



BLM News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 2, 2002

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Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Slated for Sunday

Las Vegas – On Sunday, October 6, beginning at 8 a.m., the Bureau of Land Management will offer 20 yearling horses, eight weanlings, four two year-old horses and three female burros at its annual Wild Horse and Burro Adoption at Horseman’s Park.

According to Gary McFadden, BLM Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, the animals arrive with no pre-existing training problems. “Wild horses and burros come with a clean slate,” said McFadden. “You don’t have to be concerned about mistakes that someone else has made. The animals are eager to learn.”

Wild horses and burros have gone on to be part of chuck wagon teams, mounts in the U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard as well as win precision drills, dressage competitions, endurance and stock horse competitions.

The National Wild Horse Association will showcase local previously adopted animals at their annual Wild Horse Show on October 5. The show will start at 8 a.m. and will take place at Horseman’s Park.

In addition to free pre-adoption clinics, monthly low-cost training clinics are offered for adopters and those interested in learning training techniques.

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BLM Adoption

The October 6 adoption will require \$125 minimum bid. Potential adopters must have a minimum 400 square foot six foot high (four and a half feet for burros) pipe or wood corral with a confined area with at least two-sided shelter with a roof. Adopters must not have been convicted of animal cruelty and title to the animal remains with the government for a year.

All animals available for adoption are healthy, have initial vaccines and come with health care records.

To learn more about adopting a wild horse or burro, please call 702-515-5000. To learn more about clinics, the show or volunteer, please call the National Wild Horse Association at 702-452-5853.

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The origin of wild horses dates back to the days of Columbus and Hernando Cortez, Italian and Spanish explorers who brought horses to North America. Burros were brought by Jesuit missionaries and later used extensively by miners. Many of the descendants of these horses and burros escaped or were abandoned by settlers, ranchers, prospectors, Native American tribes and the U.S. Cavalry between the late 1800s and 1930s.

These feral creatures subsequently were hunted by “mustangers.” Considered pests by many who were trying to settle the West, their population was greatly reduced. A public outcry in the late 1960s influenced Congress to enact the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act in 1971, providing for the protection, management and control of wild horses and burros on the public land. Federal protection and the absence of natural predators contributed to flourishing populations.

Nevada is home to more than half of the nation’s wild horses. These animals live in more than 100 Herd Management Areas, most of which are located on BLM land. In an effort to keep wild horses and burros and the rangeland healthy, animals are gathered and made available for adoption.