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Burros, Mustangs–Truly the Most Incredible Creatures

By Cady Ness-Smith, Eagle, Michigan

I had never owned a burro before, so I did some research before I adopted one through the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Internet Adoption program. I went to donkey shows and talked to many people in the area who have domestic burros. I also contacted past adopters to discuss what I should expect when working with a wild burro. Armed with a wealth of information, I made my bid on burro #304. On May 20, 2000, I traveled to Cross Plains, Tenn., to pick up my wild burro Seymour, a 2 year old jack from Arizona's Alamo Lake Herd Area.

Even though I have successfully adopted and trained several wild horses through the BLM, everyone kept telling me that burros are different than horses and that I would be surprised by how easy a burro would be to train. I was amazed at how much easier Seymour loaded into the trailer than the

horses. He simply walked into the chute as if he had done this before and let the wranglers place the halter on him.

For the first 24 hours, I allowed Seymour to have some privacy to check out his new environment. On the second day, we began to get to know each other. I started by just standing in the pen with him and talked to him quietly. By the end of the first day, I was able to touch him on the shoulder. He would look at me as I approached—I could not believe how fast he accepted me. The mustangs took much longer to get to this point.

I got Seymour to approach me by offering him hay or clover. Several days later, I introduced him to horse treats and carrots. In just one week, he would approach me when I entered

Continued on page 10



Adopted burro Seymour becomes more comfortable as owner Cady Ness-Smith teaches him to drive.



The Bureau of Land Management, (BLM), an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, is entrusted with administering 264 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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Senior specialist steps in to manage program for interim

Following Lee Delaney's retirement in December 2000, Senior Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B)Specialist, Bud C. Cribley, has taken over management of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) WH&B Program. Cribley will serve as acting group manager until the BLM fills the position on a permanent basis.

Cribley has worked as the WH&B Program's senior specialist for policy since August 1997. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., Cribley worked in various BLM field offices in Utah, Montana, Colorado and Nevada. He began his BLM career in 1976 as a

range and forestry technician, became a range conservationist, and then progressed into management.

As one of the architects of the strategy to achieve healthy rangelands and viable herds, Cribley will focus his attention on implementing the strategy. "We have begun to move forward with the strategy and recognize that accomplishing our goals will require sustained efforts by everyone associated with the program over the next few years. We will also need help from our volunteers to make the effort successful," said Cribley.

Advisory Board's Next Meeting

The Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will meet on Feb. 20 and 21 in Phoenix, Ariz. The Bureau of Land Management's National Training Center, located at 9828 N 31st Ave, will host the meeting. On Tuesday, Feb. 20, the meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 5 p.m. On Wednesday, Feb. 21, the meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and adjourn at noon. Public comment will take place on Tuesday afternoon. Tentative agenda topics are: research, i.e., immunocontraception, population viability; market assessment and marketing implementation plan; euthanasia; and the impact of drought, fire and emergency gathers.



Adopter Chet St. Clair, seated in his 1890 covered wagon, hits the trail with former wild horse Rosie (left) and White pulling the wagon. Rosie came from California's China Lake Naval Base north range and gave birth to Buckshot (horse at rear of wagon) at BLM's Ridgecrest, Calif., facility before St. Clair adopted the two in 1994.



Air Force Academy cadets fly high in the saddle

By James Lovely, U.S. Air Force Academy

Like any stables, patrons board and rent horses at the U.S. Air Force Academy (AFA) Equestrian Center, but because it also functions as a training ground for AFA cadets, horses and youth, and supports the Make A Wish Foundation, these stables are unique. As an active participant in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Adopt-a-Horse or Burro Program, the Equestrian Center occasionally adds mustangs to its riding programs. The BLM gathers mustangs from rangelands in Nevada and Utah and transports some to the Colorado State Penitentiary near Canon City, Colo.

"Wildfires and drought have really taken a toll on the wild horse population," said Billy Jack Barrett, manager of the Equestrian Center for the past 20 years. "The fires have burned the horses' grazing lands and severe drought has dried up many of their watering holes. It hurts to think of these noble animals dying from starvation and thirst-that's a tough way to go. We're able to save many of these horses from a grisly death by adopting them for our riding programs. Adopting these horses really benefits our programs as well. We choose the horses from among hundreds that are most suitable for our needs."

Once the horses are selected, they are set aside and trained by inmates in the Colorado Department of Corrections Wild Horse Inmate Program. The initial training usually lasts from three to six months, after which they are brought to the Academy, just north of Colorado Springs.

At this point, the mustangs are not yet ready for the rental riding program. Considerable time must still be spent "gentling" the horses further, Barrett said. "These horses are very spirited. It takes a lot of training and contact with humans before a wild horse is safe enough to be used as a trail horse," he said. "The horse has to learn to trust people before it can be trusted with people."

This is where cadets enter the picture. AFA Equestrian Team members help with the seasoning of the mustangs.

"When new horses come in, we assign three to five cadets to care for each horse," said Lt. Kevin "Kooch" Kuciapinski, who was cadet in charge of the 150-member AFA Equestrian Team before his graduation last May. "It works well because everyone competes to see whose horse is calmed down the most. is better trained and will make the better trail

horse. Then, we switch the horses around so that horses are exposed to different types of people and different styles—same thing with the riders and trainers: what worked with that horse may not work with this one so they have to think of something new."

The mustangs are very popular at the center, people just seem drawn to them for some reason, Barrett said. "There seems to be an attraction between the mustangs and people that creates a special bond. Longtime horsemen who have ridden Arabians, quarter horses and appaloosas are enjoying the relationship they develop with the mustangs," he said. "The mustangs don't have a hidden agenda—what you see is what you get."

