



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILD HORSES AND BURROS LOOKING FOR HOMES IN VICTORIA, TEXAS

(Victoria, Texas – Jan. 23-25, '03.) The Bureau of Land Management is hosting a wild horse and burro adoption at the Victoria Community Center in Victoria, Texas, Jan. 24 and 25.

Special features at this event are the availability of 60 weanlings (young horses) and the opportunity to meet past adopters. Spectators are also invited to watch Chris Erlon, experienced wild horse adopter, as he performs gentling demonstrations with a wild horse. Chris is a member of the Least Resistance Training Concepts association, and is known as a Wild Horse Mentor. Through this association, Chris works with interested individuals to help them gain a positive adoption experience. Due to his success with his own adopted animals and contributions to the mentoring program, Chris was named mentor of the year last September.

In addition to the 60 weanlings, the Victoria adoption will also feature 20 mares, 10 studs, and 10 jack (male) burros. The public can preview animals beginning Thursday afternoon, Jan. 23, from 4 to 6 p.m. and again on Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The oral competitive bid starts at 10 a.m. on both Friday and Saturday. The minimum bid is \$125 for qualified individuals. All animals must be picked up by 2 p.m. on Sat. in a pre-approved stock trailer. Bidders must be at least 18 years of age and have no record of animal abuse. In addition, adopters must have specific facilities and can adopt no more than four animals. Applications are available on site.

For more information on the Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Program, visit the web site at: www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov and select adoptions held in the New Mexico Region, or call toll free at 1-866-4-Mustangs.

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing the nation's public lands. With the passage of the Wild Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the Bureau gained the responsibility to preserve and protect wild horses and burros on these lands in harmony with other natural resources and uses. 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.