



## Trainer Incentive Program

### EXPECTATIONS & REGULATIONS

**The Mustang Heritage Foundation, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program, is looking for qualified individuals to gentle/train up to four (4) mustangs at a time and make a good faith effort to place the animals in adoptive homes that meet BLM minimum adoption and facility requirements. Individuals are responsible for all costs associated with the humane care of the animals while in their possession, including facility maintenance/repair, veterinarian care, farrier or disposal costs, and feed/grain and other needed supplements. Only approved trainers may pick up horses. Trainer will be paid once the horse is adopted and all paperwork is complete.**

#### Overview:

- Trainers must be at least 18 years of age.
- Trainers must have no prior convictions for inhumane treatment of animals or for violations under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971.
- Trainers must be able to demonstrate, through the application, that adequate feed, water, and facilities are available to provide humane care of any animal(s) accepted through this program.
- Trainers must be able to provide a temporary home for the animal(s) in the United States.
- Trainers' facility and trailer must meet BLM's minimum facility requirements (see below). Trainer will be responsible for transportation of the mustang(s).
- Trainers must demonstrate, through the application, a track record of successfully gentling/training horses using least resistance training methods (natural horsemanship gentling techniques).
- Trainers must understand that until titled by the BLM, the animal cannot be sold, traded or given away. Nor can they be neglected, abandoned, inhumanely treated, or used as bucking stock or for other commercial purposes.
- The nearest BLM office and MHF must be notified within 7 days if the animal dies. A veterinarian's statement must follow. MHF must also be notified if the animal(s) are moved to a new location other than the location listed on your application.
- Before soliciting an adopter for the horse(s) the trainer must meet the minimum training requirements as listed below (horses must be leading, loading in a trailer, allowing human contact – grooming, picking up all 4 feet)
- Trainer must have the horse(s) for a minimum of 10 days before completing the adoption process. Trainers are encouraged to find an adopter within 90 days.

## **1. Minimum Facility Requirements:**

### **CORRAL**

**Measurements:** You must provide a minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet x 20 feet) for each animal adopted. Until “fence broken” adult horses need to be maintained in an enclosure at least 6 feet high. You should not release an ungentle animal into a large open area, such as a pasture, as 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.

**Materials/Construction:** An acceptable corral must be sturdy and constructed out of poles, pipes, or planks (minimum 1.5 inches in thickness) without dangerous protrusions. Barbed wire, large-mesh woven, stranded and electric materials are not acceptable for fencing. Posts must be a minimum of 6 inches in diameter and spaced no farther than 8 feet apart. Horizontal rails should be 3-inch minimum diameter poles or planks at least 2 feet x 8 feet. If you use poles, there should be a minimum of five horizontal rails, and when you use 2" x 8" planks, there should be at least four rails. No space between rails should exceed 12". You should fasten all rails to the inside of the post with either heavy nails or lag screws. Provide shelter from inclement weather and temperature extremes for the mustang you are gentling. Shelters must be a two-sided structure with a roof, well-drained, adequately ventilated, and accessible to the animal(s). The two sides need to block the prevailing winds and need to protect the major part of the body of the horse. Tarps are not acceptable.

### **TRAILER**

Wild horses must be transported in a stock-type trailer with a rear swing gate. The trailer must have the following: A covered top, sturdy walls and floors, with a smooth interior, free from any sharp protrusions, ample head room, adequate ventilation, removable partitions or compartments to separate animals by size and sex, if necessary and the floor must be covered with a non-skid material.

## **2. Trainer Approval and Horse Selection Process:**

### **TRAINER APPROVAL**

Interested trainers must complete the Trainer Incentive Program application found at [www.mustangheritagefoundation.org](http://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org) and mail or fax to the MHF office. You will be contacted within two weeks by the MHF via phone, email or mail letting you know if you have been accepted.

### **HORSE SELECTION**

Once approved as a trainer, the MHF will provide you with the contact information of the BLM office you are to work with regarding the pickup and selection of mustangs. The trainer will be responsible for making an appointment with the BLM to schedule an appointment to pick up mustangs. Mustangs may be available for pick up at BLM facilities or BLM satellite adoptions. Trainers are not required to pay any adoption fees when picking up horses. Do not contact BLM about picking up horses until your application has been approved and you have been contacted by the MHF. Horses used for this program will generally be mares and geldings, 3 yrs and older, of ordinary color (bay, black, brown, or sorrel). Colored animals (i.e. buckskin, gray, palomino, etc) may

be offered if they have been available for adoption for some time and have not been adopted. Yearlings and two year olds will not be available through this program. BLM will have final say on any horse in question.

### 3. Care and Training:

#### CARE

##### Trainers will be required to:

- Provide adequate and good quality feed and water for each animal in your care on a daily basis.
- Contact the BLM and a licensed veterinarian if the animal becomes sick or injured.
- Contact the BLM and MHF immediately if the animal dies, and submit a veterinarian's report to BLM within 7 days.
- Arrange to have any animals, which die disposed of in accordance with all state or local ordinances/requirements.
- Contact a farrier, if farrier care is needed.
- Maintain possession of the animal and its Health Records until it is released by the BLM to the new adopter, or returned to a satellite adoption or designated BLM Holding Facility.

