

BLM WH&B NEWS



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SADDLE-TRAINED WILD HORSES AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

(Hutchinson, KS – June 18 - 19). The National Award Winning partnership between the Kansas Correctional Industries (KCI) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is once again making gentled wild horses available for placement during a two-day Open House and adoption at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility, June 18-19. This event features halter and saddle-trained horses for adoption, as well as hoof-trimming, barrel-racing and horse gentling demonstrations.

The Open House begins Friday, June 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., with a drawing adoption featuring 12 trained horses scheduled for 4 p.m., followed by walk-up adoptions for untrained horses until the doors close Saturday afternoon. On Saturday, June 19, the doors are open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Celebrating its fourth year, this partnership provides incarcerated men with an opportunity to build interpersonal skills while they work with and train wild horses. This partnership, which provides a unique work incentive program with proven benefits to the BLM and the local community and society at large, recently won Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton's *Four Cs Award* for exemplifying Norton's philosophy of consultation, cooperation, and communication all in the service of conservation.

The public is invited to attend this two-day event to see the training program in action. Gentling demonstrations will be held on both Friday and Saturday.

"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.

Tracy and Barry Wood, who live just north of Hutchinson, KS in Inman, adopted Tinker—a trained gelding that just turned four—at last year's open house and couldn't agree more.

Tracy adopted Tinker after the couple sold her previous horse. "He had 30 days of riding when we adopted him," Wood said. "They did a really good job."

Barry, a Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association (PRCA) Roper, has since trained Tinker as a break away and heeling horse. "Barry's horse was injured so I told him to ride Tinker, and he never got off!"

For this event only, applications to adopt will be accepted and approved on site. Halter- and saddle-trained wild horses are between \$200 and \$750. Untrained animals area also available for \$125 per animal. All animals must be arranged for pick up by Saturday at 2 p.m. in an approved stock trailer.

To qualify, adopters 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. All animals must be picked up in a covered trailer with solid walls and floors—no drop ramp trailers.

Certified healthy, these animals once roamed the public lands in the west and are now available for adoption by the public through the Bureau of Land Management at this facility.

"We enlist the services of veterinarians skilled in working with wild horses to make sure the animals are healthy before they are brought into Kansas," says Bob Mitchell, Manager of the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program. "Each animal possesses a negative Coggins test and has received all of the required vaccinations, including West Nile."

For more information on this event call KCI at 620.728.3296, or call BLM toll free at 1.866.4.Mustangs, or visit www.wildhorseandburro.gov.

If you can't make this Open House, call Monday through Friday to find out the best times to visit the Hutchinson Correctional Facility to adopt a wild horse of your choice.

The corrals and training area are located at 400 South Halstead, Hutchinson, Kansas, northwest of Wichita.

Directions to the facility: From Wichita, take the Kansas State Route 96 west towards Hutchinson/Valley Center. Take US-50 east / State Route 61 north to Avenue G. The horse pens are located on Avenue G east of the south unit of the HCF.

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.