro Expo and Adoption event, at the Rusk County Expo Center in Henderson, Texas, October 11-14. In a show of respect, pride and support, the colors red, white, and blue were present throughout the arena, including the entrance, judge's stand, and the horse stalls!

During one of the special events, several of the participants, and some adopters, were decked out in the colors, showing their patriotic spirit, as well! Also, a "Democratic" burro, led by "Uncle Sam," was featured walking side-by-side with a "Republican" horse!

Hosted by the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program, this expo provided excitement, fun, and entertainment for nearly 40 showmen. Additionally, veteran adopters had a chance to show off their animals in a series of competitive youth and adult classes and games, including Showmanship at Halter, Western Pleasure, and Barrel Racing.

A wild horse named Boss, Ridden by Mark Robertson, took home the Green Broke Award. This was the most prestigious award of the day, and an exceptional honor, because Boss was adopted less than three months earlier in Durant, Okla..

The Expo also featured Nationally-Known Horse Trainer, Brian Neubert. His gentling demonstrations drew large crowds as he worked with some of the more challenging wild horses at the event. In less than two hours, Neubert was able to win over a hard to place, 8-year-old mare. Thanks to his efforts, the mare, in addition to 50 other horses and burros, was later adopted to a good home.

For news on the upcoming expo and to learn how you can enter your adopted wild horse and/or burro in one of the many exciting events, visit BLM's web site at [www.nm.blm.gov](http://www.nm.blm.gov), or call **1-800-237-3642**. The Regional Expo is held annually in October.



*On bended knee in front: Kristen Bailey and Donnie Northrup 1st Row, Rt to Lt: Kristen Harrison, Derrick Northrup, April Robertson, Dustin Bailey, Ellie Oliviant, Charlotte Oliviant, Megan Wandell, Jessica Ledesma, Devon George, Carlton George (standing just behind Devon), Karen Mitchell, and Laura Young (standing, has red neck tie) 2nd Row, Rt to Lt: Trey Ledesma (sitting on Jennifer's lap), Jennifer Ivie, Mark Robertson, Robert Clark, Ann Chandler, Thomas Wade, Kim Wandell, Camille Leverett, and Briana Reyes 3rd Row, Rt to Lt: Kim Harrison, Ellen Harrison, April Watson, Quentin Spells, Janice Rhodes, Naomi Jones, Katie Young, Grady Ferguson, Elisabeth Handren, John Ivie, Joshua Dovers, and Cory George (standing, wearing charcoal blazer). Not pictured: Chris George and Charles Martinez*



# Adopted Foal Discovers Love and Strength in New Family

By Chris Hanefeld, BLM Utah, Ely Field Office

Scampering playfully about the Cedar City, Utah, corral with his adopted family, ten-month-old Patrick scarcely resembles the nearly dead days-old foal discovered in March near Pony Springs, Nev.

“Patrick plays with the big guys and gets his grain with the big guys. In fact, he does everything with the big guys,” said Annette Hirschi-Boden, Tuesday, as she stroked Patrick’s soft, blonde mane. “He’s just another member of the herd, running with the larger horses,” said Annette’s husband, David.

Together, the couple owns and manages the Triple-L Ranch, a 23-acre spread west of Cedar City. She’s a retired California Highway Patrol officer. He’s a helicopter pilot. Annette and David named Patrick because they believed the horse was born on or near March 17, just days before he was found wandering alone near his dead mother. She and five other members of the then-leppy’s band of wild mustangs had been murdered in a hail of gunfire by a still unidentified assailant(s).

Initially, Patrick was cared for by Bob and Jenny Hilton, in Panaca, Nev. Later, Patrick came to the Utah couple’s attention through an acquaintance at the BLM who was looking for someone to care for the leppy long-term. As members of the Back Country

Horsemen of Utah, the couple had previously offered to help the BLM on several projects. In addition to being one of the organization’s state directors, Annette is

would last more than two months. “Annette lived in a 13-foot travel trailer the entire time,” said David. “For the first month alone, she was feeding Patrick every three hours.” But after his terrifying ordeal, Patrick refused to suckle a bottle, choosing instead to drink from a bucket.

“We think he might have tried to nurse on his dead mother and gotten blood,” explained David. “Thank goodness, the previous family had already taught him to drink from the bucket.” The couple’s next step was to integrate Patrick into their seven-member herd. They began that process one mare at a time. “Then, one day, Patrick was out there with the rest of the herd. The leader, Clay, had apparently taken Patrick under his wing,” said David. David pointed out that Patrick had long before been accepted by the couple’s two large dogs, Duke and Isabeau.

“They took him into their pack as soon as he arrived, caring for him and protecting him like they would one of their own - it was something to see,” said David.

Given all that they’ve been through over the past ten months, would Annette and David do it



A helicopter pilot, David Hirschi-Boden (pictured) and his wife Annette, a former California Highway Patrol officer adopted Patrick in March.

Above: Annette (left) Patrick(center) and David (right) pose for the camera.



David accompanies Patrick to feed him.

vice-president of the local chapter.