Cadets ride, train and groom the mustangs and clean stalls and in return they gain leadership skills. Their leadership skills are honed through their voluntary participation in the Character Development Program started by Barrett and William Gibson, a professor of ethics and philosophy of religion at the Academy.

The cadets also bear a lot of responsibility and take pride in teaching the mustangs. Kuciapinski said he received a great deal of satisfaction watching the mustangs he worked with go out on their first trail ride with beginner riders and remembering when they came to



C1C Kevin "Kuch" Kuciapinski works with a mustang at the Air Force Academy Equestrian Center. Kuciapinski is cadet in charge of the Academy Equestrian Team.

the Equestrian Center months earlier. Because the same motivational techniques that work on horses often apply equally well to people, the cadets receive as much training as the horses.

"You're not going to make a 1,000-pound animal do what it doesn't want to do. You have to get it to want to do what you want it to do, and I think it kind of works the same way when you are managing or leading people. I draw a lot of parallels between teaching horses and teaching people in an airplane," Kuciapinski said.

Gibson said the Character
Development Program is twopronged—the service side and cadet
development side. Helping the *Make a Wish Foundation*, working with Scouts,
at-risk youth and therapeutic programs
are all part of the service side.

"We help the Boy Scouts with their Horsemanship Merit Badge every year and that's always a good time," Kuciapinski said. "Working with the kids is a great thing for building character, it puts a lot of responsibility on you because you have to make sure you're setting a good example, and you want to teach them something."

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Do you know about equine feed and nutrition?

Toni L. Gentzler, Belle Fourche, South Dakota

Do you find yourself wondering how much hay you should feed, what type of hay you should feed, and if grain and other supplements are necessary? If you're like me, you grew up feeding the horses the amount that "looked right" and maintained body weight. Believe it or not, there is scientific information to guide us through horse nutrition and feeding requirements, thus eliminating the guess work.

All higher forms of life require six basic nutrients: water, protein, carbohydrates, fats, minerals, and vitamins. Mature horses can meet all of these nutrient needs through good quality grass or grass hay, a tank full of clean water, and free access to trace mineralized salt. Let's take a quick look at each nutrient requirement.

Water. Horses will actively seek out water to meet their needs. A horse will drink approximately 5 to 15 gallons of water each day, depending on weather, exercise, and/or lactation. The rule for feeding water is to give free access to all the clean, fresh, unfrozen water the horse wants. The only exception to this is for the hot horse that has ceased exercising. A hot horse can drink his fill as long as he continues to exercise, but once he is done for the day, you should allow 30-90 minutes for the horse to cool before allowing him to drink his fill, otherwise colic or founder could occur.

Carbohydrates and Fats.

Carbohydrates and fats are the main sources of energy for the horse. Carbohydrates are the sugars and starches of the grains and the cellulose (fiber) of the hay and grass. Fats are the oils in the grain and hay. Horses eat to meet their needs for energy and should be fed approximately 2 percent of their body weight in dry weight feed. Therefore, a 1000 pound mature horse should be fed 20 pounds of total feed

each day. At least 50 percent of the ration should be hay to provide enough roughage in the horse's diet.

Fats. Fats produce 2.25 times more energy than carbohydrates, and they produce the least amount of internal body heat. Fats make up 2-4 percent of a normal ration of hay and grain. If more fat is desired in your horse's diet, add vegetable oil to his ration. One or two ounces of vegetable oil added daily will improve the haircoat, and some endurance horses are being fed up to a pint of vegetable oil each day while in training to increase energy without increasing internal body heat. Note that rations should not contain more than 12 percent fat to avoid digestive problems.

Protein. Protein requirements vary for different classes of horses; young horses have a higher requirement for protein because they are growing body tissues such as muscle and bone, while mature horses require less protein for maintenance of body tissue. Weanlings to 2-year-olds require 16-12 percent protein, with the higher levels at the weanling stage and gradually decreasing as the horse ages. Adult horses require only about 10 percent protein. Note that mature horses with increased exercise do not need increased protein; energy requirements increase with exercise but protein needs remain the same. A good quality alfalfa hay will contain about 14-18 percent protein and a good quality grass hay will contain 7-12 percent protein. Corn, oats, and barley or sweet mix grain usually contain 10 percent protein, and other grain mixes contain higher levels of protein. Alfalfa hay mixed with grass hay will provide a mature horse with adequate levels of protein. If alfalfa hay is not available, supplement grass hay with grain to meet the protein needs of your horse.

Minerals. Calcium and phosphorus comprise about 70 percent of the mineral content of the horse's body. These minerals are of greatest concern in formulating horse rations. Proper levels and ratios of these two minerals are important for normal development of bone. If inadequate levels or improper ratios are supplied, structural deformities may result. Ideal calcium:phosphorus ratios should be from 1.2:1 to 1.6:1. Never feed a ratio that contains more phosphorus than calcium because the horse's body will attempt to equalize the ratio by pulling calcium from its bones. Grains are high in phosphorus, low in calcium. Alfalfa hay is high in calcium, low in phosphorus. Grass hay has the correct ratio, but is too low in both for horses under age 2 and pregnant or lactating mares. Supplement grass hay with alfalfa and grain to supply young, pregnant, or lactating horses with adequate amounts of calcium and phosphorus. Daily needs for these horses are 34 grams of calcium and 24 grams of phosphorus, while other mature horses only need 26 grams of calcium and 16 grams of phosphorus.

Always provide your horse with free choice trace mineralized salt. Salt blocks, designed for rough, cow tongues, are too hard for horses to lick off adequate amounts of salt. Therefore, loose, bagged salt is better for horses. Trace mineral salt will not only meet the horse's sodium and chloride requirements, but it will also meet the needs for other trace minerals. However, if you are using your horse for endurance riding, plain salt is better than trace mineral salt to avoid trace mineral toxicity associated with increased consumption of trace mineralized salt.

