



## THE FORT WORTH MUSTANG SHOW

### 2024 EVENT GUIDELINES & COMPETITION RULES

#### EVENT OVERVIEW:

The Fort Worth Mustang Show is being produced in an effort to showcase the skill and adaptability of the American mustang and the talented individuals that work with them. Additionally, the event will provide the public an opportunity to not only witness, but own, a mustang that has been given a foundation for success on its journey from government holding to private ownership.

The Fort Worth Mustang Show, produced by Bar M Productions, will be a competitive event open to Bureau of Land Management mustangs, 3 years old and older, adopted or purchased at an approved off-range corral or adoption event between April 1st and May 31st, 2024. Adopters and owners, 18 years of age and older, will work with the Bureau of Land Management to become eligible to adopt or purchase. Once a mustang has been adopted or purchased the adopter/owner may enter the mustang into The Fort Worth Mustang Show to be held September 6-7, 2024 at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth, TX. \$50,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded. Competing mustangs will be made available to the public by auction at the conclusion of the event.

**\*Mustang Qualification Statement:** Competing mustangs must be adopted or purchased between April 1st and May 31st with the intent of competing in the FWMS and should not be entered or registered in other BLM sponsored or funded competitions. Our goal is to increase the placement of America's wild horses into private care through quality training and competition. We will meet this goal by providing an opportunity for the general public to take home a gentled mustang. Therefore, all competing mustangs will be made available to the public at the conclusion of the event.

#### Tentative Event Timeline:

- Locate and adopt or purchase a BLM mustang - **April 1 - May 31st.**
- Complete & Submit event entry form and payment before entry deadline - **July 1st.**
- Work with your mustang using humane gentling & training methods.
- Attend the event in Fort Worth, TX - **September 6-7th.**
- Compete in the preliminary classes - **September 6-7th.**
- Offer your trained mustang to the public via public auction - **September 7th.**

#### COMPETITION OVERVIEW:

All classes are designed to demonstrate the mustangs willingness to perform various maneuvers and obstacles under saddle. Mustangs competing in the event will have been in training no longer than 160 days. While we understand that training a mustang to any degree in 160 days or less is an accomplishment to be celebrated, we have developed the classes in an effort to allow high performing mustangs and trainers to rise to the top. Ten of the best

performing trainer and mustang pairs will gain the opportunity to compete in a Freestyle performance to become The Fort Worth Mustang Show, “Mustang Champion.”

The Bureau of Land Management will hereafter be referred to as, BLM, The Fort Worth Mustang Show will hereafter be referred to as, the event and mustang adopters and owners competing in the event will hereafter be referred to as, competitors.

## COMPETITION OUTLINE:

### 1. Event Qualification

- a. The Fort Worth Mustang Show and Bar M Productions representatives have the unqualified right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove a competitor from the event or entry process for any reason or for no reason.
- b. In order to become eligible to compete, individuals must adopt or purchase a BLM mustang, 3 years old or older, between the dates of April 1st and May 31st from an approved BLM off-range corral or satellite event.
- c. **Mustang Qualification Statement:** Competing mustangs must be adopted or purchased between April 1st and May 31st with the intent of competing in the FWMS and should not be entered or registered in other BLM sponsored or funded competitions. Our goal is to increase the placement of America’s wild horses into private care through quality training and competition. We will meet this goal by providing an opportunity for the general public to take home a gentled mustang. Therefore, all competing mustangs will be made available to the public at the conclusion of the event.
- d. An official adoption or purchase form, signed by an authorized BLM representative and dated April 1 - May 31st, will be required at time of entry.
- e. Mustangs adopted or purchased before or after the dates of April 1st and May 31st will not be eligible to compete.
- f. Individuals must contact BLM to schedule an appointment to adopt or purchase. Event staff will not schedule appointments for interested adopters.
- g. Interested competitors are required to submit an event entry form on, or before, July 1st. Competition rules and event entry form can be found online at [www.thefortworthmustangshow.com](http://www.thefortworthmustangshow.com). **Online submission is preferred.** If needed, entry forms can be printed and mailed to: Bar M Productions, PO Box 1226, Mineral Wells, TX 76068.