“We were asked if we knew anyone who would be willing to help so, of course, we promised to try,” she said. As it turned out, “helping” would become a 24-hour job that

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# BLM-California Celebrates Wild Horses and Burros Thousands Attend 30th Anniversary Festival

By John Dearing, BLM California, State Office

"America's Living Legends," our wild horses and burros, greeted thousands of greater Sacramento-area children and their families, when the BLM in California celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act. A festival at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville was hosted by more than 100 BLM volunteers, and featured plenty of free fun, including face painting, gold panning, games, live bluegrass music, posters, and hay rides. Local community service groups and clubs sold hamburgers, hot dogs, sodas and snacks, bringing a county fair feeling to the October, 13 event held in the shadow of metropolitan Sacramento.

The biggest attraction was the chance for youngsters to pose on the back of a trained mustang or burro for a free photo. Some toddlers giggled with delight, while others were a little more apprehensive, as they were hoisted high into the saddle. They

all watched intently, however, as their Polaroid pictures blossomed before their eyes. Then, it was off to the crafts booth, where they could create their own designs on the photo frame.

Wild horse and burro owners from across the region assisted the BLM with the event by bringing their animals to the fairgrounds to pose for the photos. Some were even outfitted in patriot-



When the two-day adoption event closed, 94 animals – 74 horses and 20 burros – were safe in their new adoptive homes.

Horse lovers packed into several bleachers to watch northern California trainer Lesley Neuman share her tips and techniques for gentling and training mustangs. Neuman worked with horses directly from the adoption pens to demonstrate that time and patience are the keys to building a bond of trust between horse and human.



ic red, white and blue outfits, which complemented the all-American theme on the festival grounds.

While many families were getting their first-ever look at wild horses and burros, hundreds of horse and burro enthusiasts crowded onto the adjoining adoption grounds, where 100 horses and burros from northern California and Nevada ranges waited for new homes.

Visitors also had the chance to learn a little more about the BLM and its multiple use mission. Information on wild horse and burro management and other topics was provided at a free information center. BLM rangers greeted the crowd from horseback, and firefighters exhibited the agency's wildland firefighting equipment.

"The purpose of our festival was twofold," explained BLM California State Director Mike Pool. "We wanted to create an opportunity for urban residents to get a close look at the

Continued on page 11



# Words of a "Little" Horse

*By Heather and Mark Demmon,  
Indian Spirit Appaloosas and Mustangs  
Adell, Wisconsin*

Hello, my name is Black Rock Spanish Sierra. You can call me Sierra. I am an adopted wild American Mustang. I was foaled near Black Rock, Nev. In September, 2000. In December, 2000 my herd was captured in an emergency round up due to fire and drought. Many of us were starving to death. I was extremely thin.

I was vaccinated and wormed at the BLM. A vet took my blood for tests, then I was freeze-branded and given an identification number. Later, I was put up for adoption. Somewhere along the way I became separated from my dam, and I was put into a pen with other weanlings.

In May, 2001 all of my vet work was completed. I was then loaded into a huge truck with lots of other mustangs and we were driven all the way to Mequon, Wis. The BLM crew was kind and efficient, as they moved us into a holding pen. People came to look at us all day long. This is called "viewing day." I was afraid.

The next morning there was an auction, and a couple of very happy women bid \$125.00 on me. They laughed, cried, and jumped for joy, when the auctioneer called sold. I had no idea that my life was about to change forever. A pair of domesticated mustangs and their BLM cowboys cut me out of my pen, so I ran into a chute. From there I ran into a trailer. I was on the road again. I was terrified.

I soon found myself let out of the trailer. I ran into a round pen. The

clanging and banging of the gate and trailer doors along with the new surroundings, terrified me. Instinct took over, and I ran, jumped, and I even tried to climb my way of that pen. It was one of the worst days of my short life. It was the worst day for my new family. When everything was quiet, I began to settle down. I am a mustang, after all –intelligent and brave. In nature, only the strong survive therefore, genetically I am the best of the best. Part of that consists of making the right decisions, so I assessed my situation. The woman who adopted me sits next to my pen, speaking softly. During the next 24 hours, we will establish a tentative relationship, which will develop over time into trust and leadership. She is "Mom" or "Boss Mare" of my new family herd.

Mom allows me to inspect my new home. She waits until I calm down and drink water, before she gives me hay. She is quiet and non-threatening. She doesn't attempt to approach me. She just sits next to my pen for hours, all evening into the darkness. I become cautiously curious. I wander around my pen drifting closer to her. By the time the moon is high, I have stood in front of her, sniffed her arm, and even pulled her jacket. She never attempts to touch me.

I am afraid again, alone over night. Mom checks on me a few times from the porch. This comforts me, as she is the only familiar thing in my new life. I am aware that my pacing worries her. She wonders if I will still be in my pen at dawn. My new family has said many things to themselves in the last 12 hours.

Things such as: What have we done? What were we thinking?

This is crazy. We are crazy. They are afraid too.