Vitamins. Hay and grass contain high levels of vitamins A, E, K, and D. However, hay that is a year old will have very low vitamin content since vitamins break down with time.



Twin Willows Ranch provides assistance to agency

By Debbie Harrington, Moore, Oklahoma

This past summer, many private citizens followed and responded to the media's coverage of the unfolding stories surrounding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Adoptatorse or Burro Program. In the past two years, our public lands and wild horses have been affected by record droughts and fires. As you may have read in the Fall 2000 issue of the newsletter, the BLM is faced with the challenge to adopt unprecedented numbers of horses in the next three to five years.

Two ladies that followed the stories on the BLM's Adopt-a-Horse or Burro Program live in New Mexico. Nancy Dickenson, owner of Twin Willows Ranch located in Ocate, N.M., and Amy Tremper, co-ranch manager of Twin Willows, wanted to honor the memory of a special mare by helping out the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Program. After much discussion, they decided to pay for six months of advertising in several publications that are distributed throughout the equine world. In addition, they included their personal endorsement of the BLM's Adopt-a-Horse or Burro Program within the advertisement.

As BLM's New Mexico Region WH&B Program and Twin Willows learned more about each other, they made a decision to further their partnership. The goal of the partnership is to help provide adopted and trained horses to local therapeutic riding groups and 4-H

riding programs. The partnership will be tested in BLM's New Mexico WH&B Region. If successful, it may be expanded nationwide. For more information on this project,

contact Debbie Harrington at 405-794-9624, ext. 1009.

Utah Wild Horse Festival

June 1 & 2, 2001 Salt Lake County Equestrian Park, Salt Lake City



BLM New Mexico
Associate State
Director Rich
Whitley presents
Nancy Dickenson,
owner of Twin
Willows Ranch,
and her daughter,
Jenipher
Goodman, with a
plaque of appreciation for their contribution to the
BLM's WH&B
Program.



Twin Willows Ranch asks that you join us in helping America's wild horses that are threatened by the current drought conditions in our western states. Thank you.

Adopt A Wild Horse or Burro.

Bobbie Ingersoll adopted
Kiger Cougar through the
BLM Adopt-A-Horse-orBurro Program in 1990.
Kiger Cougar placed 21st
out of 120 in the World
Championship Snaffle Bit
Futurity in 1992.



To learn more about how you can adopt your own wild horse or burro, please contact the BLM by phone or visit our website.

1-866-4mustangs or www.blm.gov/whb

Wild Horse and Burro Program

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



Agency conducts emergency removals in four states

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conducted emergency wild horse and burro gathers in four states this summer as a result of extended drought conditions and serious Mormon cricket and grasshopper outbreaks. The agency removed about 3,055 animals from rangelands in Nevada, Oregon, California and Utah.

Extreme drought conditions resulted in insufficient ground water recharge in many areas, and insufficient moisture for grass and shrub species to replenish forage. Mormon cricket and grasshopper infestations further depleted forage resources in some areas.

Emergency removals began in June 2000, and continued through

September. The BLM conducted gathers in 15 Nevada herd management areas (HMAs), 5 Utah HMAs, 1 California HMA and 1 Oregon HMA.

The BLM continues to monitor conditions in 11 other HMAs in Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. Winter moisture is important to wild horses and burros in those areas as they could face similar lack of forage or water next year.

Aptly named "fire horses" moved to new location

Wild horses in Nevada affected by rangeland fires are now a little closer to home.

About 330 wild horses, which the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has held for re-introduction to their fire-damaged herd management areas (HMAs), were transported to Goicoechea Ranches near Jiggs, Nev., in October 2000. The ranch environment, on the western slope of the Ruby Mountains, will allow the animals to readapt to rangeland vegetation in anticipation of their return to rehabilitated HMAs in the future.

At the Goicoechea ranches, wild horses will be in open pastures which will allow relatively free-roaming movement. The animals will become reacquainted with native vegetation, although the animals may be given grain and alfalfa supplements, especially during winter months. The ranch won a competitive bid to hold the fire-affected wild horses. The BLM removed the animals from the rangelands in the fall and winter of 1999 after devastating wildfires burned 1.6 million acres which included the horses' home ranges. They had been held in Fallon, Nev., prior to the move to Jiggs.

All of the wild horses are freeze marked, have been tested to ensure they do not carry equine infectious anemia, and have received inoculations for common equine diseases. The BLM will continue to provide veterinary care as needed. Mares and studs are being held separately.

BLM Nevada wild horse and burro specialist from the Elko and Winnemucca Field Offices have oversight of the Jiggs facility.

Do you know about equine feed and nutrition?

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Microflora in the hindgut (cecum)of a horse will produce adequate amounts of B vitamins. If feeding year old hay, vitamin supplements may be necessary. Otherwise, vitamins rarely need to be supplemented in a horse's diet.

Horses are individuals, and the numbers and formulas mentioned above are just a guide. You may need to adjust the amount fed daily based on

your horse's body condition. Some horses are "easy keepers" and should be fed less to prevent obesity, while other horses are hard to keep weight on and need to be fed more. A healthy horse should appear somewhat fleshy. To determine if your horse is in good condition, look at the neck, back, ribs, and tail head. The neck should blend smoothly into the shoulder. The back should be level or even fleshy enough

to form a crease. The ribs should not be seen, but can be felt. The tail head should feel soft.

Toni Gentzler, BLM-South Dakota Adopt-A-Horse coordinator, shares more tips on health care as well as gentling and training your adopted animal in monthly articles found at www.mt.blm.gov/sdfo/

7th Annual Wild Horse & Burro Expo

Oct. 12-14, 2001

Rusk County Expo Center in Henderson, Texas



Desperado 4-H Club-Boys & mustangs go together

Contributed by Mona Pomraning, Boise, Idaho



Mustangs and their boys, (pictured L-R) Vallad on 25-year-old Bandit. Maxie on 20-year-old Jess, Brown on 3-vear-old Owyhee Thunder, and Pomraning holding 18month-old Indiana Jones.

