

Mustang/Burro

Newsletter

10/17/08



Questions/Comments: Cindy Lawrence cblawrnc@aol.com

www.wildhorseandburroexpo.com

A newsletter supported by Mustang and Burro Owners
for anyone who loves Mustangs and Burros

Mustang/Burro Owners helping to guide others with
their Mustangs/Burros

Table of contents

Subject	PAGES
From Cindy.....	3
Questions/Answers	
Question 1: I'm Injured;How do I work with my Mustang	4-5
Question 2: Mustang Assoc???	6
Question 3: Bolting – HELP.....	7-9
Events.....	10-13
Mustangs Needing Homes.....	14
Sharing Stuff with other horse owners.....	15-17
News about Reno Mustangs in trouble.....	18-19
Notes from Wild Horse Summit.....	20-21
Joke of the week.....	22

From Cindy

Be sure to check out the **FREE CLINIC next weekend**. Did I mention "FREE!!!" It should be a fun time with your Mustang and other Mustang owners....Come on out and join us....See page 9

Volunteers still needed for the University of Nevada - Equestrian Teams Home Show (October 25 and 26th)....See page 10

Newsletter Questions from YOU, answered by YOU

Question 1: I recently took a fall and shattered my heel. It will be spring before I can work my mustang again. We were riding him and had just a couple of good rides together before my accident. I put him out to pasture about a 2 months ago and I have been surprised at how much he has regressed. He will only come in for grain, gobble it up and run back out. He will only allow himself to be caught after running him around in circles for a time. What can I do on crutches to help keep accustomed to me until spring. Will I have to start all over?

He has always been willing, but you had to have to upper hand....he has never gotten to the point of willingly being a buddy, now I feel like I have lost him again. What to do?

More BONDING (or Join-up) in the first place will make him a willing partner. While you are laid up...do as much as you can. When you recover...JOIN-UP...become his LEADER.

If you have a smaller place to lock your Mustang up so that he cannot just run in and eat and then run out it would help. Don't give him that open gate to escape out of. Maybe wait for several hours and then turn him back out. The other thing that I can suggest would be to hire someone to come over once or twice a week and work with him for you. After training Diva for the Western States Mustang Challenge, I see how quickly these Mustang's will revert back to their wild way of thinking. They need constant reminding that we are their friends, their safe place, and that we won't hurt them. I hope these suggestions help you and I hope that you have a speedy recovery. Saunya

This is where you have to get creative. When I have a horse that will come in for grain, but won't be caught, I make him get a halter on before getting food. "Out to pasture" implies that he feeds himself. If possible (meaning if you have the place and the time) I would shut him in so that he cannot feed himself and must rely on you. You can sit in a chair with the grain and a halter, and make him do the work. When he's getting good at coming over to get his halter on for grain, you can put it on, give him one bite, take the halter off and chase him off and ask again so that he may have to get his halter on ten times to finish his feed. You can teach him to put his own nose into the halter when you hold it out. If you really want to get creative, you can teach him to bring you the halter.

Clinician Clay Wright once said that the horse should be helping you catch him, bridle him, etc. instead of fighting you all the time, and that really stuck with me. Teaching your horse to help you takes more time, but it makes life much nicer. I've used this program on lots of horses, and even with water on a couple of really tough customers. You have to commit to haltering and taking your horse to water several times a day, but it does work to make the horse bond with you. "Bond" equals "depend." Always experimenting, I taught one of our mustangs to come to wherever I was to get her halter on before her meals and water. I could sit on top of the fence so she really had to raise her head way up to put her nose in the halter. I taught her to do it while I was sitting on the ground, and then lying on the ground. I taught one Appy colt we had to bring me his rubber feed pan. The trouble with him is that he would throw it at me and his aim was really good. I could also get him to bring me his halter, but only after he ran around madly with it for a few minutes. Now, many years later, he lives in a dressage barn and routinely throws his feed pan (and anything else that's not nailed down) into the barn aisle. He's quite a character.

Did you fall off your mustang? If so, perhaps the incident removed some of the confidence he had thus becoming fearful. What exactly do you mean by "upper" hand? In your statement "he has never gotten to the point of willingly being a buddy", says a lot. Your shattered heel may be a blessing in disguise. Take the winter to establish a firm foundation of trust. Go out in the pasture just to hang with him, groom, graze. Become part of his herd but maintain the alpha position. I think by spring you will have a new and closer relationship.