- h. An entry fee of \$150 will be collected at time of online entry.
- i. The registered adopter/owner must also be the competitor. No replacement exhibitors.
- j. Competitors will be asked to submit a digital headshot photo and short bio to be used for promotional purposes. Photos and bios should be submitted at time of entry.
- k. Competitors may enter up to 2 mustangs in the event.

## **2. Promotion and Sponsorships**

- a. Competitors may promote personal businesses or sponsorship on freestyle props, apparel, brochures and other promotional materials; however, logos should be no larger than 12 by 24 inches. Competitors may also use their designated stall area for promotional purposes.
- b. The Fort Worth Mustang Show will create event specific merchandise to be sold to the public. Competitors should not reproduce event logos in any way on apparel, banners or other posted materials.

## **3. Reassignment Auction**

- a. At the conclusion of the event, all competing mustangs will be made available to the public through a live bid process.
- b. All competitors who participate in the event are required to present their horse in the auction.
- c. Competitors will receive 50% of the final sales/reassignment price of their competition mustang. Any mustang not receiving a bid will remain with the exhibitor.

## **4. Mustang Care and Training**

- a. All competing mustangs should arrive with a current health certificate and negative coggins.
- b. In preparation for competition, mustang training should be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" training techniques are encouraged. Contact event staff should you have any training or care concerns.
- c. Humane Treatment Statement**

Competition mustangs shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion. Any competitor using abusive or excessive training techniques or actions deemed inhumane towards a mustang in his/her care may be removed from the event. Any mustang entered in the event arriving with questionable training or care related injuries may be removed from the event. This policy is in addition to our event rules.

**d. Conduct Statement**

Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and humane in the treatment of mustangs, such as to promote the implementation of the event and fair competition. Any alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct or any form of misconduct; illegal, indecent or profane, or any form of inhumane treatment of mustangs, are prohibited and shall be grounds for disciplinary action against offending individuals. Event management may expel offenders from the competition or show grounds in order to maintain the decorum of the show.

**COMPETITION RULES:**

1. The event purpose is to demonstrate a mustang's willingness to perform various maneuvers and obstacles under saddle, showcasing the skill and adaptability of the American mustang. Our goal is to provide a safe, fair and fun competition for mustang adopters, owners, and spectators.
2. Mustangs and competitors will be assessed by a panel of accomplished horsemen or women. All competitors will compete in 3 preliminary classes; Mustang Preview Class, Mustang Trail Class and Freestyle Horsemanship Class. The top 10 highest scoring mustang trainer pairs in the preliminary classes will move on to a freestyle competition to determine The Fort Worth Mustang Show "Mustang Champion."
3. Competitors are required to submit condition and training progress reports during the training period. Reports will be due on the 25th of each month beginning April 25th through August 25th (first report will be based on adoption / purchase date). Details regarding how and when to submit reports will be provided upon event entry. Any condition or training concerns should be reported to Stormy Mullins, 940-445-9773.
4. Upon entry to the show grounds, competing mustangs' freeze marks will be verified by a BLM or Bar M representative to determine the mustangs eligibility, it may be helpful to shave the hair around the freemark ahead of time.
5. Upon entry to the show grounds, all competitors must provide a current 30-day health certificate and negative coggins.

6. Upon entry to the show grounds, competing mustangs will be examined to determine the health and condition of the horse. Should a mustang be deemed in poor condition, or unfit to show, by a veterinarian or knowledgeable individual the mustang may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition.
7. One stall per competing mustang will be provided. One shared tack stall will also be provided (may be shared with three other competitors). Competitors are not allowed to place locks on the horse's stall. Shavings and additional stalls may be purchased on site.
8. Only competition mustangs are allowed on the grounds. No other animals allowed on show grounds. No dogs allowed in stalls, arenas, meeting areas or other high traffic areas. Unless otherwise determined by the event facility.
9. An arena will be available for warm up and scheduled practice times.
10. Competition schedule to be announced.
11. Winners will be announced following the competition.
12. Competitors are required to present their mustangs during the reassignment auction on the final day of the event in a manner that showcases the trainability of the mustangs.
13. Competitors will be given competition patterns at the event and will be given the opportunity to "walk through" the patterns with the judges, without their mustang, prior to the class.