Four young horsemen who are active members in 4-H, gained invaluable experience working with wild horses while becoming "goodwill ambassadors" for America's living legends.

David Maxie, a seventh grader at South Boise Junior High School, first started riding horses when he was 4 years old. His ride was Jess, a beginner's horse. Two years ago Maxie entered a "Golden Oldies" public speaking contest. His spoke about those old horses with hearts of gold, the ones that go above and beyond. Jess inspired Maxie's speech. As Maxie said, "She may not be a fancy show horse, but every year she carries another beginner safely through the fair."

Now 20 years old, Jess, a wild horse from Eastern Oregon, has a special rapport with beginning riders. Jess teaches these riders how to ride and she has never failed. Throughout Jess's career she has been used in 4-H, games, driving, jumping, hunting, trails, and participates in the Special Olympics Games with various riders. In September 2000, Jess won two golds, and one silver medal for her riders at the Special Olympics Games.

In 1997 the Pomraning family adopted Owyhee Thunder, a gelding gathered from Idaho's Owyhee Mountain Range for their son. Thunder became the 4-H project horse for Alex Pomraning, an eighth grader at Lake Hazel Middle School in Meridian, Idaho, and his friend Marshall Brown, a fifth grader at

Star Elementary in Star, Idaho. When Pomraning and Brown joined 4-H last year neither had any horsemanship experience. Pomraning was the first person to ride Thunder and on that day, Thunder just turned around and looked up in surprise but did not move.

They've come a long way since then. Pomraning and Thunder won the Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Mustang Breed award at the Idaho Fair while Thunder won first place at the Fair in the open breed 3-year-old gelding halter quality class and placed in gymkhana events. Wherever Pomraning and Thunder go people ask Pomraning if he is riding a mustang. When Pomraning tells people that Thunder is a 3-year-old mustang people are always surprised because Thunder is so pretty and even tempered.

Brown entered Thunder in the Idaho Fair, and placed above average in overall horsemanship in the trail class, and earned a perfect score on turning around in a tiny log box. Brown's favorite horse is the Kiger Mustang, which is always a dun factor horse. Brown did his 4-H demonstration on dun factored horses including color patterns and primitive leg, face, wither, and dorsal strips.

Both Pomraning and Brown also worked with Indiana Jones, a yearling strawberry roan gelding born to a mare from Oregon. Brown trained Indy to load in a horse trailer, to allow his front feet to be picked up, and to stand quietly while being held. Pomraning took over and taught Indy to off-line lounge, move forward, turn, stop, follow, stand still, have his feet picked up and to walk, trot and turn in the halter quality show pattern. Pomraning has since donated Indy to the Idaho Youth Boys Ranch, a non-profit agency.

Jason Vallad, a junior at Bora High School in Boise, rides Bandit, the "senior" wild horse of the bunch. Bandit is a 25-year-old mustang that was adopted from the Bureau of Land Management's Burns, Ore., facility. The Vallad family rescued Bandit 20 years ago, when after going to four homes in one year, Bandit was considered an "outlaw." At the Idaho Fair, the horse that was once labeled an outlaw won the prestigious Mustang breed award. Vallad and Bandit placed 4th in the open breed western pleasure class which was a class of more than 30 entries. The two also participated in two gymkhana horse show series, winning first and third in Vallad's age group.

Mona Pomraning is a 4-H leader in Boise, Idaho.

According to Alex
Pomraning here's what
you should bring to a wild
horse and burro
adoption: lots of money,
a warm coat because it
might snow or rain, lots
of food because the
adoption site might be far
from a Taco Bell, a CD
player because it could be
a long day, and a pair of
binoculars so you can
pick the best horse.



Colorado outfitters create outlet for older, wiser horses

By Valerie Dobrich, Meeker, Colorado

Jake, a 9-year-old wild horse gathered from Nevada after the 1999 wildfires, is getting used to the idea of packing elk hunting camp into Colorado's high country. This stocky sorrel is one of a handful of older geldings placed with members of the Colorado Outfitters Association (COA).

In 1999, Colorado's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) entered into an agreement with the COA to adopt to outfitters male horses 6 years of age and older that have been gelded and started either to ride or to pack.

There appears to be a strong demand by outfitters for started wild horse geldings. Outfitters pack recreationists, hunters and camps into Colorado's mountain ranges and require strong, sure-footed animals who are wise to nature's surprises. Wild horses who have survived on the range for at least six years before being removed from the range and prepared for adoption often meet the outfitters' packing and riding criteria.

The challenge to achieving success through the COA agreement is finding

trainers with the time, skill and patience needed to work with these older horses. COA trainers agree that building the trust of these worldwise geldings consumes a signifi-

cant portion of the training, but once the trust is built, these geldings proceed through their training at the same pace as younger wild horses. The trainers also agree that once the trust hurdle is overcome, the gelding must be worked frequently because wild horses in training often quickly forget what they have learned when they stand idle.

Geldings placed with COA members this year were between 6 and 11 years of age. The horses fell into one of two categories: horses held in facilities for extended periods of time without being placed, or horses gathered in 1999 after a series of wild fires ravaged Nevada's open ranges.

While the adoption demand for younger horses remains fairly strong, male horses over 5 years of age are more difficult



Jake, a 9-year-old Nevada horse, leads High Lonesome Outfitter Paul Janke's pack string.

to place. This can be confusing since a horse 6-years old is not really old by any means. Still, the typical wild horse adopter generally prefers a younger animal more easily trained by individuals with little wild horse experience.