The next morning mom came to my pen as the birds awoke. She brought her breakfast and mine along with camping supplies. As we ate, she told me softly about her plans for the next week. She was on vacation so, we would spend most of it together. I was just relieved to see a familiar face. Over the next 12 hours we bonded. She never left me. She also never attempted to touch me. She fed me small amounts all day long. I took the hay right out of her hands. She read my body language and I read hers.

Less than 24 hours after I arrived, mom entered my pen. She simply stood quietly in the middle, hands clasped together. I approached her, and she moved away. I followed, she stopped, I did too. She moved away, I followed. She stopped. I stopped. I put my chin over her shoulder then, she left quietly. I tried to follow her. Mom calls this the "whispering" technique. She learned "whispering" at a seminar taught by Monty Roberts in Madison, Wis. We repeated this exercise many times. The third time, she turned to face me when I put my chin over her shoulder. She reached out her hand and brushed my shoulder. I had muscle spasms from head to toe, but I didn't move. Mom left to have dinner with the family. I cried out for her, pacing. She smiled from ear to ear. When she returned I was so happy to see her. I whinnied loudly and nickered softly. I did that Spanish trot she loves so much, and greeted her at

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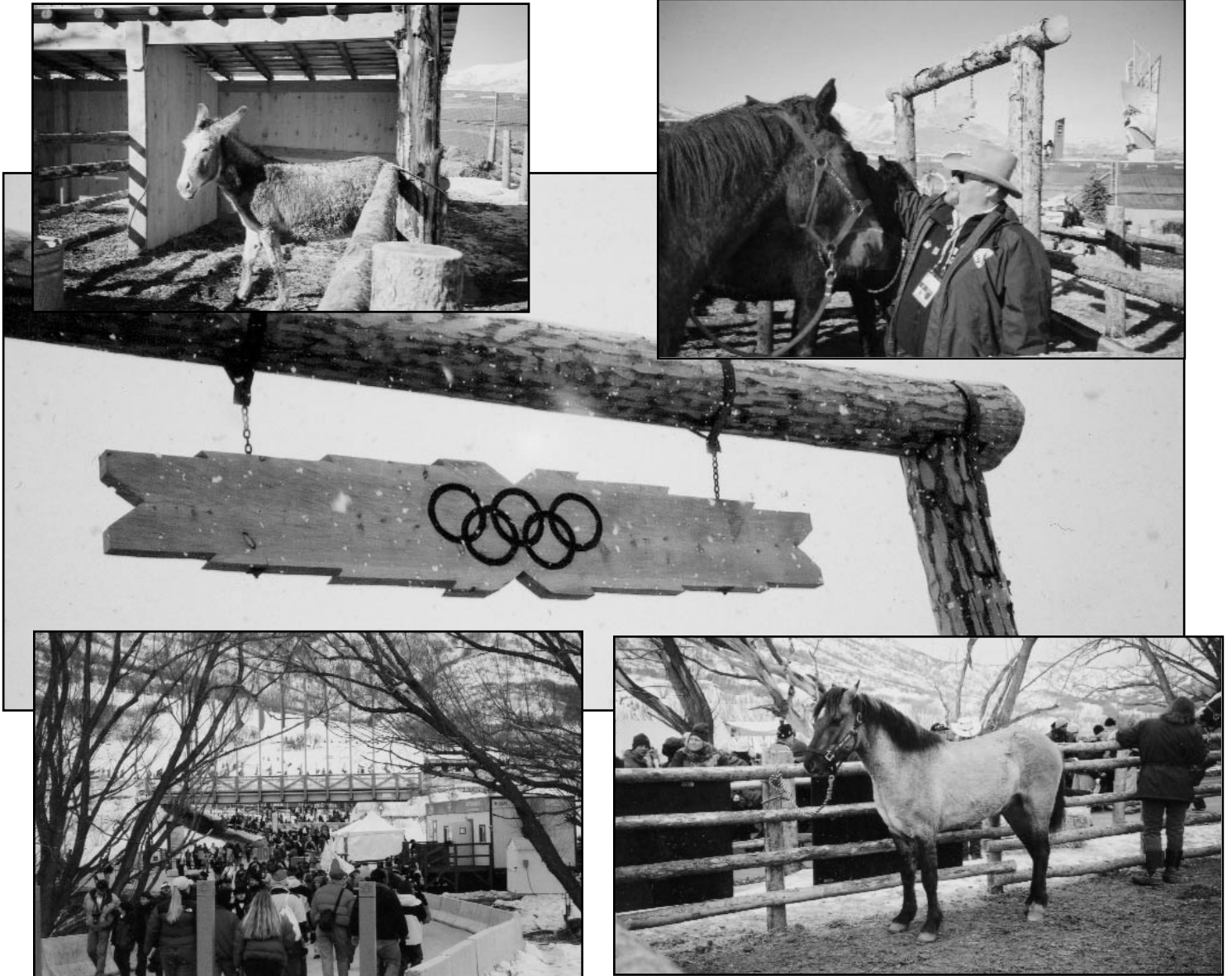