So sorry about your fall. I broke both bones all the way through in my ankle a decade ago and cleaned stalls on crutches--leaned them against the wall and hopped around on the good foot with my muck rake in the other hand. My horses were very wary of the difference in my approach. Crutches and the walker did not represent what they perceived was any kind of normal behavior. Here's my suggestion: as soon as you can walk without devices: use that horse for your therapy. Take him for slow walks. Teach him to ground tie wherever he is and groom him. Work on picking up his feet and tons of groundwork. If you will be on crutches for months yet to come, you may have to just use them to motivate around the pasture until you can approach him calmly again, lay them down, and use him to steady you.

The whole change in your life with your injury is frustrating, including your probable concern about what usage you will have when you heal, but the horse will come around if you don't worry about it. I know that this may seem too transcendental, but if you can connect with him slowly now without a time frame or agenda, you will get that willing buddy.

One thing that we do in all our training with our horses is work with 'one rein halts'. This involves bringing the horses head around to either the left or the right until he stops. I initially start this as we are starting our Brumbies under saddle – first in walk, then progress to trot and canter. Throughout my training (my Brumby is working at Medium level dressage), I continually 'remind' my horses of this very important cue. The important thing is that you develop an 'automatic' response to this very consistent aid that can assist you when your horse may take fright or something outside your control happens. We aim for the response to this aid to be so ingrained that even in a flat gallop, it will register and act as a soothing aid to them. Obviously, in flat gallop, you would be very careful to take your one rein up slowly to avoid unbalancing your horse. If your horse has a bolting problem, I would work with establishing this aid in a confined space until you are confident that it is ingrained. Also – worth looking into reason for your horse to bolt – is he sore in his back or teeth? Have a dentist and chiro look at him! Maybe even try him in a sidepull (although I wouldn't recommend a cross over type bitless bridle for a horse with this problem). He may associate his frights with the bit after having a few of them and having his rider pulling on him to pull him up. A sidepull or similar may take away that flee/ panic reaction? Again – start in a confined space! I hope that helps!

Question 2: Has anyone heard rumors or specific facts regarding starting a Mustang association similar to the Paint Horse Assoc., Appalosa Assoc., etc.?

"Mustang" is just too general. If asker doesn't know what strain, have asker go to Nancy Kerson's page.

http://www.mustangs4us.com/colors_and_color_patterns.htm

My association is Desert Duns Horse Association

<http://www.desertduns.com/index.htm>

Dun Factor Mustangs only and I only cover the 10 western US.

I have not heard any rumors or specific facts regarding the start of a Mustang Association. What I can tell you is my opinion. I adopted a mustang from the Sulphur Springs herd. I was interested in registering him so I got on the internet. There were a number of them to choose from, each with different requirements, I decided not to register him. I feel rather than starting any more mustang registries, it would be great if all the registries got together and combined to make one, with the main objective to promote the mustang.

I'd sure become a member. Maybe the MHF would know how to get it started. They have done wonders with their organization in just a few years.

From Cindy – It's nothing "official" but we have been a list of Mustangs by HMA on our web site – If you have a picture of your Mustang, and know the Herd Management Area he/she is from, I'll post it on the web site.....

Question 3: I would like to see if anyone has some interesting solutions to bolting. My normal solution is to use a pulley rein, but sometimes they can continue to run through that.

Throw the pulley rein away because it will get you in trouble. Teach your horse to flex willingly (with only a light lifting of the reins). Get him more desensitized and more confident. He bolts because of fear (or he is escaping pain from the saddle). He is afraid of something around him or behind him. For your own safety as well as his learn to do a one-rein-stop and make it your involuntary response to his bolting. It will save your life...It has mine.

My reply to q-3 is go back to ground work and make him disengage his hind quarters. then work in the round pen on his back, slowly enlarge his boundaries until you can be sure you can take his head away and use a one rein stop.

Does this happen in the arena, on the trail or anytime? Have you tried using the one rein stop? Start back in the arena or the round pen if you have to, walk a few steps and one rein stop, walk a few steps, one rein stop the other way, when the horse is good with that, trot and continue to do the one rein stops, then lope and one rein stops. The key is to do the one rein stops before the horse gets out of control, if you even think the horse may try to bolt, one rein stop. Hope this helps.

One rein stop

Just watched this week's episode of Chris Cox on RFDTV and he deals with a horse like that on the trail. He starts on the flat at home with a progressive shifting of weight to the outside and tipping the nose to the inside and disengagement of hip. It's a pretty simple solution that he works on in a safe environment and then moves to a trail. He adapts it to quartering when the trail is narrow or dangerous or the horse is trying to run past another horse. I always record his shows, so I have it on DVR and could put it on VHS for you if you don't get another solution and you'd like to try it. Pam raindrop@duo-county.com

There are a few things you need to consider that you didn't mention in your question. Bolting can result from several things...BUT keep in mind he is truly afraid and in flight mode.