Luckily for Jake, and for a handful of older geldings like him, life has changed from one spent in a BLM corral to one traveling Colorado's mountain country. The COA has provided a positive outlet for BLM's older, wiser horses.

For more information on the COA adoption/placement agreement, please contact Art Burule, COA president, at 970-876-5466 or muleman@rof.net; or Valerie Dobrich, BLM, Meeker, Colo., at 970-878-3601 or valerie_dobrich@co.blm.gov.

Mare, foal delight adopter, friends, neighbors too



Once she discovered grain she became a real chow hound and would do just about anything for some more of that terrific stuff. We nicknamed her PIGLET.

My name is Sandy Groff and I adopted two of your horses, mare and foal, now affectionately named Tsunami Wildfire and Sassy Sable, on Aug. 21, 1999. They are the most wonderful animals it has ever been my pleasure to encounter. (I already have a purebred Arabian stallion.) They have come a long way. In the beginning everyone knew they were wild,

now no one even asks are those the mustangs, instead they say oh how sweet or how pretty, what a nice mover. They do not even realize that they are wild. When I occasionally am asked what the white markings on their necks are for and I tell people its a freezebrand, why it's there and what they are, they are shocked to find out these lovely, well mannered friends of mine were wild mustangs.



Sixth annual Texas horse and burro expo a huge success

By Debbie Harrington, Moore, Oklahoma

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) New Mexico Region held it's 6th Annual Wild Horse & Burro Expo in Henderson, Texas, on Oct. 13-15,



Charles Martinez receives his 1st place trophy for barrel racing, adult, from Holle Hooks, BLM's New Mexico Region WH&B Crew.

2000. The expo consisted of a Wild Horse & Burro Show, a Wild Horse & Burro Adoption and horse training demonstrations by Bryan Neubert. The expo was moved from Glen Rose to Henderson to provide better access for the public. The response was overwhelming! The show portion of this year's expo doubled in size as contestants arrived from all over Texas and Arkansas.

BLM's New Mexico Region hosts this expo each year as a thank you to the public for adopting wild horses and burros. The horse and burro show provides a professional and fun opportunity for adopters to demonstrate the talents of their animal while enjoying the fellowship of fellow adopters. There is never an entry fee for the horse and burro show even though trophies, buckles and ribbons are awarded to the contestants. Training demonstrations are also free. Next year's expo, scheduled for Oct. 12-14, 2001, will return to the Rusk County Expo Center in Henderson, Texas.



Bailey Toalson shows off her trophy for the Lead Line class.

If you would like to be included on the expo mailing list, please leave your name and address at 1-800-237-3642. Thanks to all who attended the expo and participated in the Wild Horse & Burro Show and/or adopted a horse or burro. Hope to see you in October!

Wild Horse Workshop 2000

by Janet Nordin, Reno, Nevada

Congratulations to Wild Horse Mentors and Least Resistance Training Concepts, Inc., (LRTC), for hosting a very successful Third Annual Wild Horse Workshop 2000. This year's workshop, held in Golden, Colo., the week of Oct. 30, 2000, had more than 100 registered wild horse mentors and clinicians. In addition to the workshop, two wild horse and burro adoptions were held—one for participants at the workshop and the other for the general public. More than 50 wild horses and burros were adopted, a large number of animals for the Denver-metropolitan area.

Six professional trainers from around the country taught "hands on" wild horse gentling and training techniques, held seminars on nutrition, safety, halter tying and first aid. Mentors had the opportunity to work with and learn from the professional trainers.

Singer Lacy J. Dalton also performed a special benefit concert on Nov. 3. The concert, underwritten by Lifesavers Wild Horse Rescue, was a unique opportunity to experience Dalton's newest hits from her recently released recording, *Wild Horse Crossing*, as well as some of her previous hits.

LRTC and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sponsors and coordinates the workshops to benefit all adopters of wild horses and burros. The primary purpose of the workshops is to provide a well-trained, multi-leveled corps of volunteers or mentors to offer their advice and assistance to new adopters of wild horses and burros. The workshops offer a unique experience for wild horse and burro enthusiasts to work together with the BLM to benefit America's living legends.

Special thanks from the BLM go to Cheryl Eastep, Director of Wild Horse Workshop 2000, and Janet Tipton, Co-Director. A lot of hard work went into this event and the BLM appreciates the efforts of everyone involved.



Burros, Mustangs continued from page 1



standing next to 2-year-old jack Seymour, proves that if you spend time with your adopted animal, you will be able to establish trust and a close relationship.

the pen and allow me to groom him head to toe. After just 10 days, I gave him his first bath and introduced him to the clippers. By day 12, I had body clipped him and could pick up all four of his feet. By day 21, I was leading Seymour around his pen and one of our pastures. Since he was willing to be caught, would approach me consistently, and was leading great, I decided to take a chance and pasture him. I placed him in a 2-acre pasture with a 5foot (four strand web type electric) fence. He did not disappoint me. He was just as willing to come to me and did not object to being stalled at night.

By July, Seymour was leading all over the property and I had started to load

him into a trailer. We had also been working on pressure yielding from the ground and commands like "walk" and "whoa." Part of our success had to do with lots of positive reinforcement and rewards at the end of each training session. I spent approximately 30 minutes twice a day with him, four to five days a week.

I have discovered that burros/donkeys are very different than horses and that they respond very differently to training. You can't "buffalo" a donkey. They are very intelligent and do remember the things you want them to, and the things you taught them in error too.

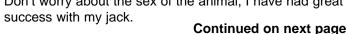
My husband and I have had similar success with our three mustangs, also adopted through the BLM program. We have a 3-year-old filly, Lakota, adopted as a yearling and a 4-year-old gelding, Indigo, adopted as a 3-year-old stud, and a yearling stud, Tango, adopted last September. Most of our mustangs were very frightened of people when they first came to our place and would flee at the sight or sound of a human.