# Olympic Display of Animals Adopted via Internet

*By Karen Malloy, Wild Horse & Burro Specialist, Eastern States*

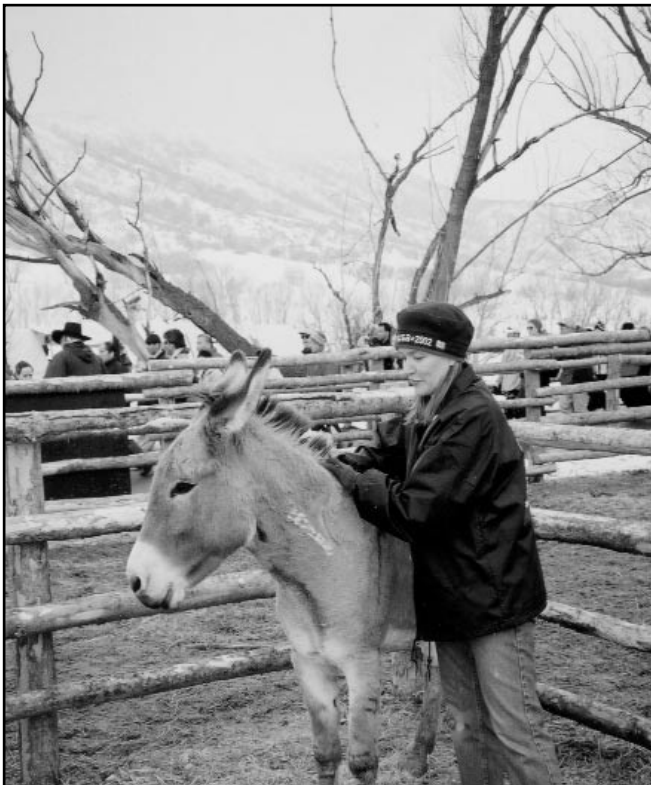
*Photos by Sharon Wilson*

The highlight of the March 2002 Internet adoption was a group of display animals (9 horses and 3 burros) that were exhibited at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Games. Volunteers from California and Utah gentled the animals to show that average adopters can successfully train wild mustangs and burros. Along with the Olympic Display animals, the Gallery also included gentled horses from Wyoming, gentled yearlings and burros from Colorado, and wild horses from Utah.



Seventy-seven of the 79 Internet animals were adopted to 63 high bidders. The bidders came from all corners of the country which included Texas, Washington, California, Florida, New Jersey, and about 20 other States. Forty animals were adopted by eastern bidders and were shipped to the Cross Plains, Tennessee, facility for pickup in April.





Al Roker of the "Today Show" with BLM staff.

The high bid of the adoption was a chestnut gelding, named Dusty, who topped the bidding at \$1,820. Dusty spent 3 weeks at the Soldier Hollow Olympic Display corral and impressed everyone with his kind and gentle personality. Three other Olympic horses brought in more than \$1,000. Two gentled horses from Colorado also brought over \$1,000, including a grulla gelding with 4 white socks, and an Appaloosa mare that delivered a buckskin colt 1 week before the end of bidding. The total bids for the 77 animals topped \$31,000 and averaged \$409 per animal. During the month of March, more than 50,000 visitors logged onto the Wild Horse & Burro Web site.

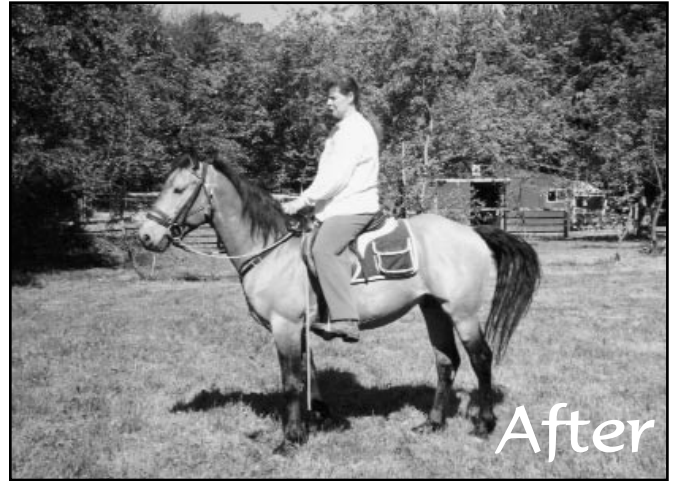
Visit the Web site at [www.adoptahorse.blm.gov](http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov).



# Before & After Adoption Photos

Before

Elko



Before

Mustang  
Mania



Before

Sierra





# Letters from Adopters

I have written to you previously concerning a mustang I rescued from an abusive owner. Thanks to you, I have a copy of her title papers and have them mounted on her stall. Shadow is now being ridden by both her trainer and me. She has been out on the trail several times, and is going to be in her first horse show. I will be showing her in two halter classes and riding her in another.

She has come so far since I first met her, two years ago. I have found her a wonderful stable, where she is put out to exercise every day. She is well taken of. I just wanted to let you know that a 12-year-old mustang can become a very adept trail horse. Yes, it takes a bit longer but the bond Shadow and I have will grow stronger every day.

