



2021 RULES & REGULATIONS

PURPOSE:

The mission of the Mustang Heritage Foundation is to increase the adoption of American mustangs in BLM holding facilities through innovative competitions and awareness programs. In keeping with this mission, the Mustang Heritage Open Shows will promote adoption by showcasing mustangs' value and trainability. Mustang Heritage Open Shows are produced by the Mustang Heritage Foundation.

OVERVIEW:

Animal Eligibility: All BLM-branded mustangs and burros of any age are eligible to compete. Mustangs and burros must have a BLM freeze mark. Burros are only eligible for the In-Hand division.

Competitor Eligibility: Exhibitors 8 years old or older at time of entry are eligible to compete. Adopters/owners do not have to exhibit their own animal(s). Exhibitors must complete and submit the Mustang Heritage Open Show entry form online at mustangheritagefoundation.org/openshow/.

Open Entry: Class entry fees are \$25/animal per class. All entry fees must be paid by the show entry deadline.

Divisions: **In-Hand Division**
*Please note: All mustangs are eligible for this division. Burros of all ages and yearling mustangs are only eligible for this division. Animals in the in-hand division **may not** be ridden at any point during the event.*

1. In-Hand Trail Class (trail obstacles in arena)
2. In-Hand Pattern Class
3. In-Hand Freestyle Class

Walk, Trot Division

Please note: Burros of all ages and yearling mustangs are not eligible for this division.

1. Walk, Trot Trail Class (trail obstacles in arena)
2. Walk, Trot Pattern Class
3. Walk, Trot Freestyle Class

Walk, Trot, Lope/Canter Division

Please note: Burros of all ages and yearling mustangs are not eligible for this division.

1. Walk, Trot, Lope/Canter Trail Class (trail obstacles in arena)
2. Walk, Trot, Lope/Canter Pattern Class
3. Walk, Trot Lope/Canter Freestyle Class

Awards/Jackpot: 60% of each entry fee will be paid back as follows:

Class payout: 40% of the payback (\$10) will go to the class payout and be paid out according to the table below.

Division payout: 20% of the payback (\$5) will go to the division. Any competitor entered in all three classes of their division may be eligible for additional overall division payout. The added money will be split evenly between each division. The number of places paid will be determined by the number of entries in that division. **In order to receive division payouts, any placing competitor must be a current member of the Mustang Heritage Foundation. Memberships may be purchased prior to entry at mustangheritagefoundation.org/join.**

Payout: All payouts will be determined by the following table.

ENTRIES	PAID PLACINGS									
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
1-2	100%									
3-4	60%	40%								
5-6	50%	30%	20%							
7-9	40%	30%	20%	10%						
10-15	30%	25%	20%	15%	10%					
16-20	30%	24%	18%	12%	9%	7%				
21-25	28%	22%	17%	12%	9%	7%	5%			
26-30	25%	20%	15%	12%	10%	8%	6%	4%		
31-35	23%	18%	15%	11%	9%	8%	7%	5%	4%	
36+	20%	16%	14%	11%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%

Paid from eligible purse amounts.

Not adhering to the Regulations and Competition Rules listed in this document may result in disqualification from current and/or future Mustang Heritage Foundation competitions and programs.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. All exhibitors must complete the entry form online and submit it with entry fees. Entry forms can be found online at mustangheritagefoundation.org/openshow. MHF is not responsible for any lost/misdirected entries. **Entry fees are non-refundable.**
2. Exhibitors must be 8 years of age or older at time of entry.
3. Exhibitors are not required to hold a current MHF membership, but MHF members will be eligible for division payout and awards. Becoming a member of the Mustang Heritage Foundation is encouraged to help MHF promote placements of mustangs and burros into private care. Join MHF at mustangheritagefoundation.org.
4. Exhibitor substitutions will be allowed until the late entry deadline. Animals may be shown by one exhibitor per division.
5. Entries are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
6. BLM and MHF employees (full or part-time) and their immediate family are not eligible to compete.
7. Any exhibitor may be removed from the competition at any time if found to have any alleged history of cruelty to animals or humans. Removal of any exhibitor from the competition 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 exhibitors or remove any exhibitor from the process for any reason or for no reason.
9. Mustang and burro training practices must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged. At all times, the humane care and best interest of all participating animals will be paramount. For all Mustang Heritage Foundation events, the adopter/owner is responsible for the well-being and humane treatment of any Mustang or Burro entrusted to their care. Any suspected inhumane treatment of animals should be reported to management immediately with potential consequences as outlined in our Humane Treatment Policy.
10. Conduct: Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike, and humane in the treatment of mustangs and burros, such as to promote the implementation of the event and fair competition. This includes but is not limited to: conduct while trainers have mustangs and burros in their possession; conduct in videos; conduct while exhibitors are wearing Mustang Heritage Foundation or Extreme Mustang Makeover logoed apparel on or off the show grounds; and conduct of individuals traveling with exhibitors, spectators, or event managers and all other persons present on show grounds. Any

alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct or any form of misconduct, such as illegal, indecent or profane, and inhumane treatment of horses is prohibited and shall be grounds for the disciplinary action against offending individuals. Further, event management may immediately expel offenders from the competition in order to preserve the decorum of the show.

