

2022 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 and burro open shows promote adoption by showcasing mustangs' value and trainability.



LOCATION

Deep in the Heart of Texas Mustang & Burro Open Show is proudly sponsored by the Mustang Heritage Foundation and will be held in Fort Worth, TX on September 9-10, 2022.

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 Deep in the Heart of Texas Mustang & Burro Open Show entry form to Claudia Ketterhagen at fortworthmustangopen22@gmail.com no later than September 4, 2022. The entry form can be found online at FACEBOOK or mustangheritagefoundation.org/open-shows/.

OPEN ENTRY

Class entry fees are \$25 per animal per class. All entry fees must be paid by the show entry deadline of September 4, 2022.

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.

Classes:

- Handling & Conditioning Class
- Maneuvers/Pattern Class
- Trail Class
- Tag Race

Walk/Trot Division

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

Classes:

- Handling & Conditioning Class
- Maneuvers/Pattern Class
- Trail Class
- Hunter Hack Class (combined with W/T/L division)
- Tag Race (combined with W/T/L division)

Walk/Trot/Lope/Canter Division

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

Classes:

- Handling & Conditioning Class
- Maneuvers/Pattern Class
- Trail Class
- Hunter Hack Class (combined with W/T division)
- Tag Race (combined with W/T division)

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. All exhibitors must complete the entry form online and submit it with entry fees. Entry forms can be found online at FACEBOOK or mustangheritagefoundation.org/open-shows/. Show staff, organizers and sponsors are 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. 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 show and/or MHF staff.
8. 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.
9. **Digital Media Policy:** Mustang Heritage Foundation understands that sharing your journey as a competitor on digital media is a part of the current landscape and we encourage you to do so, thoughtfully. One of our highest priorities is to ensure that the digital content relating to MHF and MHF programs aligns with our mission, values, and public image to guarantee the future and reputation of our foundation. **Quality & Respect:** As a competitor or participant in Mustang Heritage Foundation programs, you are representing MHF in everything you do and being mindful when developing digital content is vitally important. Additionally, many MHF followers will want to follow your journey and may engage with you along the way. It is our expectation that each competitor, participant, and partner of MHF create content that is consistent with our mission and values and be respectful in their engagement with followers, however controversial. Carefully consider your audience (intended and unintended) as you develop content and review your content prior to sharing or distributing to ensure accuracy and alignment with MHF mission and values. **Auditing:** As a competitor and/or participant, you are held accountable for the content you share when in partnership with us. The Mustang Heritage Foundation team regularly monitors competitor and participant content for violations of our digital media policy, and it is our expectation that if a post is found to be in violation, the competitor or participant will remove and/or alter the content accordingly as soon as

possible after notification. Mustang Heritage Foundation reserves the right to discontinue the relationship and/or partnership with a competitor or participant at any time based on digital media policy violation(s).

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 exhibitors 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:** 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 exhibitor's responsibility to contact 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 exhibitors 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. Exhibitors 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 event manager as to the reason for the medication and the prescribed amount. In regard to herbal/natural supplements, exhibitors 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 the case of a tie, a tie breaker maneuver and/or class will be used.

DETAILS

All Deep in the Heart of Texas Mustang & Burro Open Show competitors must complete the show entry form at FACEBOOK OR mustangheritagefoundation.org/open-shows/.

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 only eligible to compete in the in-hand division.

Class entry fees are \$25/animal per class. All competitors must submit the entry form and payment no later than September 4, 2022.

Judge(s) will review and score all competitors during the event. Class results will be announced as soon as the judging process is complete. All results will be posted at the event, on the Deep in the Heart of Texas Mustang & Burro Open Show Facebook page as well as the MHF website.

All additional information pertaining to the show will be available at FACEBOOK or mustangheritagefoundation.org/open-shows/.

CLASS DESCRIPTION & SCORING

Handling & Conditioning Class

This class is done in-hand in all divisions. Exhibitors will lead the horse into a small pen inside the arena, then un-halter and release the horse in the pen. After the exhibitor exits the pen, the horse's conditioning will be scored. The exhibitor will then be allowed back into the pen. Upon re-entering the pen, the exhibitor will re-halter the horse and lead the horse out of the pen to complete a set of handling maneuvers in the arena. This class will be judged on the following:

Handling: Judges will assess the horse's demeanor and responsiveness during the haltering process, as well as the relationship between horse and exhibitor through the completion of additional handling maneuvers including but not limited to the following:

- Walk
- Trot
- Stop
- Back
- Pick-up feet

Conditioning: No person shall alter, change, or attempt to hide the natural marking and/or rubbed or raw skin of a horse by surgery, dye, hoof polish, powder or in any other manner. Any alterations will result in a 10-point deduction per judge. The use of stud chains is prohibited and will result in automatic disqualification of the class. Exhibitors 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 and will result in disqualification. No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails. The score will not reflect conformation. To learn more about appropriate weight/conditioning for a horse based on the Henneke System, [click here](#).

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.*

Trail Class

This class will evaluate 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 workday. In-Hand exhibitors will be asked to lead their animal; 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
- 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.*

Hunter Hack Class

Ridden in English attire and tack, this class will evaluate the connection between horse and rider through a combination of jumping and flatwork.

Fence height will not exceed 2 feet in height and will include a combination of 2 jumps at 24 feet apart. Ground poles will be used on the approach side of each jump. One practice fence will be set up inside or outside the arena for a work-off in the event of a tie. Three fence refusals (cumulative) will result in elimination. If a rider is off-course or falls during the class, this will result in disqualification.

The pattern will be provided in the trainer packet including flat and course work, which may be adjusted to the arena size per judge's approval. Riders will be allowed to walk the course 30 minutes prior to the class.

Helmets must be secured with a chin strap during the class.

Reining Class

A reining pattern will be provided at check in.

Each rider will perform the required pattern individually in western tack and attire. Horse and rider will be judged on ease of handling, fluency, effort and consistent, reasonable speed throughout the pattern. Any horse found to be off pattern will be disqualified. Knocking down markers will be judged as a fault.

Tag Race

The Tag Race Class will be offered in both the In-Hand and Walk/Trot/Lope Divisions. This is a timed event in which the handler or rider will be given a tag number at the gate. They then lead or ride their horse to the container of BLM neck tags, find the assigned number and bring that tag back to the starting line.

A judge will verify the tag provided matches the assigned number.

Fastest time wins.

Freestyle Class

Entries for the Freestyle Class will be received on a first come, first served basis. The class will be capped at 15 entries and have 3 alternates.

Props of pyrotechnic nature including fireworks, flares, firecrackers, rings of fire, etc. are not allowed and will result in disqualification.

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.

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).

Music is a required component of the freestyle class. 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. Music must be turned in at horse check in.

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.

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 exhibitor 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 exhibitor, 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 exhibitor from outside the arena.

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: side pass, two tracking either direction, pulling or dragging, serpentines, rollbacks, lead changes, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, e

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.

HIGH POINT AWARDS

High point buckles will be awarded for each division.

Buckle qualifying classes include:

- Handling & Conditioning
- Maneuvers/Pattern
- Trail Class

The Freestyle Class will have its own top award.

PAY OUT & CLASS AWARDS

Class placings, payout and awards will be shared as soon as possible.

For more information or questions about the Deep in the Heart of Texas Mustang & Burro Open Show, please contact Claudia Ketterhagen at (512) 694-0877 or email fortworthmustangopen22@gmail.com.