We gained their trust and confidence by feeding them with a bucket. I started by mixing a small amount of grain (Buckeye Grow & Win) with warmed applesauce and dropped a little on top of their hay twice a day. After a few days, we placed the mixture in a bucket and tied it to the pen near the hay. It did not take long for them to discover that they liked the taste of the grain.

After a few more days, we began to hold the bucket of the grain mixture and if they approached us, they could eat out of the bucket, but if they left, we did too, with the bucket. In just a few days, they were eating out of the bucket twice a day while one of us held it. Once we had their trust, we started to touch them on their head and ears as they ate from the bucket. If they got scared and left, we did too, with the bucket. During this time they continued to get water and good quality grass hay. Soon we were able to touch them on their heads, ears, shoulders and sides. We continued this process until we were able to touch most of the horses' bodies without them moving away. We were able to snap and unsnap a lead rope from their halters and also remove and replace the halters.

We found that with the filly, interaction twice daily was plenty, while the stud required three to four smaller feedings a day to get to the same point. Within three months, our horses were picking up their feet, accepted grooming, and were leading and longeing, and had begun pressure yielding from the ground. Also, we could stall these horses at night and put them out in the morning. We found that every time we handled these horses we made progress. We have made it part of their routine to be lead out to pasture in the morning and lead to the barn at night. We have been very careful not to pasture our mustangs until they are willing to be caught consistently and lead well. We keep them in their mustang pens until they can be pastured.

- Before you adopt, confirm that you have a veterinarian and a farrier who are willing to work with your mustang or burro.
- Learn to construct and use a squeeze chute, or locate someone that has one in the event of an emergency.
- Take your time and do some research. If you are thinking about adopting a wild horse, but are not sure you are ready for it, adopt a burro. Seymour has been a great confidence builder and is a lot of fun.
- Contact other mustang or burro adopters in your area as well as your local BLM Field Office.
- Go to a few adoptions to see what you are getting into.
- Get involved with your state or local mustang or burro associations.
- · Make sure that your mustang or burro corral is of the correct size and constructed as recommended by the BLM.
- · Wait to geld your stud/jack, until you can handle him or you will have to start all over to gain his trust.
- Don't worry about the sex of the animal, I have had great success with my jack.





- Remember that these are wild animals and regardless of how good a trainer you are, it is a lot more work and will require a lot more time than you think.
- Establish trust with your mustang or burro before beginning any training program. Move forward with training at the animal's pace, not yours.
- Keep in mind that these animals have received shots and worming but will need more medical attention very soon. Since they are wild animals, they are susceptible to domestic equine diseases and should be kept quarantined for three to four weeks. The stress of shipping will reduce their immunity and they will need time to recover from this before being exposed to other equines and before a training program is started. Plan to start a good worming program. We have found that Strongid-C pellets work great.
- Set reasonable goals for yourself and your mustang or burro.
- · If you get stuck, ask other adopters for advice.
- Keep in mind that older animals will take a little longer to come around, but if you spend the time with them, they will be just as willing as Seymour, Lakota, Indigo, and Tango.

Remember, success is not measured by the amount of time it takes to accomplish a goal, but by the outcome. I have had domestic horses, but I would not trade my mustang/burro experience for anything in the world. These are truly the most incredible creatures I have ever owned. It has not been easy, but it has been extremely rewarding. If I can be of any help to you, please contact me at: sascns@flash.net or at our farm web site www.wildthingacres.com .

Air Force Academy continued from page 3

He believes all cadets need to find a way to relieve stress and just get away from it all now and then. He said the Equestrian Center provided him the opportunity to relax and gain the necessary perspective to be successful at the Academy. "I struggled my first two years at the Academy and was on academic probation," he said. "I was a little worried, stressed out often, studying all the time and stuff just wasn't working for me. After I found the Equestrian Center I would go down there, spend a couple of hours with a mustang and get a whole new outlook."

In November 1999, the *Make A Wish Foundation* arranged for 7-year-old Dylan Powers to visit the Equestian Center to fulfill one of his wishes. Powers had a form of kidney cancer and wanted to ride a horse. Cadets involved with the Character Development Program helped make his dream come true.

Lt. Bill Hardie and a contingent of cadets led Powers around the forested Equestrian Center grounds for more than two hours on horseback, followed closely by Powers' parents, Jim and Cindy Powers and his 5-year-old sister, Sarah. And when Powers left for home later that day he was wearing Hardie's black Stetson cowboy hat and an earto-ear grin.

"Dylan was just off chemotherapy a couple of weeks before his riding experience at the Academy Equestrian Center," Jim Powers said. "The cadets really brought his morale up."

Dylan subsequently had one of his kidneys removed and six months later his

neys removed and six months later his father said doctors were optimistic that he would be able to lead a relatively normal life.

"Routinely, we have people from the *Make a Wish Foundation* come down here," Kuciapinski said. "Seeing them go away happy and having a good day—it definitely puts things into perspective. When Bill (Hardie) gave his cowboy hat to Dylan that was about the happiest kid I've ever seen."

Currently, the Academy Equestrian Center boards about 145 horses, about

40 of which are used in the rental riding program. The facilities have recently been expanded to accommodate more horses, but lack of funding for feed and other maintenance prevents the Academy from adding more horses at this time.

"We don't receive government funding," Barrett said. "We're totally reliant on private donations and proceeds from riding and stall rentals for our operating costs. We would love to be able to save more of these at-risk horses and help more kids, but we simply lack the funding to enable us to make more of an impact."

Anyone visiting the Air Force
 Academy is invited to tour the
 Equestrian Center facilities, call Billy
 Jack Barrett at (719) 472-8632.

Cadets with the Academy Equestrian Team visit with the horses at the Academy's Equestrian Center.



