

## **Extreme Yearling Makeover Mission:007 Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo, Reno, Nevada**

**Purpose:** The mission of the Mustang Heritage Foundation is to increase the adoption of Mustangs to good homes. In keeping with the mission of the Foundation, In keeping with the mission of the Foundation, the Mission: 007 (denoting the birth year of these yearlings) has been created to place 50 Nevada Mustang yearlings in adoptive homes through a yearling training event. The goal of the event is to promote adoption through showcasing Mustangs' value and trainability through competition.

**Executive Summary:** Yearling Mustangs, on average, are easier to train than mature Mustangs. In an effort to increase adoption of Mustangs the Mustang Heritage Foundation worked with the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program to create incentive adoption programs, including the Yearling Mustang Mission: 007. Youth and adults will be able to receive a yearling Mustang, condition and train it for 90 days or more and then enter a competition during the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo restricted to the **50 yearlings with more than \$5,000 in awards and scholarships.**

Following the competition, **yearlings will be available for adoption through a Silent Auction at the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo.** Trainers will be able to either adopt the yearling Mustang they worked with and the Foundation will pay the adoption fee or Trainers may receive the amount the yearling adopts for over a \$125 adoption fee.

**Overview:** 50 wild Nevada Mustang yearlings will be available at the BLM Palomino Valley facility near Reno, Nevada. . These 50 Mustangs will be as uniform in size, age as possible. Mustangs will have current vaccinations, health papers and hooves trimmed. Colts will be gelded.

Individuals may apply to train one to four yearling Nevada Mustangs. **Individuals accepted into the program will receive \$200 per Mustang to offset hauling and horse care expenses.** Mustangs will be available for **pick up on May 16-17, 2008 at the Palomino Valley Facility.** Contestants accepted into the program will then be eligible to pick up a yearling(s), condition and train for 90 days and **compete during the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo, August 15-17, 2008, in Reno, Nevada** with more than \$5,000 in added money restricted to the yearling competition. Yearlings will be assigned through a lottery system – contestants may not select their yearling.

**Yearlings will be scored in body condition (not conformation) and an in-hand competition, including picking up feet and leading through a pattern with obstacles.** Following the competition, yearlings will be available for adoption during the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo. Contestants may adopt their Mustang at no cost following the competition – or place their Mustang up for adoption through a silent auction during the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo. **Contestants will receive all adoption funds in excess of a \$125 BLM adoption fee.**

There are three competitive divisions:

4-H, FFA and Youth Scholarship Division / \$1,000 Added

18 and Under. Parents and/or guardians must sign all appropriate application and Mustang adoption forms and must ultimately be responsible for the care of horses. Youth may receive assistance while training the Mustang but may ***not receive assistance while in the arena competition.***

Open Division / \$2,000 Added

18 and older, Professional Horsemen and Horsewomen – trainers, instructors, anyone that receives compensation for working with horses.

Amateur Division / \$2,000 Added

18 and older, individuals that has not receive any compensation for working with horses in a training, teaching or competitive situation.

### **Requirements:**

Participation in this event is by invitation only; therefore The Board of Trustees of the Mustang Heritage Foundation has the unqualified right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove an applicant or contestant from a Mustang Heritage Foundation program and/or competition for any reason or for no reason.

1. All participants must complete application and submit by mail (P. O. Box 703, Bertram, TX, 78605) or fax (512) 355-2737 by December 7, 2007.  
**Applications must be postmarked or fax dated no later than April 30, 2008.**
2. All participants must complete and submit a BLM Wild Horse and Burro adoption form to submit with application. This does not mean that participants are obligated in any way to adopt the Mustang they are working with, but we must have the application on file.
3. Age and competitive requirements per division:
  - 4-H, FFA and Youth Scholarship Division  
**18 and Under. Parents and/or guardians must sign all appropriate application and Mustang adoption forms and must ultimately be responsible for the care of horses.**
  - Open Division  
18 and older, Professional Horsemen and Horsewomen – trainers, instructors, anyone that receives compensation for working with horses.
  - Amateur Division:  
18 and older, individuals that do not receive any compensation for working with horses.
4. No substitution or replacement of approved individual will be allowed. The individual accepted must be the individual that competes. Contestants may receive help in the training and conditioning of their yearling(s).
5. Contestants will receive \$200 per yearling Mustang to offset horse care and travel expenses.

