

THE SPANISH MUSTANG FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER, 2015 VOL. 6

Our mission is to educate the public about the Spanish Mustang and the need to protect and perpetuate the breed.



We continue to see the numbers of Spanish Mustangs decline as big breeders and ranchers can no longer keep large herds. Small breeders are having a hard time selling horses in today's horse market. We fear the loss of important bloodlines. The characteristics of this small horse have evolved through survival. Their intelligence, stamina, strong bones, quickness and soundness give them the qualities of good trail horses, endurance horses, and ranch horses. The Foundation is working to preserve them for the future. We have fed 200 horses this year. We are working to bring people and horses together for first hand experience in training and riding. We are starting a new program to help horse owners who are experiencing challenges caring for their horses. Please let us know if we can help your horse through a difficult winter or if you need medical assistance with gelding or other medical problems. This program is for horse owners with one or more horses, we want to use our resources to help Spanish Mustangs wherever needed. Please contact us at info@spanishmustangfoundation.org.

We would also like to help support the Spanish Mustang Registry by getting all eligible SM horses registered. Let us know if you need financial help registering your horse. We feel it is important to account for the number of SM horses in the world today.

Our sincere gratitude to all those who donate, we could not do this work without your help.

Donna Mitchell
Doug Lanham



OUR WORK THIS SUMMER FOCUSED ON BRINGING PEOPLE AND HORSES TOGETHER. HERE ARE SOME OF THEIR STORIES.



Meira works with Josie

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with The Spanish Mustang Foundation. I have worked with at-risk youth for more than ten years, have always been interested in learning horsemanship, and in the last few years have begun to combine the two. As a therapist co-facilitating equine-assisted therapy, I learned the calming effect these large animals have on the therapeutic process and the insight they can bring. In equine-assisted therapy, clients attempt to move horses through planned obstacle courses while a horse person watches for safety and a therapist observes how the human and horse interact. Lessons come from resistance. How does it feel to the client when the horse won't move? How does it feel to achieve what was intended? Some ways of communicating are more effective than others and the horses give immediate feedback in their behavior. Horses also require our acute awareness and focused attention for safety. They force you to be in the present moment, a valuable therapeutic tool. The Spanish Mustang Foundation affords me the opportunity to learn "natural horsemanship". I am learning equine behavior and herd dynamics through groundwork training exercises and riding along to feed, water and move horses. I get to experience perhaps what my clients experience in the way of resistance, frustration, accomplishment and connection.

-Meira Petersen LPCC



Meira meets Dusty



Joaquin works with Tajique & Blue

Joaquin Nunez worked with Tajique a 3 year old gelding all summer using Robin Doughman's groundwork techniques.



Adam with Rawhide

What a gift it has been to work with Rawhide this past year. He went from extreme fear around people to trusting me to halter and lead him easily. I am so proud of how everyone in the Foundation came together for the good of this horse.

-Adam Edwards



La Jara and Sierra

La Jara and her brothers, Moonshadow and Dusty, were born this year on La Jara Ranch, the first foals to join us here.



Robin and Laura have been working with Montego all year and Laura came to the Foundation to gather more experience working with other horses.



Laura works with Sahara

Montego is the love of my horse life, not because of the issues that he has overcome, but because of his willingness to overcome them. He has spent the last several years moving past human-inflicted trauma, and he will probably struggle with people forever. But despite his struggles he is letting me ride on his back. He is the stronger being between us - emotionally and physically - and he did what many of us cannot: he changed his mind about people. Somewhere along the line, he realized that he was wrong in his belief that all humans are dangerous, and because of his willingness to change his belief, I was able to enter his life.

He inspires me to live truthfully and in the moment. He reminds me that people (and animals) can change, and to have faith that they will, given space, time, and gentle guidance. He has taught me to take a patient, yet firm hand in all areas of my life, and to not worry about what horrors tomorrow might bring; to live in the moment. When we are standing together in the corral, safe and comfortable and grateful, life really is just as simple as the sun on your face, the New Mexico sky wide and blue, and the smell of horse as your fingers run absently through thick winter hair.

-Laura Ellis



Robin works with Grey's Shadow

Over the past thirty years or so I have spent a good portion of every summer teaching people how to better communicate with their horses.

Working with the SMF gives me an opportunity to work with many students at different levels of horsemanship. The horses we worked with this summer were also at different levels of experience. Some horses like Grey's Shadow and Tajique are young and haven't been ridden, others are older mares with lots of experience in ground work and riding.

Students get a chance to work with horses who understand what is asked of them and horses with less experience. It provides an occasion to learn a great deal and at the same time have the experience come from multiple personalities for both horses and people. It has been a rewarding summer for all.

-Robin Doughman

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



Black Sand SMR #3703 achieved Performance Horse of the Year from the Spanish Mustang Registry! We are proud to have sponsored Nicola Ravensford in her competitive endurance riding in the United Kingdom. Congratulations to Sandy and Nicola!

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our donors. Your contributions fed 200 horses this year. The continued support of the JW & Ethel I Woodruff Foundation allows Robin Doughman to work with many people and horses. Our deepest gratitude to all who care about Spanish Mustangs and help us meet our goals.

THE SPANISH MUSTANG FOUNDATION
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THE SPANISH MUSTANG FOUNDATION

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WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