11. Mustang Heritage Foundation Humane Treatment Policy

a. Every Mustang and all animals shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion. Any participant using abusive or excessive training techniques or being inhumane to a Mustang or Burro in his/her care (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Mustang Heritage Foundation and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. If a participant's horse enters the contest or if the trainer/participant at any time presents a horse with questionable training/care related injuries (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Mustang Heritage Foundation and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) the participant may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. **This policy is in addition to our event rules which are stated above. All exhibitors must agree to, sign and return the Humane Treatment Policy included in the entry form.** The following list, while in no way exhaustive, includes examples of unacceptable behavior and training techniques:

- a. No horse which appears to be emaciated, drawn or injured may be exhibited.
- b. Use of inhumane training techniques or methods such as striking horse with objects, excessive spurring and/or excessive jerking of reins.
- c. Any inhumane treatment which results in wounds.

12. Mustangs or Burros may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine styles and equipment. Exhibitors are asked to wear appropriate attire and head gear, which reflects the style of their riding. *Silver on saddles or sequins on shirts will not earn any extra points.*

13. **Use of illegal equipment (regardless of discipline) that will result in automatic disqualification from the class in which equipment was used includes:** Snaffle bits with mouthpieces smaller than 5/16" and/or consisting of non-smooth material (such as twisted material), stud chains, and bosals made of anything but rawhide, leather or rope with a flexible core (no metal of any kind). Use of any bit or equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed and will result in disqualification from the class in which it was used.

The judge or steward may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane or that would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage. The diameter

of mouthpieces, length of shanks and use of curb straps or chains must comply with MHF rules. National Snaffle Bit Association and American Quarter Horse Association rules are resources for preferred equipment including the diameter of mouthpieces, length of shanks, and use of curb straps or chains.

It is the trainer's responsibility to contact MHF event staff to obtain written approval regarding any questionable equipment, or to clarify if a certain type of equipment is deemed humane and allowable. Said request and approval/disapproval must be conducted in writing via email.

14. Training aids (whips, sticks, treats, the tail end of lead rope, etc.) will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown with the use of training aids will be judged accordingly. Any excessive use of a training aid (including striking the horse) will result in an automatic 10-point deduction from each judge in that class.
15. Excessive spurring or jerking on the reins or lead line during the competition will result in an automatic 10-point deduction from each judge off the overall class score.
16. No person shall alter, change, or attempt to hide the natural marking and/or rubbed or raw skin of a horse by surgery, dye, powder, or in any other manner. Trainers may clip/trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle, and fetlocks natural. Use of false tails or extensions on the mane or tail are prohibited during the preliminary competition and will result in an automatic 10-point deduction from each judge off the overall class score. Costume-related tail/mane decorations will be allowed during the finals freestyle performance. Alteration of tail function (tail blocking, dead tails, etc.) is prohibited at any and all points during the competition and will result in disqualification.
17. **Drugs:** No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a Mustang or Burro, either before or during the Mustang Heritage Open Show. Any medication, drug, mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of such character as, could affect or enhance the Mustang or Burro's performance or appearance at the event is prohibited. ***If a Mustang or Burro is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the exhibitor must submit a letter from their veterinarian to The Mustang Open event manager as to the reason for the medication and the prescribed amount.*** In regard to herbal/natural supplements, trainers are cautioned against the use of medicinal preparations, tonics, pastes and products of any kind, the ingredients and quantitative analysis of which are not specifically known, as many of them may contain a forbidden substance.
18. In case of ties, a tiebreaker judge will be used. The tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.

VIRTUAL SHOWS

DETAILS:

All Mustang Heritage Open Show competitors must complete the show entry form at [***mustangheritagefoundation.org/openshow***](http://mustangheritagefoundation.org/openshow).

All classes will be held virtually. The entered competitor is responsible for filming each class in accordance with the pattern instructions provided. Competitors will be given an upload window to submit videos online by uploading to the link and folder provided.

Each competitor may enter only one division (In-Hand; Walk, Trot; or Walk, Trot, Lope). Competitors may enter more than one animal in that division, but each animal/exhibitor combination is considered a separate entry and class fees must be paid accordingly for each individual entry. Please note: Burros of all ages and yearling mustangs are only eligible to compete in the in-hand division.

Class entry fees are \$25/animal per class. All competitors must submit the entry form online prior to the entry deadline.

Judge(s) will review and score the submitted videos following the deadline. MHF will announce the class results as soon as the judging process is complete based on the total number of entries that are received. All results will be posted on the Mustang Heritage Foundation website in the "Open Show" tab and shared via MHF social media channels.

