

# THE SPANISH MUSTANG FOUNDATION

## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER, 2013 VOL. 5

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



The past year will be of great historical importance for the Spanish Mustang; a turning point for America's first horse. The last of the large range preservationists are shutting their doors, keeping only their personal riding horses and no longer breeding as many diverse bloodlines. The plight of the Spanish Mustang has been ignored, and needs our help.

This horse has a long and violent history in the shaping of America. In the late 1800's there were laws that small mustang stallions of Spanish origin be shot. Known as the U.S. Calvary Remount Program, larger stallions were introduced for times of war, westward expansion and farming. In 1934 the Taylor Grazing Act eliminated almost all wild horses from American lands due to the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and the need for available grazing for cattle and sheep. The Spanish Mustang survived both the systematic elimination of its kind and the 1934 kill off. Bob Brislawn saw how incredibly unique these horses were. He respected their great endurance, agility and soundness. He began collecting what horses he could find. In 1957 The Spanish

Mustang Registry was formed in an effort to preserve the few Spanish Mustang horses left scattered around the country. They were mostly on various Indian reservations where the Federal Government couldn't enforce their laws. Spanish Mustangs have been living on large ranches in Wyoming, North and South Dakota for many years. The past years have been very hard on ranchers and preservationists and they can no longer afford to keep the stock that is the backbone of the Spanish Mustang conservation efforts.

The Spanish Mustang Foundation has been able to help feed horses for the past few years. More hay is needed to keep horses on lands where they can continue to live in their natural environment. The days of the horses running free are slipping away. The Foundation is hoping to spearhead a sanctuary where some of the work of the last 100 years will not be lost. Land is needed where the horses can continue to roam as they have for centuries. The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy lists them as critical; the range bred Spanish Mustang is endangered, nearing extinction every day. The Spanish Mustang needs your help.

## THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS

We would like to thank all of our donors for making this such a great year for the Spanish Mustang Foundation. We have raised over \$46,000. We owe a special thank you to the Woodruff Foundation for their grant of \$9000. With the generous support of so many folks we have been able to buy \$11,000 of hay for hungry horses. We have given \$12,000 in support of the SOAR youth camp, with \$4000 in scholarships so children could work with Spanish Mustang horses. Our Rescue, Train and Re-home program is under way with \$6000 spent in supporting horses needing rescue. This year marks the completion of the film "Return of the Horse". Let us know if you would like to have a showing of "ROTH" in your area. We deeply appreciate all the support given for the Spanish Mustang horses.

We would like to thank Julia Lanham and Jackie Hall for organizing the fundraiser for the Spanish Mustang Foundation and the Equine Protection Fund. The event brought together two organizations looking for ways to promote horse care in New Mexico. Thank you Julia and Doug Lanham for hosting a beginning relationship between the two organizations.

Congratulations to the Hidalgo Youth Rodeo Association! We are proud to support your work with animals that continue your way of life.



Dally Peterson

The Spanish Mustang Foundation gives support to The Horse Shelter for their important work in caring for New Mexico's neglected horses.



## A WARM WELCOME TO...



Adam Edwards,  
our new Development Director!



Emmi Adler,  
our new Special Projects Coordinator!

## SPANISH MUSTANGS IN COMPETITION

One way we can promote the Spanish Mustang is by showing off their amazing talents whether it is dressage, jumping, endurance or rodeo. The Spanish Mustang Foundation is excited to be able to help competitors in sanctioned horse events. If you would like to apply for sponsorship please e-mail [info@spanishmustangfoundation.org](mailto:info@spanishmustangfoundation.org). Let's get out there and show the world what we've got!

Follow us on Facebook!



## MONTEGO'S TALE-

### It takes as long as it takes.

When Montego came to Robin Doughman the bay pony was allowing no direct contact from humans. On a level of 1 – 10 Montego's rapport with people was a negative 6. Some horses are in that position. The causes vary. His positive response was slow in coming. Robin was reminded of Bill Dorrance's philosophy of "horsemanship through feel" knowing it takes as long as it takes. Many times progress would be made, but there were also the times when Montego would take two steps forward and one step back. It's the same way with the feral mustang at The Horse Shelter Robin is working with currently.

Now Montego is a Spanish Mustang with confident respect. His positive response to Robin's requests reveals tremendous growth, trust, and acceptance. His connection to people has improved. His command of the seven maneuvers presents an unbroken flow of movement and strength prevalent in his ancestry. Montego's training will be continuing in the months ahead. We will keep you posted.



We express our gratitude to Vikki Woodruff and the JW and Ethel I. Woodruff Foundation for their continued support of the work Robin Doughman contributes to the Spanish Mustang Foundation.





## SOAR CAMP

The Spanish Mustang Foundation hosted a summer day camp in 2013. Summer Of Awareness Riding (SOAR) educates participants on the practices of riding and working with Spanish Mustang horses. SOAR has created a fun educational environment where youth not only learn about horses and horsemanship, but also about themselves through the time they spend at camp.



Campers gather together after their horse show with newly made SMF T-shirts.

### FROM EMMI ADLER CAMP COORDINATOR-

The Summer of 2013 is one I will always remember fondly. It was the first summer I got to spend running Summer Of Awareness Riding camp, sharing my days with Adam Edwards, bubbling campers of all ages and Spanish Mustangs. I had run equine summer camps previously, but there was something that made this summer, this camp, extraordinarily special and unique; and that was the Spanish Mustangs. Days spent with this beautiful, intuitive and loving breed were filled with joy and amazement for all lucky enough to be in their presence at SOAR. At camp our Spanish Mustangs were groomed for hours, haltered over and over again, led through obstacle courses, ridden, painted on and then groomed once again. I have never seen a breed of horse carry his or her riders with such care and pride. I was very proud of our Spanish Mustangs. It was a wonderful summer for everyone involved and we are counting down the months to create more memories and touch more lives at SOAR of 2014.