First make sure that all tack is fitting properly. Saddles should NOT be resting on the withers or pinching anywhere and there should be enough room for movement without being pinched. Check your saddle, cinch and blankets for anything that might be poking him or stuck in the fleece.

Make sure the bit you are using is not pinching the corners of horses mouth, adjusted properly so as not to interfere or bang on teeth, and it is not too big or too small for the horses mouth. Take in to consideration if the horse has a deep or shallow mouth, a thin or thick tongue, etc. Sometimes if a horse needs to have his teeth floated he will misbehave. I once had my broke to death show mare rear

up at a bridge in trail class because a sharp point from her molars was pressured by the loops of the bit. It also wouldn't hurt to have a horse chiropractor check out your horse.

Anytime a horse acts up whether it be bolting or bucking there is something wrong, either physically or mentally. I don't mean to say that your horse has a mental problem, I am rather suggesting there is a lack of training and understanding to kick in the flight response. You have to find the underlying problem for this to be occurring, by bolting he is definitely trying to get away from something.

You didn't mention when the horse bolts or why (if you know why). If it is a behavioral problem, you need to go back to ground zero and start your training all over again. Go slowly and figure out where the holes are and work on them. There is a lack of understanding and fear attached and this you will have to work through, DON'T bully your horse through it! If for example he tends to bolt when you show him something new, you need to back off your approach and figure out a way to introduce him that makes him comfortable. I highly recommend some of the things that the Parelli's and Clinton Anderson use to desensitize your horse. Bolting can be very dangerous for both horse and rider, and major wrecks and injuries can occur for both. I've seen horses go through barbed wire and end up shredded and riders thrown or gone down with a horse on asphalt, it's not pretty.

IN AN EMERGENCY

I have had to 'double over' a couple of horses when they have spooked and "tried" to bolt. By doubling over you pull the nose to your knee until the horse slows down and stops and I literally mean make that nose touch your knee...he can't get very far doubled over and the key is to use this method when the horse first jumps out and has only taken a few strides. You have to be careful doing this AND YOU MUST remain calm. Pull the nose to your knee on the same side of the lead he is on, otherwise you risk legs getting tangled and a fall.

If you have enough room, say in an open field try to get him to come back to you by slowing down then lope small circles until you can stop him. If that doesn't work you can also try controlled galloping. Practicing galloping like a reiner does in large circles and keep going until he wants to quit then make him gallop another lap or two. Pretty soon he'll figure out that galloping away is hard work and he'll be happy just to lope or stop and rest.

The main thing is to keep your cool and THINK thru it. Figure out what works best and why the horse wants to bolt in the first place. 95% of behavioral problems can be resolved by backing off your training and not asking the horse to do too much before he is ready. You can't go from the ground floor to the roof without the elevator going through all the floors first. Keep that in mind when training your horse. A good foundation has to be solid before you can advance.

Teach your horse WHOA, And I mean PLANT IT BUDDY RIGHT NOW! Teach it from a walk, then trot, then lope and finally a gallop. You should be able to say whoa and the horse stop without use of your reins. Do not advance to a higher gear until the horse will stop with just your voice, and by stop I don't mean stop and dance around. I mean stop and stand still relaxed for as long as you wish. Move off in a different direction and repeat the drill.

TIPS FOR TEACHING WHOA

Do not use the "Whoa" word unless YOU mean it. Don't say whoa if you want him to slow down, say something like "easy", don't use "slow" as it sounds too much like whoa....ONLY use "whoa" when you mean S T O P! Additionally "NO" sounds too much like 'whoa' so if reprimanding say "hey" or something else that doesn't sound like 'whoa'. They do get confused so be consistent with your wording. Believe me they do know the difference... everyone in my barn will lift their head like uh-oh if I say "hey", they know someone is in trouble they just hope it's not them!. It's amazing how adjusting your vocabulary a tiny bit will go a long way to your equine understanding

EVENTS

WILD HORSE & BURRO ADOPTION this weekend (10/18-19/08) in GLASGOW, KENTUCKY. For those of you east of the Big Muddy,(or with friends in this area to notify) here's your chance to check out the BLM horses without driving up to Ewing, Illinois. Check out the details at www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov . Please pick up our sheet at the Glasgow site about forming a group in this area. Dean and Pam at Raindrop Ranch, Columbia, KY. raindrop@duo-county.com

I am interested in doing a ***ground driving clinic*** for anyone who might be interested. I would like to do it while the weather is still somewhat warm. There's a lot of things that I can teach my fellow mustang owners about ground work, basic training, ground manners, and how to prepare your horse to get on him for the first time. Does anyone know of an indoor facility that we could use in case of bad weather. I am fairly new up here and do not know many people. My email address is saunyajo@charter.net. If anyone is interested in participating in a clinic they can email me and maybe we could put one together. It would probably last at least 4 hrs, maybe more, depending on how many want to participate. I am thinking the cost would be \$ 75.00 with your horse, maybe \$30.00 just to come a watch and learn. Thank you

Saunya Bolton

Mustang Makeover participant,

AQHA Professional Horseman

AQHA Trainer

KITTY & RICK LAUMAN COMING TO NAPA - SECOND DAY ADDED!