## JUDGING

14. There will be a minimum of two judges for preliminary classes and top 10 finals.
15. Class awards may be presented. Class ties will be broken by the score from a predetermined class element. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. A tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.
16. Ties will be broken by the trail class to determine the top 10 finals. If a tie exists between trail class scores, the score from a predetermined element in the trail class will break the tie. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. A tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.

## EQUIPMENT

17. Mustangs may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equipment. Competitors are asked to wear attire and gear that reflects their style of riding.

18. If being ridden during the preliminary classes, mustangs must be saddled and bridled in appropriate tack and gear.
19. Illegal equipment that will result in automatic disqualification from the class in which equipment was used in (regardless of discipline) 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.
20. Mustangs may be shown with two hands in a snaffle bit or bosal. No shanked bits allowed.
21. Training aids (whips, sticks, treats, tail end of a lead rope, etc.) will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown with the use of training aides 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.
22. Wearing guns (real or toy) in any arena or during the competition, as well as shooting guns and/or blanks is not allowed during the competition or anywhere on the grounds and will result in an automatic disqualification.

## TREATMENT

23. 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.
24. 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. Competitors may clip/trim mustangs, 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 competitions and will result in an automatic 10-point deduction from each judge off the overall class score. Costume related additions/alterations will be allowed during the top 10 freestyle performance only. Alteration of tail function (tail blocking, dead tails, etc.) is prohibited at all points of competition and will result in disqualifications.
25. No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a mustang, either before or during the competition or auction. All medication, drugs, mechanical devices or artificial appliances, of such character as, could affect or enhance the mustangs performance or appearance at the event, is prohibited.
26. If a mustang is receiving medication, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the event manager, including the reason for the medication and the

prescribed amount. The event reserves the right to drug test any mustang in the competition. Positive tests will result in removal from the event, refund or non-payment of any reimbursements, prize money and commission owed. In regard to herbal or 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.

## AWARDS

27. A total of **\$9,000** will be awarded in the preliminary classes, \$1,000 to the top 3 placing competitors in each preliminary class; Preview Class, Trail Class and Freestyle Horsemanship. Additional class prizes may be added.
28. Approximately **\$32,000** in CASH & additional prizes will be awarded to the top 10 finalists of the "Mustang Champion" freestyle finals.

<b>CHAMPION</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>RESERVE</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b>THIRD</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>
<b>FOURTH</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>
<b>FIFTH</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>
<b>SIXTH</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>
<b>SEVENTH</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>
<b>EIGHTH</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>
<b>NINTH</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>
<b>TENTH</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>

## CLASS DESCRIPTION & SCORING

### 29. **Preview Class - 40 points from each judge (30 Handling /10 Conditioning)**

The mustang preview class is designed to showcase the foundation of the in-hand training that the mustang has received. Mustangs will also be judged on physical appearance to determine the health and care of the mustang during training.

#### **Handling - 30 points per judge**

- During this class exhibitors will be asked to complete a pattern of maneuvers which may include but are not limited to; lead at a walk, lead at a trot, back, pick up feet, brush each side and tail and load and unload from a trailer. A pattern will be provided at the event.
  - ❖ There will be a 2-point penalty per judge for losing your horse.
  - ❖ There will be a 2-point penalty per judge for going off-pattern.

#### **Conditioning - 10 points per judge**

- The horse's body condition will be judged based on overall weight and muscling using the Henneke System (5 points)
- The horse will also be judged on overall appearance and the score will reflect hair coat, and condition, hoof care, etc. (5 points)

\*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. Doing so will result in a 10-point deduction per judge. The use of stud chains is prohibited and will result in an automatic disqualification of the class.

**30. Trail Class - 40 points from each judge**

The mustang trail class is designed to demonstrate the mustangs ability to navigate through a pattern of trail obstacles. Competitors will get the opportunity to review the course with the judges prior to the class.

- ❖ There will be a 2-point penalty per judge for coming off of your horse.
- ❖ There will be a 2-point penalty per judge for going off-pattern.