6. Contestants may apply for one to four yearling Mustangs, if facilities are approved by the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program.
7. Any applicant or selected individual may be removed from the selection process or competition at any time if found to have any alleged history of cruelty to animals or humans. Applicants must meet all BLM Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Requirements. Removal of any trainer from the application process or competitions is at the discretion of the Mustang Heritage Foundation's Board of Trustees.
8. The Mustang Heritage Foundation Board of Trustees may at any time conduct a criminal background check on applicants and remove any applicant from the process for any reason or for no reason.
9. Trailer requirements. *TRAILER PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR APPLICATION.* You must provide transportation for your Mustang from the equine facility near Austin, Texas, to your facility. While someone else may transport the animal, all trailers must meet these minimum standards: covered top, sturdy walls/floors, and a smooth interior free from any sharp protrusions; ample head room; removable partitions or compartments to separate animals by size and sex, if necessary; floor covered with a non-skid material; and, adequate ventilation. The BLM requires stock-type trailers with rear swing gates to transport adopted animals. Drop ramp, divided two-horse trailers, and trucks with stock racks are not acceptable.
10. Facility requirements. *FACILITY PHOTOS AND FACILITY FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR APPLICATION.* Facility can consist of a corral/paddock/stall/round pen. Facility must be a minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet x 20 feet) and at least 5 feet high. Facility must be sturdy and constructed of materials such as poles, pipes, or planks (minimum 1.5 inch thickness) without dangerous protrusions. Barbed wire, large-mesh woven, stranded and electric materials are unacceptable for fencing. You should not release the Mustang into a large open area, such as a pasture, since you may not be able to recapture the animal for training or to provide veterinary care. However, once the animal is gentled, you may release it into a pasture or similar area. You must provide shelter from inclement weather and temperature extremes for your Mustang. Shelters must be a two-sided structure with a roof, well drained, adequately ventilated, and accessible to the Mustang. The two sides need to block the prevailing winds and need to protect the major part of the bodies of the horse or burro. Tarps are not acceptable. Contact your administering BLM office for shelter requirements in your area.
11. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged.
12. Trainers are responsible for all care related costs from the day the Mustangs are picked up May 16-17, 2008 at Palomino Valley through the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo, August 15-17, 2008.
13. Should the Mustang be deemed untrainable, the trainer must notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation's office as soon as possible. For any and all

reasons, the trainer is responsible for returning the Mustang to the BLM facility nearest the trainer.

14. *The purpose of this event is to showcase the talent and trainability of Mustangs; therefore the goal is for all trainers to participate in the event and adoption.*
15. Trainers are required to sign releases so that all photos and filming may be used to promote the event and will be the property of the Mustang Heritage Foundation.

**Rules:**

1. Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
2. Trainer applications for the YEARLING PAY BACK PROGRAM must be received in the Mustang Heritage Foundation's office on or before April 30, 2008. Applications may be printed from [www.mustangheritagefoundation.org](http://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org) and mailed (P. O. Box 703, Bertram, Texas, 78605) or faxed (512-355-2737). Applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2008, to be eligible.
3. Trainer selection will be made based on experience and fulfillment of BLM requirements.
4. BLM and Mustang Heritage Foundation employees and their spouses are not eligible to compete.
5. Trainers are responsible for hauling the Mustang from the Palomino Valley BLM Equine Facility near Reno, NV, to their training stable and from their training stable to the competition at the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo, August 15-16, 2008 event.
6. Bedded stalls will be provided for Mustangs at the Extreme Mustang Makeover. There are no entry fees for the yearling contest.
7. Arenas will be available for warm up and scheduled practices – (schedule and location of arenas to be announced). Competition schedule to be announced.
8. SILENT AUCTION adoption on will be held on Sunday, August 17, 2008.
9. Winners will be announced following the competition.
10. Trainers are required to stay with their yearling until the Silent Auction is completed. Trainers are asked to work with potential adopters by answering questions honestly and representing the Mustang they trained.
11. **Trainers must determine if they want to adopt the yearling prior to competition which begins on August 15, 2008.**
12. **Conduct:**  
*Participation in this event is by invitation only; therefore The Board of Trustees of the Mustang Heritage Foundation has the unqualified right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove an applicant or contestant from a Mustang Heritage Foundation program and/or competition for any reason or for no reason.*

Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and **humane in the treatment of Mustangs**, such as to promote the implementation of the event and promote fair competition. This includes, but is not limited to: conduct while trainers have Mustangs in their possession; conduct on the show

grounds; conduct while trainers are wearing Mustang Heritage Foundation logos wear off the show grounds; and includes the conduct of individuals traveling with trainers, spectators or event managers and all other person being present on show grounds. Any alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct or any other form of misconduct, such as illegal, indecent or profane, and the **inhumane treatment of horses are prohibited** and shall be grounds for the disciplinary action against offending individuals. Further, event management may immediately expel offenders from the competition or show grounds in order to preserve the decorum of the show.