We are pleased to announce that we have added a second Kitty & Rick Lauman horsemanship clinic! Two back to back clinics will be held **Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26**, at the Kerson Family Mustang Ranch in Napa, CA.

By splitting the group into 2, we have room for a couple more participants each day. Sign up ASAP to hold your spot! Cost is \$150 per day to participate with a horse, or \$25 to audit. You may attend one day or two - the clinic format will be the same - the theme is "De-Spook Your Horse For Halloween" and will include learning how to handle and master various trail challenges. This is a rare opportunity for people "south of the (Oregon) Border" to study with the Laumans, who are popular and widely respected trainers and clinicians in the Northwest. Kitty won the Reserve Championship (and the hearts of all the spectators and many web-blog followers) at the first Extreme Mustang Makeover, with her Mustang, Ranger. Rick is the reigning World Champion Cowboy Shooter.

Michael & Nancy Kerson email: nosrek@sprynet.com Phone: 707-226-9193

From Cindy: Bart and I will be helping at this event – It's FREE! FREE! FREE! Come on out and play with your Mustangs.....It will be FUN!!

LRTC FALL CONFIDENCE WORKSHOP

October 26, 2008, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Camelot Arena, 11625 US 50 W., Stagecoach, NV

Cold weather is coming and now is the time to firm up your relationship with your newly adopted horse. Come join us for a day of confidence building exercises - free to wild horse adopters. Bring your horse, work with other horses, or just come and watch.

Our goal is to have several workshops that will include developing the "Three Essential Cs" with your new horse - Communication - Confidence - Courage through interactive exercises and problem solving.



You will be presented with a variety of safe and sane techniques and exercises that you can also replicate at home. Emphasis will be on developing solid communications with your horse, helping him focus on new tasks, helping him replace fear with curiosity when in new situations, and producing a good working partnership with your horse.

Workshop strategies include: Putting the relationship first, improving communications (learning the language of horses,) making learning fun for your horse (creating positively stimulating situations,) developing concepts for never-ending self improvement, and knowing when to quit when something just isn't working.

Workshop activities typically include basic relaxation and focusing techniques, respect through communication, generating the desirable amount of motion, keeping horses focused when distracted, redirecting stress responses, and working through horse puzzles and confidence building obstacles. Techniques employed include traditional "natural horsemanship" methods, T-Touch and clicker training, among others.

Participation is free to BLM and VRE horse adopters. For more information or to reserve a spot in the workshop, contact Betty Retzer at blretzer@yahoo.com or call 775-720-2044.

This program is offered by Least Resistance Training Concepts (LRTC) www.whmentors.org

Help Needed at UNR Equestrian Team – HOME Show

Here is the information on the show – Saturday October 25th and Sunday, October 26th

Show starts at 12 (NOON) on Saturday (October 25) til round 5-530 PM (**From Cindy – Bart and I will be there Saturday, but will be down in Stagecoach helping with a FREE clinic for Mustang Owners on Sunday**)

On Saturday warm riders need to be there at 10:30 AM

Sunday (October 26th) starts at 8:00 AM end round 1-2 PM

Sunday warm up riders need to be there round 6:30-6:45 AM

If not warm up riding be there 1 hour before show starts

Jobs:

- Gate Steward- Open and close the gate and hand out ribbons and prizes in each class. 2 people
- Horse Handlers (10)-Tacking up horses and leading horses into show arena and out of show arena.
- Stall Muckers
- Warm-up riders
- Concessions
- Certified EMT (one each day)

From Cindy – I have the Volunteer Application Sheet – I can fax, mail or email to you if you think you can assist at this event. Email me at cbLawrnc@aol.com or call me (775) 853-4182

**The E.A.R.S. (Equus Assinus Recreation Society)
Club presents:
Hoof trimming clinic and
Little Equine Festival!**

Saturday, Oct. 25, 1 ½ miles *north* of Artois, right off of 99W at the end of Bend in the Road Way (between the towns of Orland and Willows, CA)



Learn to trim their feet and start 'em under saddle!

Starting at 10:30 a.m.: Hoof trimming clinic 101 by Dave Freeman. \$5 for E.A.R.S. members, \$10 for non-members. A discussion on abrasive hoof trimming by Erika Williamson. Demo by Sally Hugg on fitting equine boots and glue on shoes.