**31. \*3 min. Freestyle Horsemanship Class - 40 points from each judge**

This will be a timed class. This class is intended to show the horses willingness and ability to complete a set of generic horsemanship maneuvers. Judges will assess competitors, showing in either Western or English discipline accordingly. Judges are looking for a horse that is responsive to the rider and makes the requested transitions smoothly, timely and correctly.

The class will consist of a pattern of 7 required maneuvers (walk, trot, left lead, right lead, lead change, stop, back) and an 8th maneuver which is a freestyle demonstration of your choice. Competitors are allowed to bring in "limited" props and may be handed a simple prop from outside the arena. No other person may enter the arena and all props must be taken out of the arena by the competitor, upon the competitors' exit. Limited props may include items easily carried in by the competitor or attached to the saddle; rope, whip, slicker. \*Props should not deviate or distract from the required pattern or maneuvers. All props subject to review and approval by event staff. Competitors will not be providing music for this class.

- ❖ There will be a 2-point penalty per judge for coming off of your horse.
- ❖ There will be a 2-point penalty per judge for going off-pattern.



32. The top 10 mustangs with the highest combined total scores from the preliminary classes, will be invited to compete in a finals competition consisting of a 3.5 minute freestyle performance.
33. Competitors will have a maximum of four minutes to stage or set the arena for their performance.
34. Competitors must provide their own props and assistance for staging or setting the arena. It is the competitors responsibility to ensure all props and other materials are cleared from the arena immediately following their freestyle performance. Not clearing the arena of “debris” will result in a no score for the freestyle performance. “Debris” includes but is not limited to; hay, glitter, streamers, water, etc.
35. All props must be freestanding, not driven into the ground (no stakes, rebar, etc.) doing so will result in a no score for the freestyle performance.
36. Props of pyrotechnic nature, including fireworks, flares, fire, crackers, rings of fire, etc. are not allowed, and will result in a no score for the freestyle performance.
37. The use or wearing of guns, either real or toy, during the competition will result in an automatic disqualification.
38. Competitors will have 3.5 minutes to complete their freestyle routine. The music and time will start simultaneously when the competitor or horse enters the arena, whichever comes first. It is the competitors responsibility to ensure that event staff are aware of which will be entering first, horse or rider, so that the time and music can be started appropriately.
39. Live voice-overs or commentary from the competitor or competitor representative are not allowed during the performance and will result in a disqualification.
40. Lighting cannot be manipulated or altered for a competitor's performance.
41. Music is a required element of the freestyle performance. If the competitor does not turn in music to the event staff, music may be selected for him or her. Music must be submitted as a single track either on a USB or emailed directly to a staff member. Music will not be played from a phone or any other device. The music file will be downloaded into a music system. All music is subject to review and approval by event staff.
42. All music selection and freestyle themes should be in good taste, and family friendly.
43. Additional animals, including dogs, horses, zebras, etc. will not be allowed in the arena during the freestyle performance for any reason, doing so will result in disqualification.

44. Additional people, including children, will not be allowed in the arena during the freestyle performance for any reason other than driving a vehicle to be used during their performance. If someone other than the competitor is driving a vehicle in the performance, no occupants 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 competitor**, must be closed-cab; gators, rangers, golf carts, and other ATVs will not be allowed and will result in disqualification.
45. A competitor who is mounted on their Mustang is not allowed to trot or lope onto or into a moving or covered vehicle, trailer, or prop of any kind. Doing so will result in disqualification.
46. Additionally, mustangs are not allowed to trot or lope through moving vehicle's trailers or props of any kind. Doing so will result in disqualification.
47. A competitor may not stand or kneel on a horse that is standing, sitting, or laying on any object. An example includes; tarps, bridges, platforms, chairs, etc.
48. It is advised that competitors contact event staff with questions prior to their performance. It is the competitors responsibility to clarify any questions regarding their freestyle performance.
49. Competitors must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance, bare feet are not allowed, and will result in disqualification.
50. Judges or event staff may stop or interrupt a performance deemed unsafe, dangerous or otherwise inappropriate.
51. Ties during the freestyle finals will be broken by the horsemanship score. In the case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used.
52. All freestyle performance elements; props, costume and music are subject to final review and approval by event staff.

