

# THE SPANISH MUSTANG FOUNDATION

## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER, 2019 VOL. 9

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



### **TO THE RESCUE**

Since 2017 The Spanish Mustang Foundation has been involved in rescue operations saving Spanish Mustang horses from slaughter. Horses from Wyoming have needed help relocating to safe locations in California and Wisconsin. Our goal is to be able to assist all who ask for help to insure Spanish Mustangs have a safe healthy environment to survive.

In a joint effort with Paha Ponies the Spanish Mustang Foundation is working to save 45 horses rescued from the Brislawn Ranch. Paha Ponies was started by Adam Edwards as a preservation effort concentrating on sustainable management practices, rescue and training of these rare horses. These rescues are a unique band of range mares and foals living on 500 acres on Victoria Bush's land in Hulett, WY. Having the use of 500 acres allows the horses to live as close to nature as they would in the wild. We have a lot of work to accomplish in developing the acreage. We are in urgent need of corrals and a working well close

to the horses. We have been hauling water which is a difficult job in the winter months.

Some of the rescued mares foaled in severe winter temperatures but survived due to Adam's care. This is not a breeding program but many of the mares were in foal when rescued. The long term goals are for Paha Ponies to be a rescue for Spanish Mustangs, but also a training facility. Our combined efforts are to save, train, educate and promote Spanish Mustang horses. A thank you to all of those helping us in this effort. We can only do this work with your continued support. Whatever you can donate is deeply appreciated and keeps these magnificent and unique horses alive. Thank you,

Donna Mitchell  
Doug Lanham  
Adam Edwards





## ADAM EDWARDS AT PAHA PONIES PRESERVE



## COMMUNICATING WITH SPANISH MUSTANGS

Adam took three rescued two year old Spanish Mustangs to Shambhala Mountain Center Family Camp in Colorado. The horses were used in the spiritual practices of Shambhala. Many families with children attended and the horses were exposed to large groups of people during the week. People were encouraged to understand what the horses were feeling and how they reacted to the stimulus to motivate them or repulse them. The horses are good teachers, always reacting honestly, and giving people the experience to understand horse behavior.







## WHY SPANISH MUSTANGS?

If you have a love of horses already, then it's easy to find many reasons to have an interest in Spanish Mustangs in particular. As all good horsemen will say, "A good horse is a good horse no matter what color, type, or breed," but to be a purebred Spanish Mustang is to be something special.



Foremost, of course, they are horses, an animal we have had a close association with for millennia. Working with man they are used in many ways, and they can bring us love, joy and companionship when handled in the proper fashion. Today we have created a world full of shows, competitions and awards for almost every type of horse and almost anything you can do with a horse.

Why then, with plenty of good domestic horses in the world, should we strive for a deeper relationship with a horse that, according to many, has little value except to pet food companies? Why then are Spanish Mustangs important to the horse world?

There are the physical traits unique to mustangs such as big

heavy leg bones and large rock-hard hooves. After centuries of natural living they have bred out most major health issues common to domesticated horses. They were born outside in the natural world and would rather remain there.

They carry an incredible history with them, from the horse of the Conquistador to the buffalo ponies of the horse nations and the hardy ponies of the cowboys. It is history that is also ours and one that stands on its own. Because of their need for survival they have formed a strong sense of loyalty and they develop a meaningful relationship with their human partners. Any mustang enthusiast will bring up these qualities and more, like their level of endurance, to qualify what makes a Spanish Mustang a special being. Of all these qualities their intelligence is what really comes through. Their intelligence was fundamental to their survival and their solitary survival experience set them apart from all other horses of the Americas.

When examining the question of what it really means to be a horse, we need to ask a mustang. They are our best example of what a horse should be based on horse standards, natural standards, not human standards. They have the answer to questions of survival itself.

Robin Doughman



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## THE SPANISH MUSTANG FOUNDATION

**PROTECT**

**PRESERVE**

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**WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!**