The rest of the day is free:

*****Tack Swap on the front lawn/s. This tack swap is free for anyone and everyone to come on over to sell/swap critter tack. Bring your own tables and tents. (We won't have any to offer if you forgot yours). If you are a vendor and want to come and play, come on up or down! No charge! (Set up 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Swap begins at 11).**

*****Horse/mustang/mule training demos by Susie (Solomon) Mabe. She will do training 101 demonstrations in the early afternoon! *Free* to watch folks, this one is on the house! Thank you so much Susie Mabe!!!!**

POT LUCK in the middle of the afternoon!!! If you bring something to eat, or your friend or foe brings enough for you, join us! Bring your own utensils and plates too unless you want to use your fingers. BYO beverages.

For more information, call Ginny: (530) 934-7658 or email: wildzone@pulsarco.com

For Sale/Looking for Homes

Horses for sale/reassignment.

Looking for a home: Jack: 12yr old, 16hh, buckskin gelding from Augusta Mountain HMA. This boy is still looking for a good home. He has had ground work done and been saddled a few times. He was gathered as a 4yr old and that is when we adopted him. He leads, loads, ties, bathes, etc... Did In-Hand classes at the Bishop Wild Horse and Burros show, years ago. So he does cross bridges (in-hand), goes over poles, around barrels, etc.... Clear Title. He is located in Northern CA. (Wheatland, CA) Can transport for fuel. Free to good home!!! Edona bewildranch@netzero.net



Return Mustang: Tika: This mare is 3yrs old. She is halter broke, leads, loads, and ties. She was at our place a little over a year ago, as a 2yr old return (divorce). At that time my daughter saddled her with not problems at all. Lead her all over the property with the saddle on without any issues. It is said she is a lady's horse, by the returner. She does have a little issue with her back feet, so would need work there. I have yet to pick up her feet or really work with her since she came back. A year ago, my daughter picked all over her feet without issues. I think she is a Twin Peaks horse, but would have to double check. You must be BLM approved and have, or willing to do, an application on file. \$125 Northern CA (Wheatland, CA) Edona bewildranch@netzero.net



BRAGGING (about our Mustangs)

I would like to brag again about the prison mustang I got Feb 08 who just did his second limited distance endurance race, 25 miles, and got 4th place out of 60 horses that were entered. We continue to train hard and he is getting in great shape and doing well. I am very happy with him.

Misc. "Stuff" Shared by our Mustang/Burro Family

This is a VET site and they will answer questions. Plus there are pre-question answers too. Check them out!

http://www.aaep.org/ask_the_vet.php

Horse takes up painting, has works exhibited

Now, a Reno artist will be making his international debut, having been invited to exhibit his work in a juried art competition in Italy.

He won't be going abroad, however, to bask in the aura of great Italian masters.

Instead, this artist will remain at home, contemplating his next masterpiece while gnawing on his paintbrushes -- between mouthfuls of hay.

Cholla is a mustang-quarter horse mix whose paintings have been featured in art exhibits from San Francisco to New York and now overseas.

His creation, "The Big Red Buck," was selected for exhibit in the 3rd International Art Prize Arte Laguna, October 18-November 2, Mogliano Veneto, Italy.

More than 3,000 [paintings](#), sculptures and photographs were entered in this year's competition.

In painting, there were 1,770 from artists around the world. The international contest is organized by the Italian cultural association MoCA in collaboration with Arte Laguna and is aimed at promoting contemporary art.

A spokeswoman for the competition acknowledges there was some consternation among the judges when they realized Cholla was of the equine species.

Don't Miss

"We have to admit that we did not expect the application of a horse," Arte Laguna spokeswoman Cristina Del Favero said in response to an e-mail inquiry by The Associated Press.

"At first we were very perplexed, but we subsequently looked for more information about Cholla on the Web and the jury decided to accept his application by considering his prestige in the USA."

While Cholla was not eligible to win any cash prizes, "he obtained a special mention," Del Favero said.

Viviana Siviero, president of the four-member jury, said she at first was suspicious of Cholla's entry.

"All of us knew that Cholla is a horse. When the organization informed me about that, I was at first doubtful and incredulous," Siviero said, adding she researched Cholla to ensure his authenticity. "Sincerely, some of the jurors were perplexed or even angry. Some others were amused about it."

In selecting his work as an honorable mention, Siviero said, the jury "did not value ... his gesture nor his chromatic choice, since it has to be considered the result of casualty."

Cholla's acceptance in the juried show prompted interest from another gallery in Venice, Italy, where a solo exhibit of Cholla artwork is being planned for next spring.

Rosalba Giorcelli, curator at Giudecca 795 Art Gallery, said she and her associate were curious, after seeing Cholla's work, why he was not eligible for a special award in the upcoming Arte Laguna.