MHF will add \$1,500 in prize money to virtual open shows.

All additional information pertaining to the show will be available at [***mustangheritagefoundation.org/openshow***](http://mustangheritagefoundation.org/openshow).

VIDEO SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Videos must be submitted by the deadline. An independent, separate video must be submitted for each class.
2. Videos must be named in the following manner: Name of Competitor, Freezemark - Division Class
 - a. EXAMPLE: John Doe, 8675309 - Walk-Trot-Lope Trail
3. Trainers should be aware of the background, attire, lighting, personal connection with horse, and size of arena.
4. At the beginning of each video, the competitor (or camera person) must state their name, the animal's name, and class.
5. The camera/recording device of choice must be positioned as designated on the pattern for each class.

6. If the recording device of choice is a cell phone, the video must be filmed in **horizontal format** with the phone be turned sideways.
7. When videoing each class, the entire handler and animal **MUST** remain within the frame of the camera at all times.
8. If any portion of the video is out of focus or the handler/animal go out of frame during a run, the submission may be disqualified.
9. Do **not** zoom in/out once you have started recording the class.
10. The video must be recorded from beginning to end. No editing will be allowed. If there is questionable content, the submission may be disqualified.

CLASS DESCRIPTION & SCORING

Trail Class

This class is designed to show an animal's ability and willingness to perform several tasks that might be asked of him during the course of a normal trail ride or work day. In-Hand exhibitors will be asked to lead their animal only; Walk, Trot exhibitors will be asked to lead and ride at a walk and trot; and Walk, Trot, Lope/Canter exhibitors will be asked to lead and ride at a walk, trot, and lope/canter through a course of obstacles and maneuvers in the arena.

Leading elements obstacles/maneuvers may include but are not limited to:

- Walk, trot, stop and back
- Walk over logs/poles
- Walk/trot between cones/obstacles
- Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a simple chute
- Pick up all four feet
- Brush horse once on each side
- Load and unload from stock trailer

Riding obstacles/maneuvers may include but are not limited to:

- Walk, trot, canter/lope, stop and back
- Turns and circles to the left and right
- Walk over logs/poles
- Lead change
- Walk over bridge
- Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a simple chute
- Pick up and carry object
- Dragging items specified length

**Additional elements may be added such as brush, artificial foliage, rain slickers, etc.*

Maneuvers Pattern Class

Exhibitors will be asked to complete a pattern of basic maneuvers that may include but are not limited to:

- Jog
- Extended Jog
- Lope
- Extended Lope
- Lead Change (simple or flying)
- Stop
- 360 turns to right and left
- Walk

**In-Hand and Walk/ Trot exhibitors will not be asked to lope or complete lead changes.*

Freestyle Class

1. Props of pyrotechnic nature including fireworks, flares, firecrackers, rings of fire, etc. are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
2. Wearing guns (real or toy) in the arena or during the competition, as well as shooting guns and/or blanks is not allowed and will result in an automatic disqualification.
3. Exhibitors will have 3 minutes to complete their freestyle performance – music and time will need start when competitors or their horse/burro enters the arena (whichever comes first).
4. Music is a required component of the freestyle class. It is the competitor's responsibility to play their freestyle music during the performance. All freestyle music and themes should be in good taste and family-friendly. The purpose of the competition is to highlight the Mustang Heritage Foundation's mission to place more mustangs in private care. Therefore, the code of conduct will be strictly enforced and music containing profanity and controversial or disparaging themes or props are strictly prohibited. The Mustang Heritage Foundation Board of Directors reserves the right to disqualify and remove from competition any trainer that violates this rule for any reason or no reason. The Mustang Heritage Foundation Board of Directors decision will be final. If clarification is needed, contact the MHF event staff.
5. Other animals (dogs, additional horses, cattle, etc.) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the freestyle performance for any reason and will result in a 10-point deduction per judge.
6. Other people (including children) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the performance for any reason other than to drive a vehicle to be used during the performance. If someone other than the trainer is driving a vehicle in the performance **none of the occupants** of the vehicle will be allowed to exit the vehicle while in the arena and the windows must be rolled up at all times (the vehicle, if driven by someone other than the trainer, must be closed-cab). Other people are NOT allowed to act as props, ride or come in contact with the horse at any point during the performance. Other people may hand props to the trainer from outside the arena.
7. Finalists will be scored on the following:

Overall Horsemanship

- Communication/partnership between horse and rider and the horse's overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers correctly in a controlled, relaxed and confident manner.
- Incorporation of maneuvers and their degree of difficulty. These maneuvers would include but are not limited to: *sidepass, two tracking either direction, pulling or dragging, serpentines, rollbacks, lead changes, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, etc.*

Entertainment Value

- Components of Choreography – the composition and arrangement of the exhibition in relation to the music and its rhythm.
- Creativity – the use of themes, maneuvers, costumes, and/or props to enhance the performance and overall originality.

For more information about Mustang Heritage Open Shows, please call 512-869-3225.