National Wild Horse & Burro News

A healthy hoof helps produce a healthy horse

By Ron Zaidlicz, DVM U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service/Animal Care

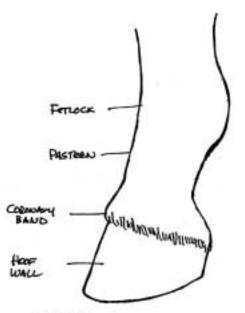
In the last issue, Fall 2000, we talked about the structure of the hoof, focusing on the bottom of the hoof. In this issue we will look at the hoof from the side and at a view where the hoof wall is pulled off.

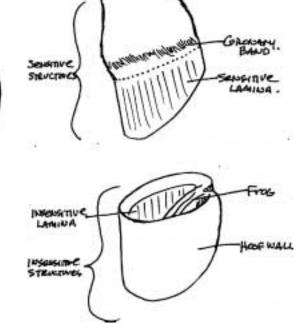
The first drawing (left) shows a horse's lower leg. The second drawing shows what you would see when the hoof wall is removed.

In the previous article we mentioned that if your horse received a puncture wound, or if its foot was trimmed too short, lameness may result. The reason for this is that such things would affect the deeper structure (sensitive tissues) of the hoof. Because these tissues are supplied with arteries, veins and nerves, trauma often causes pain and bleeding. The hoof itself (insensitive tissues) does not contain nerves and blood vessels which explains why proper trimming of these tissues or shallow punctures do not result in pain or bleeding.

The hoof is like your own fingernail except that it is specialized and goes all around the bottom of the last digit. The connection between the insensitive and sensitive portions (lamina) is reflected on the bottom of the hoof wall as the white line. This is why the white line is such an important landmark in shoeing.

There is one other very important feature about the lamina, particularly the sensitive lamina. The lamina are not simple structures, they are three-dimensional and form a strong attachment for the hoof wall. The large surface area of the attachment is important to weight bearing and is why a horse (1000 pounds) can do all the things they do on four feet with a surface area of about 160 square inches.





For a variety of reasons horses may be affected by a condition called "founder" or laminitis. Laminitis means inflammation of the lamina and because of the rich blood supply. nerves and the weight carried by the lamina it can be devastating to the horse. Very often, horses chronically affected by laminitis have curled up hoof walls because the inflammation and its own weight have caused the attachment between the sensitive and insensitive lamina to break down. The result is a hoof wall growing and wearing independent of the deeper structures of the hoof.

The hoof on the horse grows downward from the coronary band. The hoof grows at a rate of about a 1/4 inch per month depending on variables such as health, water, nutrition etc. If you note a defect on the top of the hoof wall and watch it long enough, eventually it will be at the bottom of the hoof and later be trimmed or worn off. The tissues of the coronary band which are responsible for generating the hoof wall will often reflect defects or scars following an injury to it. Some of these hoof wall defects can create weaknesses (cracks) in the wall later when they are near the ground surface. Not all cracks

are associated with coronary band defects; some cracks are associated with injury, poor shoeing, improper trimming and dry or weak hoof walls.

One part of the coronary band is referred to as the perioplic ring which generates the periople and the thin protective layer on the hoof wall. One of the purposes of this layer is to keep moisture within the hoof wall. Trimming and abrasion often lead to loss of this protective layer which makes it less able to keep moisture in the hoof wall. Many commercial hoof dressings designed to make the hoof look better and healthier are replacing the function of this lost layer. When dry, horse's hooves often become brittle and result in chips and cracks. Many people feel that white hoof walls are inherently weak and therefore more prone to cracks and defects. This may be so, but my experience in practice and with my own horses doesn't support that thinking. I feel that any hoof, if healthy and correctly trimmed and shod, is as strong as the next.

In the Spring 2001 issue we will explore some of the deeper structures of the horse's hoof and learn how these contribute to the animal's remarkable functionality.



Newsletter asking for before and after photos

The Wild Horse & Burro (WH&B) News plans to mark the 30th anniversary of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act becoming law in its Winter 2001 issue. Former President Richard M. Nixon signed the bill into law on December 15, 1971.

WH&B News is asking adopters who have "before and after" photos of their adopted animal to send them in for possible publication in the Winter 2001 issue.

What we mean by "before and after" photos are a photo taken close to the time of

adoption and a second photo taken after you've either gentled or trained the animal showing the results of your work.

The photos can include adopters with their animals.

Actual prints in black and white are best, although color is acceptable. Digital photos are discouraged.

As with the trading cards, a panel of judges will select the photos for publication. The panel of judges will include at least one private individual not directly associated with or employed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Please include the animal's name as well as your own name and address on the back of each photo. Include a suggested caption with as few words as possible.

Photos submitted will become property of the BLM and will not be returned.

Mail your photos by Sept. 28, 2001 to: Department of the Interior; Bureau of Land Management; Mail Stop 406LS, 1849 C St, NW; Attention: WH&B News; Washington, DC 20240.

Attention adopters- It's trading card time again

Would you like to have your trained wild horse or burro showcased on one of the 2001 Wild Horse and Burro Trading Cards? Well, now's your chance.

For the past several years, the National Wild Horse and Burro Program has sponsored the production of wild horse and burro trading cards. The trading cards are used as handouts at adoptions nationwide, horse shows, state fairs and other special events. Wild horse and burro trading cards have been very popular and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) looks forward to keeping the tradition alive with a 2001 series.

Tell us what your mustang or burro has accomplished and why it should be featured on a trading card. Please detach the form on the reverse side and provide the requested information. If you need additional space, please attach a separate sheet of paper. All animals considered for use on a trading card must have the BLM freezemark and must be titled if you adopted the animal more than one year ago.