"We could not understand until we browsed the Web and found out he was ... a horse!" she said in an e-mail. "The more we were learning about Cholla, the more we were thrilled and excited about offering a solo exhibit."

Renee Chambers, Cholla's owner and assistant, says his international acclaim proves his artistic talents.

"Yes, it's a novelty that a horse can paint," she said. "But it's not about novelty anymore. It's about his validation as an artist."

Cholla's painting career began by accident, Chambers said. He'd follow her around when she'd paint the corral each year, and one day her husband quipped, "You should get that horse to paint the fence."

Chambers instead tacked a piece of paper to a railing, bought some watercolors, mixed them up, and handed a brush to Cholla, who gripped it in his teeth and stroked the paper.

"He's been painting ever since," she said.

If art, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder, then Cholla -- named after a species of cacti found in the desert southwest -- certainly has a following and a growing reputation.

John Yimin, an art lover and critic, wrote on his Web site, www.outsiderart.info: "The brush stroke Cholla uses to get his vision down on paper ... the watercolor's dance ... and especially the fascinating completion of the works ... Cholla clearly grabs me and holds me as I watch him paint with the fire of Pollock and fixed gaze of Resnick."

Yimin said he started his site "to connect to artists and build them a popular place to show their work."

"As for Cholla, when I first got the submission, I had to bend the rules a little because I don't accept submissions from agents, dealers or anyone other than the artist. Because I remember 'Mister Ed,' I took a look and figured I'd see some dopey horse tied to a tree with a paintbrush taped to its forelock," he said, referencing the 1960s TV comedy about a talking horse.

"Instead, even in a small frame video, I saw intelligence, purpose and a differing vision exposed to me for the first time. I was and remain awed," Yimin said.

The 23-year-old bay has only been painting for four years, but original pieces have sold for \$900 and as high as \$2,200, said Chambers, who busies herself as Cholla's agent.

He exhibited this summer during a Western show at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, and will have a solo show at The Art Cafe in Davison, Michigan, in November.

Is work created by an animal truly art?

"We live in a world with constantly shifting boundaries and obviously expanding definitions," said Kurt Kohl, curator at The Art Cafe.

"The horse is creating art on the level of a very young child," he said. "There may not be a lot of thought behind the process, but one could also ask the same question about Pollock or De Kooning or Rothko."

"The action of the art is in the viewers response to it," Kohl said. "And that's why we decided to hang it on our walls."

Siviero agreed.

"Cholla's work is to be considered as an action, a product that gives life to emotions, controlled neither by the horse nor by the observer," she said.

Comparing Cholla to Jackson Pollock, an abstract painter, she said, "Pollock preferred to work on a wall or on a floor than at easel, since he liked hard surfaces better.

"In a way, Cholla is more impressionist, at least in his habit, since he finds his inspiration in the open air, next to his portable easel."

In 2005, Cholla was featured on "The Martha Stewart Show." The lifestyles diva proclaimed, "Cholla painted a beautiful horse drinking from a champagne glass, a flute, making a toast."

Chambers, a tiny woman trained in ballet, shrugs off naysayers who may think Cholla is a gimmick.

"It's an innate ability he has," she said. "He wants to paint. It's in him."

Chambers prefers to believe Cholla's talents are evidence of the wonders of evolution.

"I totally believe in the evolution's creative energy," she said. "If we can have it, why not an animal? Art is an expression of intelligence and Cholla's highly intelligent.

"It's not a stupid pet trick."

October 17, 2008

Director of Agriculture Tony Lesperance is at it again. This time he's planning on dismantling the University of Nevada Reno's wild horse birth control study program and offering the horses to the kill buyers.

For several years a number of mares and two stallions have been held at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center south of Carson City. They were corralled as part of a study to determine the long term effects as well as any side effects produced by their being provided with doses of a temporary birth control vaccine. University veterinarian Dr. David Thain has been conducting this study for several years. The study group includes treated mares as well as a few "control" mares that weren't treated. Therefore the present group of horses includes a handful of youngsters along with the study mares and the two stallions.

Nevada is currently experiencing the most serious budget crisis in modern history. Funding was lost for the birth control study and none of the agencies had any spare cash to feed the horses so that Dr. Thain's observations could continue. As a result, the allied wild horse groups raised the funds to buy the necessary feed for the horses. As a long term solution, the wild horse groups were helping facilitate moving the program to a privately owned closed range where all the horses could remain together and observations could continue. As a plan of last resort, the Wild Horse Foundation had offered to take the horses and find individual private homes for them.

