

BLM WH&B NEWS



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“GENTLED” WILD HORSES AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION AT THREE DAY EXPO

(Henderson, Texas – Oct. 10-12). Growing in popularity, the Bureau of Land Management’s Wild Horse & Burro Expo will once again be held at the Rusk County Expo Center in Henderson, Texas.

This three-day event starts out with a Wild Horse & Burro adoption, featuring three gentled wild horses, 30 yearlings, 20 mares, 20 studs and 20 burros (10 jennies and 10 jacks). After the kickoff event, the public is encouraged to watch ongoing gentling demonstrations.

Adopters and spectators will have a chance to meet wild horse trainer Steve Mantle. With more than 26-years of experience, Mantle has developed a unique set of gentling techniques that will benefit the novice and the more experienced horseman.

But the excitement doesn’t stop there! Past adopters are welcome to enter their gentled animal in the wild horse and burro show. Spectators will see the fierce bond formed between adopter and animal as they watch young participants entering the arena for possibly the first time, and stay to witness the more action-packed events with serious competitors.

“This event just keeps getting bigger and better,” says Bob Mitchell Wild Horse and Burro Manager. “We’ve watched a lot of these kids grow up and their skill level keeps improving. They really work hard for their prizes.”

Competition events are open to anyone with an animal previously in the BLM’s Adopt-A-Horse-or-Burro Program. Prizes awarded to top contenders. No entrance fee required - register on line today! On line registrations for the horse show will be accepted until 3 p.m., Central, on Tuesday, October 7, 2003. Late registrants are welcome to sign up for all events on site. For more information call the Bureau of Land Management toll free at 800-237-3642.

The saddle and halter-trained animals available for adoption were gentled at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility in Kansas through an inmate work/training program.

“This has proven to be a successful program that places wild mustangs in good homes and helps with the rehabilitation process,” says Jim Gonzales, Manager of KCI’s Mustang Training Program. “Our motto is, ‘Saving Horses and Changing Men.’”

Those interested in adopting a gentled wild horse are encouraged to show-up early as the saddle-trained horses are only available at the 10 a.m. Friday morning adoption.

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2-2-2-2 Wild Horse and Burro Expo cont.

Following the initial competitive bid, walk-up adoptions will be held throughout the weekend until noon on Sunday. The minimum adoption fee is \$125, per animal.

All animals must be picked up on Sun. by noon in an approved stock trailer. Preview of all animals available for adoption begins Thurs. afternoon, from 4 to 6 p.m. Hours on Friday and on Sat. are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Admission is free. Spectators and adopters are encouraged to stop by early to learn what it takes to adopt a wild horse or burro. Applications to adopt are accepted on site.

To qualify, bidders must be at least 18 years of age, with no record of animal abuse. In addition, adopters must have specific facilities and can adopt no more than four animals. For more information call toll free at **1-866-4-Mustangs**, or visit www.wildhorseandburro.gov.

Directions to the Rusk County Expo Center: Travel one mile west of the Henderson City limits on FM 13 W.

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing the nation's public lands. With the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the Bureau gained the responsibility to care for wild horses and burros on these lands in harmony with other natural resources. When an over-population of wild horses and burros exists on these public lands, some animals are removed and offered to the general public for adoption.