Brian feels the movement of the horse for the first time.



Gabby practices her leading after her ride.



Luca helps clean & care for the horses.



Campers work together to build an obstacle course.





Above - Julian works on becoming a balanced rider.

Below - Mauricio touches the dock while doing saddle stretches.



Above - Ella grins ear to ear while riding without assistance for the first time.

Below - Campers learn anatomy while painting the horse.



Dear Spanish Mustang Foundation,

I want to take a moment to express the gratitude that I have for your SOAR program being offered by Emmi and Adam. My seven year old daughter has been dramatically effected by participating in such a comprehensive and nourishing experience. Her deep love for Spanish Mustangs is rooted heavily on a few major aspects that she has taken home with her. While working alongside of Emmi and Adam, my child has learned to take responsibility for another creature. By caring for the horses, from cleaning stalls to feeding, to grooming, she has developed a deep respect and understanding of the importance of selflessness, patience and compassion. With the respect for the horses, came a sense of trust and love - which stems directly from the trainers. This particular aspect I observed when my daughter "showed" her horse at the end of camp. Emmi, with the reigns in her hand, "trusted" my child to ride/guide and lead the horse through the course. I have never seen such a look of self-worth or self-trust in my seven year old daughter than that day. It was because Emmi trusted her, and believed in her to handle the horse, that she sat so tall upon her saddle rattling off commands to her horse. That's an

experience that brings a mother to tears.

In addition, she has learned self-discipline, empathy, sensitivity and how to read the horses. One concept that fascinated my daughter was when she learned to communicate nonverbally with her horse. One example of this was when she made flags and posted them around the horse pen. The horse she was working with was very apprehensive and nervous about the flags. She had to use her patience, respect, empathy, trust and communication to ease the horse over to touch the flag. My child was so empowered by this experience and her self-confidence was noticeably enhanced! The Spanish Mustang Foundation, Emmi, Adam and SOAR has offered my child much more than equestrian "know-how". This stuff is soul food and much more powerful than anything that can be learned in a classroom. These are only a few of the reasons why SOAR has been a life-enhancing choice for my child and our family. I thank you from the bottom of my heart and look forward to watching my daughter's spirit continue to unfold while being surrounded by Spanish Mustangs.

In deep gratitude,  
Kate Feldpausch, Mother of Lanie



## RESCUE — TRAIN — RE-HOME PROGRAM

Our goal is both to preserve the rare Spanish Mustang population while at the same time bringing unwanted horses to the forefront of society by proper training and thoughtful re-homing. Here are two stories of horses we have rescued this year.

### Our first adoption, Chino's story-

Chino was surrendered to Adam Edwards and Emmi Adler in Ft. Collins, CO after his owner felt she had no other options but to put him down. She had bought him with the understanding he was safe for anyone to ride. In reality he was scared of people, spooky and deemed dangerous. He had been neglected in South Dakota where he had been sent for training. 69 horses were found abandoned and starved and as many as possible sent back to their owners. We knew from photos Chino had been ridden but he had many behaviors we didn't understand. He was fearful of ropes, would bolt home when confused and in stressful situations go to the corner of the corral and bury his head. In four months of gentle yet intensive work he was back under saddle and now comes up to be haltered. He performed well in his first 30 mile endurance ride in April. With his gentle nature and good manners he has

found his forever home in New Mexico with a good family of experienced horse people. It has been our first success story and thanks to Emmi and Adam's gentle work Chino has a new and safe life ahead of him.



Emmi and Chino practice collection and lengthening his stride.



Adam and Chino ride in a bosal for the first time.



Adam, Bratley, Emmi and Chino finish their first 30 mile endurance ride together.



## Rawhide's Story-

Rawhide was surrendered to the Foundation in May of this year. He came from a neglectful situation in South Dakota. His owner brought him home to Albuquerque after learning her horse had been severely mistreated by the trainer. When he came home sick and angry and was reported to strike at people who entered his comfort zone she called Adam Edwards from the Spanish Mustang Foundation for help. Rawhide was recovering from strangles and emaciation when we brought him to the Little Cayuse Ranch. He

was very fearful of people, choosing to be alone.

Since living at the ranch on open pasture, the light has come back into his eye and he is starting to become a confident horse again. He is very wary of people he doesn't know, but Adam has been able to halter and do ground work with him. It will be awhile before he can be adopted but we are very happy with this unique and athletic horse's desire to be alive.



Rawhide in Albuquerque pre-rescue.



Rawhide in quarantine - sick with Strangles.



Rawhide with a new halter!



Rawhide running free at the Little Cayuse Ranch.



Adam and Rawhide work on facing up and creating a connection.

**THE SPANISH MUSTANG FOUNDATION**  
**PO Box 849**  
**Estancia, NM 87016**

## **THE SPANISH MUSTANG FOUNDATION**

**PROTECT**

**PRESERVE**

**EDUCATE**

**WE INVITE YOU TO CONTRIBUTE TO  
THE SPANISH MUSTANG FOUNDATION**

*Please contact us, or mail donations to:*

**THE SPANISH MUSTANG FOUNDATION**

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**WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!**

