

THE SPANISH MUSTANG FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER, 2021 VOL. 10

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



FOLLOWING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

I know it has been a hard couple of years for everyone and the pandemic sure put a damper on all the Spanish Mustang Foundations activities, but we have been here silently helping horses that needed us.

We found ourselves connecting with many horse owners throughout the country that were having trouble feeding their beloved horses. People that had to move because of the California fires. People having trouble because of no rainfall in the west, and no rainfall means no hay available in parts of the country. The Spanish Mustangs survival has been hit by all these climate issues. We have helped with hay, transportation, and veterinary care whenever possible.

Why do we care so much about Spanish Mustangs? These extremely strong intelligent horses are survivors. After surviving so many years on their own they developed the characteristics to thrive in their environment. They are small horses, with strong bones and hoofs. They work as ranch horses, trail horses, all manor of horse activities and of course endurance. They can live wild or with us

as their independent natures do form strong bonds with humans.

It is important to the Foundation that these small horses survive with us. They are part of our western environment and represent the freedom we all believe in. Spanish Mustangs are ancestors of todays wild horses. We are concerned that wild horses today are suffering from the BLM roundups. Even though Congress has passed legislation to protect them, roundups by the BLM continue. As the drought in the West deepens it is an excuse to remove the wild horses.

We fight to preserve the heritage of the Spanish Mustang whether they live in the wild on preserves, or with families and ranches throughout our country. 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.

ADAM EDWARDS AT PAHA PONIES

One of our projects has been helping Adam Edwards with Paha Ponies Preserve. Adam rescued many horses from the Brislaw Ranch when Josie was leaving for Wisconsin. We have helped him care for his rescues and I'm happy to say he didn't lose any of them. Following is the story of one mare giving birth in February 2018 when it was -14 degrees outside.

I was expecting a foal so woke early one morning in a blizzard to look for him and found him a mile and half away on a hill; I think to catch the morning sun. He was small but the only problem with the cold was his frostbitten ears. Since he had a hard start in life I took my time with him and didn't geld him right away to hopefully help his growth and development. Since he was always with humans, he became a bully with other horses. After he was gelded I put his dam in with him to straighten him out. As she began to work on him I added more mares in the corral. It was a beautiful thing to see the herd correct his behavior in a way that humans hadn't been able to accomplish. When I brought him back to the corral the transformation was incredible. The day he was adopted he was led by halter a mile and half to a small two horse

trailer. Quite a feat for any horse, 14 Below was changed and ready for his new life.

Yearly we average about 100 guests who get to spend time with and learn from the horses. Many folks feel they have had life changing experiences from visiting or taking clinics with the horses. Paha ponies is uniquely preserving the horses widely accepted as the most zoologically important bloodlines of Pre-English Colonialism in the West. Our horses have a natural life living in bands on 500 acres. Paha Ponies is committed to continue outreach and education through workshops, clinics, speaking engagements, endurance racing and inviting folks to simply enjoy the company of these exceptional horses so as to safeguard their lineage for future generations.

Adam Edwards Paha Ponies



14 Below and new owner Inna Guseva

SPANISH MUSTANGS AT PAHA PONIES



CERBAT PROJECT

A few breeders in the U.S. are dedicated to preserving the Cerbat strain of Spanish Mustangs from northwestern Arizona. These horses are nearly extinct in captivity, and the recent appearance of gray horses in the feral herd seems to confirm the introduction of “outside” genetics. While a handful of SMR-registered straight Cerbats exist, they must be crossed with other excellent representatives of the Spanish Mustang breed to keep them going. Straight stallions exist in strategic locations around the country. Let us know if you would like to be a part of the Cerbat Project, or just talk Spanish Mustangs. Thanks.



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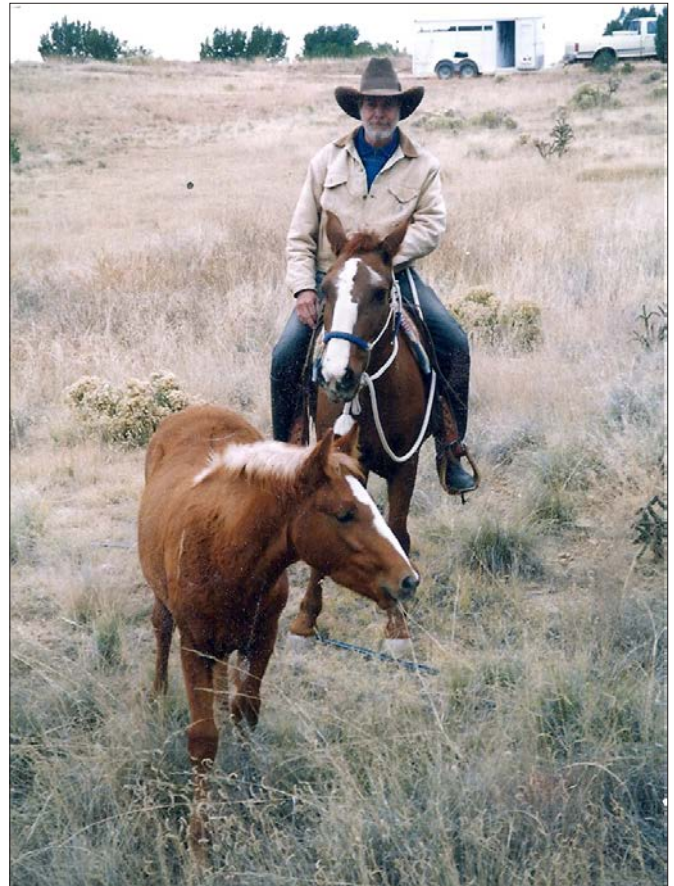


FAREWELL ROBIN

We lost Robin Doughman in Nov. 2019. Robin was a dear friend who helped start the Foundation’s youth clinics in the first years of the Foundation. He uses his seven stages of ground work to teach kids how to approach horses, halter them and do ground work. In later years Robin held many demonstrations of natural horsemanship for both adults and children for the Foundation. It’s hard to express how much we miss him. I have his old saddle blanket that I keep in my car and goes everywhere with me.

www.robinelldoughman.com

Editor Donna Mitchell
SMF Secretary



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WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