However Director of Agriculture Tony Lesperance, whose actions clearly indicate that he doesn't want to see any successes with respect to managing wild horses, ordered a legal ad run in the state capitol's newspaper, the Nevada Appeal. In the legal ad on page C-8 of the October 17th

edition ^{★ ★}, Lesperance incorrectly describes the horses as having been taken up as estrays that are being held until the lawful owners can prove ownership and reclaim them. While lies from Director Lesperance are commonplace, even we find it hard to believe that he could possibly claim that horses that are branded and microchipped and that have been part of a University study for many years are somehow at-large stock that someone allowed to get loose.

Director Lesperance made this specific description in a legal notice with the intent that if the horses could be regarded as picked up at-large estrays, he can dispose of the horses at the end of next week. In this instance, disposal is likely consigning the horses to a dealer where they can be picked up by the kill buyers.

Wild horse advocates are considering taking legal action as it may not be lawful for Director Lesperance to dispose of branded and microchipped study horses as "unidentified estrays." However it is equally important that advocates contact Governor Gibbons' office and complain that once again Gibbons' Director of Agriculture is taking possibly unlawful actions and placing tax dollars at risk over a situation that already should be resolved.

Here are the salient issues.

1. The birth control study is an important tool with respect to the long term management of wild horse populations. We need to know that it works and we need to know what, if any, long term side effects may occur. This data can't be gathered if the "herd" is broken up, and possibly becomes European table meat.
2. Private funding has been obtained to maintain the birth control program. Horse advocates were simply awaiting instructions as to when and where to have the hay delivered.

3. These are not domestic estray horses of unknown origin. They are branded and microchipped horses that have been historically part of a university study. Director Lesperance's legal notice is not correct and the court may decide that he doesn't have the authority to sell the horses.

4. The decision to stop the birth control study is bad public policy and Director Lesperance's actions risk unnecessary expenditures of tax dollars.

5. Director Lesperance needs to be told by the Governor's office to leave the birth control program alone so long as it doesn't produce unfunded costs to the Department of Agriculture. Otherwise we can only conclude that Governor Gibbons condones Director Lesperance's conduct. This is Dr. Thain's program, not Director Lesperance's.

Help save the birth control program horses! Please contact Governor Gibbons' office at 775-684-5670 and/or email <mailto:governor@govmail.state.nv.us> .

You can also express your opinion to the Nevada Department of Agriculture by calling 775-688-1180 and/or emailing <mailto:efoster@agri.state.nv.us> .

We may have only a few days to bring some common sense to this issue and bring these horses under private care and protection so that they can remain safe, and so that observations as to their health and condition can continue.

Thanks for reading this message and please spread the word!

":O) Willis

--

"Truth is the safest lie."

* *

Pub: Oct. 16, 17, 18, 2008 Ad #2406404 NOTICE OF ESTRAY ANIMAL NOTICE IS

HEREBY GIVEN that the following described animal(s) has been taken up as an estray and is being held at: WILD HORSE ADOPTION CENTER AT THE STEWART CONSERVATION CAMP CARSON CITY, NEVADA Twenty-six mares, assorted colors, ages 6 yrs. thru aged, 600-800 lbs Two stallions, sorrel & bay, ages 10 yrs. thru 19 yrs., 750-850 lbs.

OWNER OF THIS ANIMAL(S) may reclaim same by providing proof of ownership and obtaining written permit from a representative of this Division before 1:00 p.m., **Friday, October 24, 2008.** If not claimed prior to this time, this animal(s) will be sold by the Bureau of Livestock Identification as provided by Chapter 569, Nevada Revised Statutes. Estray No(s). 113-625.

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 350 Capitol Hill Avenue Reno, Nevada 89502 By: Michael Holmes, VRE Manager

Notes sent to me from the Wild Horse Summit last weekend:

I was able to attend the Wild Horse and Burro Summit in Las Vegas on Saturday. Honestly, I was in awe of the attendees--scientists, vets, authors, rescuers, wild horse welfare advocates, Lakota Indian chief, BLM representatives, HSUS representatives and many more--with the goal of finding a better way to manage (or not manage) America's precious wild horses. Following are some highlights of the many notes I took (note that all references to wild horses also includes burros):

Some Remarks by Speakers:

1. Wild horses will be extinct in 5 years if nothing is done to protect them.
2. Wild horses have been managed for their *existence*, need to be managed for their *welfare*.
3. There is some question as to whether wild horses really need to be managed at all.
4. By federal law, wild horses have a right to our public lands--cattle do not.
5. The current removal program is much more expensive than use of contraception methods.
6. 75-80% of wild horses are *not* now in self-sustaining herds.
7. Use of PZP (birth control) showed unwelcome side effects in at least one study.
8. The AML (appropriated management level, the amount of land needed for wild horses to graze without causing damage to the range) is not supported by data.
9. The family units ("harems"), which consist of one stallion plus his mares and foals must be maintained or the mustangs will not survive.