## FREESTYLE FINALS SCORING

53. Freestyle finalists will be scored on the following:

**Compulsory Maneuvers - 40 points per judge:** Contestants will be judged on the execution of 8 compulsory maneuvers. This score will reflect completion of the maneuver as well as the horse's level of willingness to execute the maneuvers in a relaxed and confident manner. \*A pattern will be provided.

**Freestyle performance - 80 total points per judge:** The freestyle portion of the competition encourages competitors to choose music, costumes and props, which will allow them to show the athletic abilities of their horse in a crowd, appealing and entertaining way. During the freestyle performance competitors will be scored based on the following:

**Overall Horsemanship - 40 points**

- Communication and partnership between the horse and rider and the horses, overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers correctly in a controlled, relaxed and confident manner. (20 points)
- The incorporation of maneuvers in their degree of difficulty. These maneuvers would include, but are not limited to; side pass, two tracking in either direction, pulling, dragging, serpentine, rollbacks, lead changes, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, etc. (20 points)

**Entertainment Value - 40 points**

- Components of choreography - The composition and arrangement of the performance in relation to the music and it's rhythm (20 points)
- Creativity - The use of themes, maneuvers, costumes and props to enhance the performance and overall originality (20 points)

**REASSIGNMENT AUCTION**

54. In an effort to provide gentled or trained mustangs to the public, we are requiring that all competing mustangs enter the public auction for reassignment or purchase.
55. Mustangs must compete at some level in order to participate in the auction. Competitors cannot attend the event for the auction only.
56. Competitors are required to present their horse during the auction. Competitors should present their horse in a manner consistent with the appearance and level of training demonstrated during the competition. For example, if a horse is exhibited under saddle during competition, then it should be demonstrated under saddle during the auction.
57. Competitors are encouraged to meet the new adopter or purchaser of their mustang and are asked to leave adequate feed and water in the stall prior to departing the event facility.
58. Competitors wishing to bid on their mustang must acquire a bidders number and bid (or have a representative bid for them during the auction). Competitors may apply any prize money, or commissions earned, toward the reassignment or purchase price. Competitors who adopt or purchase their mustangs must complete the necessary paperwork with the event staff and BLM immediately following the auction.

59. Should a mustang not receive a bid, the mustang will remain with the competitor and must return home with the original adopter/owner.

60. All competitors will be eligible for 50% commission of the final purchase price during the live auction. The remaining 50% of the sale price will be used to cover event expenses and future event funding.

For more information on the Fort Worth Mustang Show, please call Stormy Mullins at 940-445-9773 or go to [www.thefortworthmustangshow.com](http://www.thefortworthmustangshow.com).

# THE FORT WORTH MUSTANG SHOW

## 2024 EVENT GUIDELINES & COMPETITION RULES

### CLASS PENALTIES & DEDUCTIONS:

- 2-point penalty per judge for losing your horse during a class.
- 2-point penalty per judge for going off-pattern in pattern classes.
- 2-point penalty per judge for coming off of your horse in riding classes.
- 10-point deduction per judge for excessive use of a training aid (including striking the horse).
- 10-point deduction per judge for excessive spurring or jerking on the reins or lead line.
- 10-point deduction per judge for use of false tails or extensions on the mane or tail.
- 10-point deduction per judge for altering, changing or attempting 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.

### DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Wearing guns (real or toy) in any arena or during the competition, as well as shooting guns and/or blanks is not allowed during the competition or anywhere on the grounds.
- Alteration of tail function (tail blocking, dead tails, etc.) is prohibited at all points of competition.
- The use of stud chains is prohibited and will result in an automatic disqualification of the class.
- The use or wearing of guns, either real or toy, during the competition.
- Live voice-overs or commentary from the competitor or competitor representative.
- Additional animals, including dogs, horses, zebras, etc.
- A competitor who is mounted on their Mustang is not allowed to trot or lope onto or into a moving or covered vehicle, trailer, or prop of any kind.
- Mustangs are not allowed to trot or lope through moving vehicles, trailers, or props of any kind.
- Competitors must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance, bare feet are not allowed.