I am planning to attend your adoptions in Asheville and Florence this spring. There, I will be looking for a mustang for my daughter, who is taking lessons. For her, I want a younger mare – but definitely a mustang. I wouldn't have anything else.

Thanks again for your interest in Shadow's progress.

—Mary Cory

One Saturday, in January 1997, I was busy cleaning house and listening to the radio. I heard an announcement about an adoption at the fair grounds. I went out of curiosity, and found Windy. I don't know why, but it just seemed that I was meant to find

her there. She hadn't been adopted yet. The adoption started on Friday morning, so quite a few horses had already been adopted by the time I got there.

Windy was shaggy with a winter coat, and a little thin, but I saw her beauty. I saw what she could become. I had never really thought about having a palomino, but I'm really glad to have found her. Windy is really sweet and has shown no sign of being "wild."

—Gale Edwards

It would be good to run an article about how important it is to geld studs, except in special cases. We take in mustangs that other people can't continue to keep. In October 2000, we got a 22-year-old. He had lived with another family since he was two. In January 2001, we went to pick up a 14-year-old stud. Neither is trained to be ridden, but can be handled. We have since had both horses gelded, which is hard on older horses. Fortunately, we have outstanding vets, and both horses are fine.

Not gelding a stud usually condemns him to a life alone, looking longingly over the fence at the geldings and mares in the pasture. It is so sad. We are planning to get the older horse out with our mustangs, in the pasture, this spring. The younger horse, still acts very much like a stud, so he will remain penned for a while.

Both animals, even as studs, had very sweet dispositions. This

may account for the reason they were never gelded. It is still not fair to keep them as studs unless being used as such.

—Kay Cushman

It has been less than a month since I attended an adoption in my home town of Camp Verde, Ariz. The adoption started a true love affair with my new colt "Walker." He is such a joy to me.

I have wanted a baby horse for over 10 years and had felt that I didn't have the time or the education for one. My neighbor adopted last year, and enjoys his colt so much that I gave it some more thought. My husband, the "non-horse" person in the house, was supportive. We got the required info, built our "baby crib," and happily went to the auction.

I stayed at the auction site for three hours the first day. I was impressed with a nice-big grulla colt. It was around seven months-old. I kept looking at him, but my eye kept sliding over to the little buckskin colt. I felt drawn to him for some reason. When my husband finally arrived to see which one I wanted, I told him the grulla was the best one but my heart was being tugged by the little buckskin. I went home that night, dreamed about the buckskin, and hurried over the next morning to see if I felt the same way. Yup! He was the one. During the auction, I was told to move over and to quit standing in front of the bid sheet – for MY horse. Well, it



# Letters from Adopters (continued)

was meant to be, because I was the only one that bid on the buckskin. He was kind of pot bellied and looked like a dirty little thing, but I saw something in him.

It has been less than a full month and this horse is special. It took a few hours of just being in the pen with him and not really doing anything to him, to be able to get close. After that it was all ok. He bonded with me and I bonded with him. He has never tried to kick or hurt me, in any way. He has allowed me to brush him all over, pick up all four feet, rub him all over, mess with his ears and tail, and worm him. I just love him with all my heart and can hardly wait for work to be over so I can come home and play with him.

—Dee Whitt

When I made the decision to adopt a mustang I didn't get my hopes up. I thought most mustangs were weedy, ewe necked, pot bellied animals. Well, I sure was surprised when I attended an adoption in Versailles, Ky. I arrived, on a Friday afternoon, to view the prospects. I told myself there might not be anything suitable so "don't get your hopes up." But I was really amazed at the number of good horses available. The largest percentage were in very good shape and weight. Most of the young horses had a solid build and lovely-flat faces and kind expressions. The biggest surprise, of all, came the next day during the bidding

process. As the horses were moved into the round pen, two at a time, I saw them trot, canter, or gallop down the chute and into the pen. Each and every horse had a floating trot and a long athletic center. One particular horse caught my eye, on Friday, as she was trotting around the round pen during a demonstration. My friend, who came to help me look, said, "Now there's a dressage horse if you want one." She was right. In front of us was a lovely black filly, with the biggest trot I've ever seen, moving around the pen. I had no idea these were mustangs. These were beautiful animals, nothing like I expected.

On Saturday, I bid on the black filly and soon she was mine. Sunday, I arrived early and she was loaded through a chute and onto the trailer. Again, I expected a wild horse to fuss on a horse trailer by herself. I expected her to come flying off the trailer when the door was swung open. I thought that maybe she would injure herself in the commotion. I was wrong. The black filly, (already named CoCo) traveled fine. When we arrived at the barn and backed up to the big doors, we swung that trailer door open, and I watched (expecting the worst) as CoCo looked left and right. She sniffed the trailer floor and casually walked off the trailer, down the barn aisle, and turned in her stall. From that point I no longer had any doubt. This was one

smart horse, nothing like I had expected.

CoCo has been with me for several weeks now. She has learned every lesson in record time. Starting off, she allowed petting haltering, leading, grooming, having her feet handled and cleaned, and just recently bridling and lunging.