Some Suggestions Discussed By The Panel:

1. Release the horses now being held and return them to land taken from them.
2. Look at the original intent of the law and the original herd areas and analyze if these areas have viable populations.
3. Give the public access to BLM documents and create public task forces.
4. Remove fences and allow horses to be free roaming again.
5. Remove the wild horses from BLM control and put them under the control of people who know and are trained in horse management.
6. Only select mustangs with the best retraining potential and temperament for adoption and leave the others on their ranges. Provide special training for new adoptees.
7. Restore horses into the zeroed-out range areas.
8. Assess all horses now in holding to see if they can go back out on the range. Family bands should be reunited whenever possible, including geldings.
9. Privatize adoptions using agencies such as the Mustang Heritage Foundation and castrate all stallions prior to adoption.

Statements made by the Deputy Director of the BLM, in charge of wild horse management:

1. "The BLM might be violating the law by not using all the tools available through the law to preserve the wild horses and burros."
2. The BLM cannot afford the current program of holding wild horses in pens. Mr. Bisson is looking to find financial relief and has made substantial cut backs within his department.
3. He says he never said the BLM planned to euthanize horses as reported by the media. He says "I don't think we'll get there."
4. Mr. Bisson will be meeting with Congress in November about how to proceed.
5. No emergency gathers will be made without his approval with only a few specific removals but no family units destroyed.
6. No gathers in Wyoming, no removal of McCullough herd this year.
7. The BLM will continue the adoption program with the Mustang Heritage Foundation, which is "the best thing we have going right now."
8. The BLM will look into putting horses back onto zeroed-out ranges.
9. The BLM will most likely use infertility drugs such as PZP (and two others).
10. The BLM is looking into changing permits to allow more horse grazing land and trying to work with several people about putting wild horses on land not part of the rangelands.
11. He would like to continue the stewardship program in which rangers help with water, etc. during difficult times.

There were many more points brought up and discussed at the meeting, these are a few that I thought were important. Mr. Bisson, who seems to have an understanding and empathy for the wild horse problem, unfortunately will be retiring at the end of January. He said that the issue of the wild horses and burros will "get all my attention" until that time and he expects to have recommendations to submit to the White House before he leaves the Bureau.

We need to put our weight behind the efforts being made by the wild horse and burro advocates, just as we have supported anti-slaughter legislation. Our attitude and interest in helping them will dictate whether they survive. We have to be their voice.

JOKES

Creation

On the first day of creation, God created the Horse.

On the second day, God created man to serve the Horse.

On the third day, God created all the animals of the earth to spook the Horse when man was on his back.

On the fourth day, God created an honest day's work so that man could labor to pay for the keeping of the Horse.

On the fifth day, God created the grasses in the field so that Horse could eat and man could toil and clean up after the Horse.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the Horse healthy and man broke.

On the seventh day, God rested and said "This is good. This will teach man humility. It will tire him out and keep him striving ever forward to meet the needs of the Horse."

A letter from your horse ...original version and the real story ...

When you are tense, let me teach you to relax.

When you are short tempered, let me teach you to be patient.

When you are short sighted, let me teach you to see.

When you are quick to react, let me teach you to be thoughtful.

When you are angry, let me teach you to be serene.

When you feel superior, let me teach you to be respectful.

When you are self absorbed, let me teach you to think of greater things.

When you are arrogant, let me teach you humility.

When you are lonely, let me be your companion.

When you are tired, let me carry the load.

When you need to learn, let me teach you. After all, I am your horse.

And now, the REAL story.....

When you are tense, let me teach you that there are lions in them thar woods, and we need to leave NOW!

When you are short tempered, let me teach you to slog around the pasture for an hour before you can catch me.

When you are short sighted, let me teach you to figure out where, exactly, in the 40 acres I am hiding.

When you are quick to react, let me teach you that herbivores kick much faster (harder) than omnivores.

When you are angry, let me teach you how well I can stand on my hind feet because I don't feel like cantering on my right lead today.

When you are worried, let me entertain you with my mystery lameness.

When you feel superior, let me teach you that, mostly, you are the maid service.

When you are self absorbed, let me teach you to PAY ATTENTION. Remember? I told you about those lions in them thar woods?

When you are arrogant, let me teach you what 1200 lbs. Of "YAHOO LETS GO!" can do when suitably inspired.

When you are lonely, let me be your companion. Let's do lunch. Also, breakfast and dinner.

When you are tired, don't forget the 600lbs. Of grain that needs to be unloaded.

When you are feeling financially secure, let me teach you the meaning of "Veterinary Services".

When you need to learn, hang around, bud. I'll learn ya.