A panel of judges will select the winners. The panel of judges will include at least one private individual

not directly associated with or employed by the BLM. BLM employees are encouraged to enter animals that are used to carry out the BLM's mission. Please remember, the panel of judges will likely not know who you are or what you and your wild horse or burro have accomplished. Be very thorough with your submission and include some great pictures.

If you have any questions, please contact Janet Nordin at (775) 861-6614, email: jnordin@nv.blm.gov or write to the address below. Mail your submission by March 31, 2001, to Janet Nordin, BLM, P. O. Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520-0006.

We look forward to hearing from you. Good luck!



The All-American Horse

"Pretty Boy", a children's show and trail horse, has won numerous ribbons and the hearts of children everywhere. He's very easy-going but likes to be a prankster. Pretty Boy was gentled and trained by his owner/rider, David. David was eight years old when he began training Pretty Boy.

Name: Bolks' Pretty Boy
Freezemark No.: 91538302
Height in Hands: 13.3
Weight: 875 lbs.

State Where Gathered: Nevada Owner: David George Current Home: Ohlo

3

For more information, write: Bureau of Land Management P.O. Box 12000 Perc. NV 89520

17-9847 www.bkm.gow/wbb

The Card Connection • 871-782-7338 toll-fee

Entry Form for the 2001 Wild Horse and Burro Trading Cards

Name			
Address			
City		State _	Zip
Daytime Phone			
Name of Animal		Age	Sex
Horse, Burro or Mule —		Freezem	nark #
Date Titled	State Gathered From		Age when Adopted
 What training has your animal reco Does your wild horse or burro hav 		s? Why is v	our animal special?
3. What shows/events has your anim		type of comp	petition; i.e., packing, trailing,
4. What awards or ribbons has your	animal received?		
•	round special duties? Examples mads, horse patrols, cattle drives, rar	•	king with the disabled, children-at-risk
6. Is there anything else you would li	ike to share with us about your ado	oted wild hors	se or burro?



Your animal does not have to have received special training or ribbons to be an excellent candidate for exhibition on a wild horse or burro trading card. Please include at least one 5 X 7 photo of your animal with your narrative. Photos submitted will become property of the BLM and will not be returned. Please write your name and address on the back of each photo submitted.

Tentative Adoption Schedule

2001 Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Schedule

Date	Adoption Site	Contact Office	Telephone			
March 2001						
3-4 10 10-11 10-11 17 17 24 24-25 30-31 30 31 31-4/1	Cross Plains, Tenn. West Plains, Mo. Lexington, Va. Lancaster, Calif. Burns, Ore. Hurricane, Utah Lewiston, Idaho Dillsburg, Pa. Quincy, Fla. Hutchinson, Kan. Elm Creek, Neb. Waterloo, Iowa Stockton, Calif.	Jackson Field Office Milwaukee Field Office Jackson Field Office California Desert District Burns District Office Utah State Office Salmon Field Office Milwaukee Field Office Jackson Field Office Moore Field Office WH&B Holding Facility Milwaukee Field Office Bakersfield Field Office	888-274-2133 800-293-1781 888-274-2133 800-951-8720 541-573-4400 801-539-4057 208-756-5469 800-293-1781 888-274-2133 800-237-3642 308-856-4498 800-293-1781 661-391-6049			
April 2001						
7 7-8 7-8 20-21 20-21 21 21 21-22 27 28 TBA	Canby, Ore. Cross Plains, Tenn. Hattiesburg, Miss. Tucson, Ariz. Kellyville, Okla. Edinburgh, Ind. Riverton, Utah Shreveport, La. Minneapolis/St.Paul, Minn. Riverton, Wyo. Mitchell, S.D.	Burns District Office Jackson Field Office Jackson Field Office Phoenix Field Office Moore Field Office Milwaukee Field Office Utah State Office Jackson Field Office Milwaukee Field Office Rock Springs Field Office South Dakota Field Office	541-573-4400 888-274-2133 888-274-2133 888-213-2582 800-237-3642 800-293-1781 801-539-4057 888-274-2133 800-293-1781 307-352-0208 605-892-2526			
May 20	001					
1 4-5 5 5-6 6 12 12-13 18-19 19 20 25-26 TBA	Fort Collins, Colo. Topeka, Kan. Bloomington, III. Columbia, S.C. Klamath Falls, Ore. Rexburg, Idaho Cross Plains, Tenn. Valley City, N.D. Logan, Utah Decateur, Ala. Rutland, Vt. Williams, Ariz. Salinas, Calif.	Canon City Field Office Moore Field Office Milwaukee Field Office Jackson Field Office Burns District Office Salmon Field Office Jackson Field Office North Dakota Field Office Utah State Office Jackson Field Office Milwaukee Field Office Phoenix Field Office Bakersfield Field Office	719-269-8599 800-237-3642 800-293-1781 888-274-2133 541-573-4400 208-756-5469 888-274-2133 701-225-9148 801-539-4057 888-274-2133 800-293-1781 888-213-2582 661-391-6049			
June 2	June 2001					
8-9 9 16-17 16-17 16-17 20-21 22-23 23-24 TBA TBA TBA	Sequin, Texas Gooding, Idaho Tooele, Utah Cross Plains, Tenn. Sidney, Neb. Redding, Calif. Basset, Neb. Jasper, Texas Little Rock, Ark. Central Washington Billings, Mont. Santa Barbara, Calif.	Moore Field Office Salmon Field Office Utah State Office Jackson Field Office Elm Creek, Neb. Holding Facilty Ukiah Field Office WH&B Holding Facility Moore Field Office Jackson Field Office Burns District Office Billings Field Office Bakersfield Field Office	800-237-3642 208-756-5469 801-539-4057 888-274-2133 308-856-4498 707-468-4055 308-856-4498 800-237-3642 888-274-2133 541-573-4400 406-896-5222 661-391-6049			



www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov

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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, 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