

**For immediate release Julie Bryant 817-443-0686**

## **Extreme Mustang Makeover Begins With Focus on Conditioning**

Fort Worth, Texas, September 22, 2007 - It was a rousing beginning to the inaugural Extreme Mustang Makeover in Fort Worth, Texas. With the images of famous cowgirls surrounding them, nearly 80 cowboys and cowgirls were introduced to an enthusiastic crowd of more than 500 at the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame September 21 while "Mustang Sally" blared in the background.

"Last evening was an amazing beginning to the competition that begins today," said Mustang Heritage Foundation Executive Director Patti Colbert. "These incredible horsemen and women will finally be able to show the results of their hard work over the past 100 days."

The Extreme Mustang Makeover began when 100 trainers from 28 states claimed the Nevada mustangs June 6-9 at BLM facilities in Oklahoma and Nevada. Nearly 80 will compete for \$25,000 and demonstrate their mounts' abilities during competition today in Fort Worth, Texas. The trained mustangs will be judged on conditioning, groundwork, and a "Horse Course" that requires maneuvers and includes obstacles found in trail and recreational riding situations. An adoption will take place September 23 where fees will be set through competitive bidding.

The balance of the Mustangs introduced into the program and withdrawn from competition will be returned to the Bureau of Land Management for future adoption. Most were withdrawn by trainers for personal reasons or because more time was needed for training.

Competition actually began on Friday, September 21 as Dr. Pete Gibbs, Texas Cooperative Extension Horse Specialist and Ken Johnson, Tarrant County extension agent, evaluated the body condition of each Mustang. Body condition scoring assessed the overall fitness of the horse in relation to its body fat, muscle tone and hair coat. Tying for the lead going into in hand competition with a score of 39 in body conditioning was Karrilyn Savage of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, showing Snorts, gathered from the Calico Mountains, and Volnei Rodrigues of Webster, Florida, showing Gaucho, also from the Calico Mountains.

The Mustang Heritage Foundation (MHF), in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), created the Extreme Mustang Makeover event to highlight the recognized value of mustangs through a national training competition. The event will give the public a unique opportunity to see the results of wild horses becoming trained mounts and then participate in a competitive bidding process to adopt one of these treasured animals. The purpose of the competition is to showcase the beauty, versatility, and trainability of these rugged horses that roam freely on public lands throughout the West, where they are protected by the BLM under Federal law.

The public will be invited to participate in adopting one of the Extreme Mustang Makeover competition animals September 23. Even though the animals will have been handled and trained, the same conditions will apply for the new owner when the animal is adopted.

### **About the Mustang Heritage Foundation**

The mission of the Mustang Heritage Foundation and the goal of the Extreme Mustang Makeover is to increase the adoption of mustangs across the country. The Mustang Heritage Foundation created the Extreme Mustang Makeover event to showcase the recognized value of mustangs through a national training competition.

#### About the Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for managing 258 million acres of public lands, located mostly in the West. Wild horses and burros roaming public rangelands are managed in a manner consistent with BLM's overall multiple-use mission, as set forth in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Since 1973, the BLM has placed more than 216,000 horses and burros into private care through adoption. For more information, visit [wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://wildhorseandburro.blm.gov) or call 866-4MUSTANGS.

The Save the Mustangs Fund, established in May 2005 by Ford Motor Company in collaboration with the BLM and Take Pride in America, builds public awareness and support for wild horses. In less than a year, the Fund generated more than \$200,000 in contributions, including Ford's financial support for 2,000 horses, and has educated more than one million visitors through an informational website, [savethemustangs.org](http://savethemustangs.org).

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