Wild Horses and Burros Available for Adoption in Redlands, Valley Center

Strength, endurance, and spirit are qualities embodied in wild horses and burros that roam America's rangelands. These living legends are available for adoption at Sundance Ranch in Redlands, Calif. on March 6 and Apr. 24, and Valley Center Parks & Recreation Center on March 20 through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Adopt-A-Horse or Burro Program. Sundance Ranch in Redlands is located at 27273 Pilgrim Road (off San Timoteo Canyon Road); Valley Center Parks & Recreation Center is located at 28246 Lilac Road in Valley Center, Calif. The mustangs and burros were gathered from public lands in California and Nevada, have been wormed and vaccinated, and are in excellent health.

Approved adopters will receive a lottery number, which is required to participate in the lottery adoption Saturday morning starting at 9 a.m. The lottery adoption provides all adopters an equal opportunity to adopt the animal of their choice. BLM staff will approve adoption applications Saturdays from 8 am. to 3 p.m. (5 p.m. in Valley Center). The adoption fee is $125.00 per animal. Animals not selected during the lottery adoption will be available for adoption on a first come, first served basis for the remainder of Saturday. Adoption fees may be paid by cash, check, or credit card.

Qualified adopters must be 18 years old, have adequate facilities, the financial means to care for the animal(s), and would have some experience training or raising a horse or burro. Adopters also must be a resident of the United States and have no convictions for inhumane treatment of animals. Qualified individuals with the proper facilities may adopt up to four animals.

Adopters should bring a nylon web halter and 20-foot, cotton lead rope for each animal. A stock trailer will be required to transport the animal(s). Drop-ramp trailers will not be allowed. BLM wranglers will load the animals into the trailer.

The process is called an "adoption" because BLM retains title to the animal for one year after the adoption. During the year, a BLM compliance officer or designated representative will visit each adopter to ensure the animal is being cared for and has a good home. During this time adopters cannot sell their adopted animal. Adopters must notify BLM if the animal is moved.

After the first year, adopters may apply for title. BLM will pass title of the animal if all the stipulations of the adoption agreement have been met. The animal becomes the private property of the adopter only after BLM transfers title, which completes the adoption process. For more information about the Redlands adoption or the Bureau's Adopt-A-Horse or Burro Program, contact BLM toll free at (800) 951-8720, or visit www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov.

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