#### TRAINING

##### Trainers will be required to:

- Gentle/Train the mustangs in your care for a minimum of 10 days before an adoption application is submitted to the BLM.
- Gentle/train the mustangs in your care using least resistance training methods (natural horsemanship gentling techniques).
- Gentle/train the mustangs in your care until you are able to: halter, lead and groom the horse, pick up all four feet and load and unload into a trailer. These are the **MINIMUM** training requirements. An application to adopt must not be sent to the BLM until the horse meets all of the above requirements.

### 4. Adoption and Advertising:

#### IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL ADOPTERS

Trainers are responsible for finding an adopter. Once approved for the program the MHF will contact you and provide you with the following:

- Sample Press Release
- Sample Ad to be used for print advertisements (newspapers, magazines, classifieds) as well as online advertisements
- Logo and approved wording to be used on your website – advertising you as an approved trainer.

These may be used to assist you in searching for an interested adopter. You may not, in any circumstance, advertise the mustangs as FOR SALE. **Any ads placed either online or in print must be approved by the MHF.** All approved trainers will be listed on the MHF website – you may preview the list of trainers at

[www.mustangheritagefoundation.org](http://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org). The adoption price must always be advertised as \$125.

Trainers are expected to positively portray and represent the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program and the Mustang Heritage Foundation.

## **ADOPTION PROCESS**

1. Once Mustangs are trained, meeting the minimum training requirements and the trainer has identified a potential adopter - trainers should provide the following information to the adopter: (1) a copy of the BLM adoption application (available at [www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov) and [www.mustangheritagefoundation.org](http://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org) ), (2) BLM's minimum adoption and facilities requirements (available at [www.mustangheritagefoundation.org](http://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org)).
2. Adopters are responsible for transmitting their completed adoption application and the minimum adoption fee of \$125.00 (made payable to BLM) to the participating BLM facility. BLM facility information including mailing address and fax numbers can be found at [www.mustangheritagefoundation.org](http://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org).
3. Once BLM has received the adoption application they will review it and, if approved, will mail the adopter a Private Maintenance and Care Agreement (PMACA). This form is to be signed by the adopter and returned to the BLM. A return envelope will be provided. Trainers should encourage adopters to sign and return this form in a timely manner.
4. Once BLM has received their copy of the signed PMACA they will provide the adopter with their adoption packet to include: (1) a copy of their approved application, (2) receipt for the paid adoption fee, (3) a copy of the animal's health card, and (4) a copy of the signed and approved PMACA.
5. Once the above is completed, the adopted animal may be released by the trainer to the adopter of record.
6. Once the adoption is deemed completed by the BLM they will contact the MHF. At this time the trainer is eligible for the \$700 payment.

Trainers are encouraged to find an adopter within 90 days. If an adoption has not been completed by the 90<sup>th</sup> day – MHF will contact the trainer to discuss the situation. Any un-adopted animals may be returned, by appointment, to a designated BLM facility. Horses that are returned are only eligible for up to \$200 in training reimbursement. If more than 40% of horses taken through this program are returned un-adopted by the designated trainer he/she may lose qualification as a trainer in this program. This is subject to investigation/discussion between the BLM/MHF and approved TIP trainer.

## **5. Payment:**

Gentling/Training and Adoption Incentive Fees – Trainers will be paid the set fee and will be responsible for any other expenses while caring for/gentling the horse(s). Progress reports or invoices are not required.

Trainers will receive \$700 for each 3 - 4 yr. old mustang that is trained/adopted (within 90 days)

Trainers will receive \$850 for each 5 – 6 yr. old mustang that is trained/adopted (within 90 days)

Yearlings and 2 yr. old mustangs are **NOT** eligible for the Trainer Incentive Program.

Trainers will receive \$2 per day for no more than 100 days for mustangs that are NOT adopted and returned to BLM. (No more than \$200)

## **6. NOTICE (Non Compliance):**

Participation in the Trainer Incentive Program and any other program offered by the Mustang Heritage Foundation is strictly INVITATIONAL. Therefore, if the Mustang Heritage Foundation determines (at any time) that a trainer is not meeting or exceeding our moral code or professional expectations, stated formally or not, the Foundation reserves the right to remove them from any and all programs immediately. In this case trainers would not receive payment for any time, travel, or effort incurred. All determinations of the Mustang Heritage Foundation are final.

Examples of non-compliant behavior listed below.

1. Injuring or killing an animal as a result of inhumane treatment or handling
2. BLM-documented compliance issues or repossessions
3. Lack of customer satisfaction (as documented by complaints to MHF or BLM)
4. Failure to identify the animals as available for adoption or negatively portraying the BLM and MHF adoption programs and the trainability/versatility of the animals