I learned something new this summer – expect the unexpected. The most suitable horse just might be a BLM mustang. I would recommend a mustang, for adoption, to anyone who has a good horse sense, some experience with young horses, plenty of time and patience, a calm manner, and a positive attitude. It's been a wonderful experience, and I look forward to the next twenty years, or so, with CoCo.

—Mary Ann Hartsock

## Submission Information

*When submitting items for the National Wild Horse and Burro News, please send text and photos. We prefer electronic versions of your articles and photos, however we do accept hard copies. Electronic submissions should be sent as separate files, with the text formatted in Word Perfect or Microsoft Word. Please do not attach photos inside the text document; attach them in separate files. Also, include contact information such as an e-mail address or phone number, with your submissions. Photos will not be returned. Thanks for your interest in the newsletter, we look forward to future submissions.*



## Adopted Foal (continued from page 3)

again, if asked? "In a heartbeat," exclaimed Annette, excitedly. "The rewards have been tremendous - simply tremendous," said David, nodding his head in agreement.

In the meantime, the investigation into the fatal shootings continues. Wild horses and burros on public lands are protected under the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act. Killing a wild horse or burro is punishable by up to a \$2,000 fine and one year in jail, or both. There is a \$15,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the shootings. The reward was posted by the Bureau of Land Management, Friends of Red Rock, Humane Society of the United States-West Coast Regional Office, the National Mustang Association, National Wild Horse Association

and Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses.

Anyone with information about the shootings is encouraged to call (775) 289-1820 or toll-free (800) 521-6501.



Above: Patrick grabs a quick lunch.

## 30th Anniversary Festival (continued from page 4)

wild horses and burros that are such an important part of our western heritage. Also, we wanted to create an adoption venue that would help place horses in caring homes."

Pool said the decision to build the event around children's activities recognized the importance children played in the passage of the Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act three decades ago.

"During the 1960s, children were instrumental in bringing the wild horse and burro issue to the attention of Congress. They wrote letters to support the work of Nevada resident Velma Johnson, better known as "Wild Horse Annie", to get the law

passed to protect America's wild horse and burro herds."

The celebration of America's western heritage was showcased to the world, with the use of the Internet. Using video streaming technology, BLM broadcast all seven hours of the event live on the internet. A BLM public affairs team kept the broadcast lively, by interviewing children, adopters, horse and burro owners, trainers, BLM wranglers, and other participants.

"I am proud of the way the BLM team pulled together to host this first ever event," Pool said. "Staff members from nearly every BLM discipline pitched in to plan, organize and host the event, and it came off beautifully."



# BLM Mustang (continued from page 1)

At the adoption, we noticed Vaquero had lost quite a bit of weight and he wasn't very shiny. We had no idea what kind of disposition he had. However when we got him home he showed us, right away that he had no intention of sacrificing his safety to get away from us. However, he was definitely not going to be an easy horse. In fact, in the beginning he would turn his rear end to us and hide his face. If we came too close he would let loose with both hind feet. Round penning was not an option, because we could not get him to move. To this day, he still holds the tittl (at our ranch) for being the most difficult horse to gentle. Weeks later, when we were finally able to win his trust, it was apparent that he had a kind and willing disposition. All of his early behavior was his way of dealing with his fear of humans.

Later, my husband worked to train Vaquero and he was saddle broken well before he was halter broken within a few weeks of starting to ride him, Vaquero proved himself to be a very safe and reliable trail horse. From his first trail ride, which was about ride eight for him, he went fearlessly where ever we asked, though he was always careful. We immediately put him to work ponying other wild horses, which surprisingly he was comfortable with.

Vaquero was doing well on his arena work and within a few months of his adoption we decided he might be ready to go to the National Wild Horse and Burro Show in Reno to be held the second weekend of June, 2000. By May, 2000 we decided he might be ready to compete for the Superhorse Award. By the second weekend of June Vaquero had taken part in two prac-

tice shows and made one public appearance at a BLM adoption. We went to Reno with the lofty goals of trying for Grand Champion Halter Stallion, High Point Amateur Horse, High Point Open Horse, and Superhorse. Of course, we never expected to even come close to winning, but we decided it would be best to work towards something.

We put his nose to the grindstone by competing in amateur, open, and halter classes and the Superhorse competition. The competition included: English and Western Pleasure Equitation, Trail, Showmanship, Western Riding, Reining, and Hunter Hack. The competition was pretty stiff. By the awards ceremony, the only thing we felt confident about was the Grand Champion Halter Stallion, which he had already been awarded. At the awards ceremony we were surprised and delighted when Vaquero was awarded Superhorse, High Point Open and High Point Amateur. During the competition I earned my first, and most precious, trophy buckle.

At the 2001 Oregon State Fair, Vaquero won every Kiger class he entered. He placed well in English and Western pleasure, in ABRA, and won under both judges in ABRA Trail. We competed one more time in an ABRA show, (in 2001) where he tied for reserve high point first year green all around. For our efforts in the ABRA shows, Vaquero earned an Honor Roll Award and was tied for second in the nation in First Year Green Western Pleasure.