**13. Sponsorships**

The Mustang Heritage Foundation has entered into corporate sponsorship agreements with a variety of companies. The Foundation asks that trainers honor those sponsorships.

- a. Trainers will be restricted from wearing apparel or equine products during the competition that have logos that are larger than 4 inches wide and 2 inches tall.
- b. Trainers may not hang banners of any size in the stall area promoting any sponsors. Trainers may have brochures or small printed materials available in their stall areas to promote their training business and their sponsors during the event.

**14. Drugs:**

No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a Mustang, either before or during the competition or adoption, any medication, drug mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of such character as, could affect it performance or appearance at the event.

***If a Mustang is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the Mustang Heritage Foundation event manager as to the reason for medication and the prescribed amount.*** THE MUSTANG HERITAGE FOUNDATION MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE COMPETITION.

15. Trainers will receive all adoption fees in excess of \$125 for the adoption of their Mustang. Should the trainer decide to adopt the Mustang, there will be no charge to the trainer.

**Competition Rules:**

1. **Twenty (40%) of the overall score will be based on conditioning.** Conditioning – weight, muscling, conditioning, hair coat, overall presentation.
  - a. Trainers may clip or trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural.
  - b. No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails.
  - c. The score will not reflect confirmation.

2. **Thirty (60%) of the overall score will be based on groundwork and manners.** Trainers will be asked to present their Mustang in-hand or haltered. If showing in English attire the Mustang may be shown in the bridle.
  - a. Trainers will be asked to maneuver Mustangs through a series of obstacles in the arena. Mustangs will be scored on their ability to be responsive to leading, turning, walking, trotting, picking up their feet, loading and unloading out of a stock trailer, and stepping over obstacles.
  - b. Training aides will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown without the use of training aides may be scored higher.
  - c. Trainers will be given a specific competition course. Trainers will be shown a demonstration of the course and be able to “walk through” the course without their Mustang prior to the competition.
  - d. Trainers will be given a time limit to complete the competition course. Tasks within the course will include but not be limited to the following:
    1. Walk and Trot
    2. Stop and Back
    3. Lead Mustang over poles/logs
    4. Pick up feet
    5. Load and unload from stock trailer
  - e. In case of ties a tie-breaker judge will be determined prior to the start of the event.

### **Finals**

1. The top ten Mustangs (no more than 15 with ties) with the combined highest total scores will return for a finals in-hand performance.
2. Competitors will come into the finals with a “clean slate”. No previous scores will be counted toward the final placing.
3. Trainers will have three minutes to perform with their Mustang in a freestyle lead line. Trainers must incorporate walk, trot, pivot or turns to the right and left and backing within the freestyle performance.
4. Trainers are encouraged to use music, props and theatrics during their final performance. The event planners will provide sound system and operator for finals music.
5. Trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up.

### **Awards:**

1. All trainers competing in the event will receive \$200 for expenses related to horse care and travel.
2. Added money to divisions

### **Divisions:**

There are three competitive divisions. Each division will be scored the same in conditioning and will compete on the same in-hand course.

**August 17, 2008 - ADOPTION DAY**

Trainers are REQUIRED to present their horse during the adoption. We ask that trainers stay near their stalls with their horses so that they can answer questions and show their Mustang to potential adopters. The adoption will be in a Silent Auction format with bid sheets on the horse's stall. Should a trainer wish to keep their Mustang they may remove it following the competition and after they have completed all adoption paperwork.

**Trainers must determine if they want to adopt the yearling prior to competition which begins on August 15, 2008.**

If they choose to place the Mustang in the Silent Auction, trainers will receive all funds in excess of a \$125 adoption fee.

For more information go to [www.mustangheritagefoundation.org](http://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org) or 512-355-3225.