After his successes in the ABRA classes at the Oregon State Fair we decided a shot at the world show was worth a try. Now, Vaquero is headed to the 2002

ABRA World Championship Show, July, 23-28, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

We are extremely proud of Vaquero's accomplishments and have high hopes for his future in ABRA. We feel lucky to have had the opportunity to acquire a horse from the wild with the talent to compete at the World Championship level, primarily against Quarterhorses.

*Matt & Pam Fournier own and run a horse training facility in the small community of Alfalfa east of Bend, Oregon. Pam has a lifetime of experience with horses and Matt has over 25 years experience training horses and working with horse owners. He has shown Quarterhorses and Arabs at the world show level and has worked with almost every breed including Quarterhorses, Paints, Arabians, Andalusians, Aztecas, Morgans, Thoroughbreds, Appaloosas, Haflingers, Peruvian Pasos and mustangs. Matt is experienced in various types of training including: starting colts, finishing show horses, fitting halter horses, and working with problem horses. He has shown extensively in Western Pleasure, Halter, Trail and Gaming and has coached amateur clients at the world show level. Steens Vaquero was the first BLM mustang Matt gentled that was directly from the wild.*



# Words of a "Little" Horse (continued from page 5)

the gate. I was excited that we had joined up again. We did circles, reverses, figure eights, and serpentine. We even did the Spanish trot together. That's where I got part of my fancy name.

Then came the climax the BLM talks about. When people say it's the most rewarding thing you'll ever do. It's the most amazing, beautiful experience you'll ever have. I let mom touch me from head to toe. I never moved as she ran her hands over every inch of my body. She picked up all four of my hooves. Also, she taught me to move away from pressure. She taught me to yield, back, whoa, and go. She cried.

Our next lesson included a halter and lead. We also used grooming supplies. Mom just lets me smell everything first. My next lesson was with my adopted father. He touched me and led me and shed tears of

joy and amazement as he left my pen. Can you believe it, over little ole me? My last lesson for the night was under a bright moon. Another member of my family herd, who like father, had spent many hours sitting next to my pen. She cried also.

The next day Mom spent sitting in my pen, reading a book. We did our lessons and I spent a lot of time sleeping next to her. I took comfort in our closeness. It's difficult to get up without stepping on humans, though. I have a lot to learn. The next couple of weeks, I learn about my new family herd members and the entire goings on of a small Wis. Horse farm. There are dogs, cats, people, and other horses called Appaloosas. They have spots and fancy pedigrees.

It's now the end of September 2001. Mom says I've come a long way. I love visitors; everyone says I'm beautiful. I had my very first vet

exam and shots at home. Dr. Elford gave me a compliment on my behavior. I am a yearling now, and I wear a saddle. I go for walks on the road. I do the obstacle course on the yard that mom and dad made for me to go over, through, and around lots of scary things (they think it's scary, I don't).

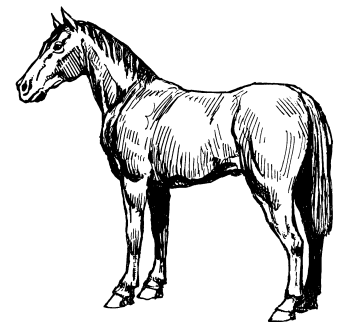
I have grown a lot too. I was a very bony weanling when I got here. I weighed about 285 lbs and stood about 12.1hh tall. Now I weigh over 500 lbs and stand about 13.2 hh tall. Not bad for a little over four months. Mom credits lush pasture, Purina Strategy, and a good de-worming program. I say, it's because they love me. Love can make miracles happen. That must be true, because Mom says she's never been able to teach her domestic horses anything but bad habits, and just look at me.

## Upcoming Shows & Expos

### Missouri's 1st Annual Living Legend Mustang and Burro Show

The Hurstville Saddle Club located in Hurstville, Missouri, approximately 48 miles south of Lebanon, Missouri will present it's first annual Mustang and Burro show on October, 12 & 13.

When: October 12 & 13 - Performance classes and timed events will begin 10 am on Saturday, and end with additional fun and games events on Sunday. Rain date scheduled for the following weekend.



more info on next page





Where - Hurstville Saddle Club Grounds -  
Hurstville, Missouri

Cost - Gate fee \$3.00 - 12 and under free  
Entry fee \$2.00 per class

\*All horses and burros must have B.L.M. brand,  
paperwork, and negative coggling.

\*Free camping Friday and Saturday.

No electrical or water hook ups - water is avail-  
able. Restrooms on site.

\*Register your mustangs and burros for classes  
early and save!

For more information contact:

Joyce Evans

417-462-9308

dvlmwn2@Hotmail.com

Debby Salmwood

417-741-7518

smallwood@getgoin.net



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## Grand Olde West Days

May 25-28, 2002

Craig, Colorado

Contact: Donna Shue (970) 824-0114

The Grand Olde West Days sponsors a variety of  
events focusing on historic and western culture  
including bull-riding competitions, a parade  
and carnival old-time demonstrations and  
a concert/dance.

## National Wild Horse and Burro Show

June 14-16, 2002 - National Wild Horse and  
Burro Show

Reno, Nevada

Livestock Events Center Events include gentling  
demonstrations and a wild horse and  
burro adoption.

[www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov)

2002



# 2002

## Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Schedule

[www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov)

### JUNE

DATE	ADOPTION SITE	CONTACT OFFICE	TELEPHONE
1	Crawford, NE	Fort Robinson State Park	(307) 775-6097
6-8	Nacogdoches, TX	Moore Field Office	(800) 237-3642
7-8	Holbrook, AZ	Phoenix Field Office	(866) 4MUSTANGS
8	Shawano, WI	Milwaukee Field Office	(800) 293-1781
8-9	Red Bluff, CA	Clear Lake Resource Area (Ukiah)	(707) 468-4055
15	Sydney, NE	Cabela's	(308) 254-7889
22-23	Woodland Hills, CA	Ridgecrest Resource Area	(800) 951-8720
22-23	Little Rock, AR	Jackson Field Office	(888) 274-2133

### JULY

DATE	ADOPTION SITE	CONTACT OFFICE	TELEPHONE
5-7	Boulder, CO	Canon City Field Office	(719) 269-8539
6	Syracuse, NY	Milwaukee Field Office	(800) 293-1781
12-13	Grand Forks, ND	North Dakota Field Office	(701) 227-7711
13-14	Starkville, MI	Jackson Field Office	(888) 274-2133
18-20	Claremore, OK	Moore Field Office	(800) 237-3642
20	Sandpoint, ID	Idaho State Office	(208) 373-3822
20-21	Longview, WA	Burns (OR) Field Office	(541) 573-4400
25	Fairplay, CO	Canon City Field Office	(719) 269-8539
27	Somersworth, NH	Milwaukee Field Office	(800) 293-1781
27	Riverton, WY	WY Honor Farm	(307) 352-0302

### AUGUST

DATE	ADOPTION SITE	CONTACT OFFICE	TELEPHONE
3-4	Jonesboro, AR	Jackson Field Office	(888) 274-2133
9	Rock Springs, WY	Rock Springs District	(307) 352-0302
10-11	Madras, OR	Burns Field Office	(541) 573-4400
15-17	Elk City, OK	Moore Field Office	(800) 237-3642
22-24	Lincoln, NE	Lancaster Event Center	(307) 775-6097
24	Woodstown, NJ	Milwaukee Field Office	(800) 293-1781
24-25	Versailles, KY	Jackson Field Office	(888) 274-2133
TBD	Verndale, MN	Milwaukee Field Office	(800) 293-1781
TBD	Yellow Creek, CO	Canon City Field Office	(719) 269-8539



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
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**Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300**



**For more information about BLM's Adopt-A-Horse or Burro Program, or to request an application, call or write to the office serving the area where you wish to adopt:**

**Alaska 907-271-5555**

Alaska State Office  
222 West 7th Avenue #13  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

**Arizona 623-580-5500**

Phoenix Field Office  
2015 W. Deer Valley Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85027-2099

Kingman Field Office  
520-692-4400

**California 916-978-4400**

California State Office  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Bakersfield Field Office  
805-391-6049

Ridgecrest Field Office  
800-951-8720

Eagle Lake Field Office  
530-254-6762

**Colorado 719-269-8500**

Royal Gorge Field Office  
3170 East Main Street  
Canon City, CO 81215-2200

**Eastern States**

Eastern States Office 800-370-3936  
7450 Boston Boulevard  
Springfield, VA 22153

Jackson Field Office 888-274-2133  
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404  
Jackson, MS 39206  
(AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC,  
SC, TN & VA)

Lebanon, Tenn. Project Office  
800-376-6009

Milwaukee Field Office 800-293-1781  
310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 450  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
(CT, DE, DC, IL, IN, IA, ME, MD,  
MA, MI, MN, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA,  
RI, VT, WV & WI)

**Idaho 208-373-4000**

Idaho State Office  
1387 S Vinnell Way  
Boise, ID 83705-5389

**Montana & Dakotas 406-896-5013**

Billings Field Office  
P.O. Box 36800  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, MT 59107-6800

**Nebraska 308-856-4498**

Elm Creek Wild Horse and Burro Facility  
5050 100th Road  
Elm Creek, NE 68836

**Nevada 775-475-2222**

National Wild Horse & Burro Center  
Palomino Valley  
P.O. Box 3270  
Sparks, NV 89432-3272

**New Mexico, Kansas, 800-237-3642**

**Oklahoma & Texas**

Moore Field Station  
221 North Service Road  
Moore, OK 73160-4946  
www.nm.blm.gov

**Oregon & Washington 541-573-4400**

Burns District Office  
HC 74-12533, Hwy 20 West  
Hines, OR 97738

**Utah 801-977-4300**

Salt Lake Field Office  
2370 South 2300 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84119

**Wyoming 307-352-0302**

Rock Springs District Office  
P.O. Box 1869  
280 Highway 191 North  
Rock Springs, WY 82901-1869