



## Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

August 25, 2023

**Adoption Event Name:** Raleigh Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Sale Event

**State:** North Carolina

**District/Field Office:** Southeastern States District Office

**Providing Facilities:** Ewing Off-Range Corral, and Wheatland Off-Range Corral

**CAWP Assessment Team Members:** Jerrie Bertola, Jake Benson, and John Hall

**Assessment Dates:** August 14-19, 2023

**Total Number of CAWP Adoption/Sale Standards:** 94

**Number of Applicable CAWP Standards:** 80

**Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards:** 67/80 = 84%

**General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team:** The assessment of the Raleigh adoption/sale event includes the Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program standards for adoption/sale events, transportation, and some of the off-range corral standards as referenced in the adoption standards. An adoption/sale event assessment is of the entire event, including from the providing off-range corral, and the transportation of the wild horses and burros to and from the event.

This adoption was led by the Southeastern States District Office and incorporated a training component with students, included a local trainer working with wild horses on site, and a BLM employee demonstrating first steps in working with a wild horse.

Hauling animals across the country is stressful, and results in animals losing water weight and gut fill. The appearance of wild horses after this shrink can make visual observations and the appearance of body condition scores more concerning after extended hours of being hauled. Wild horses that begin a trip of over 1,700 miles in seventy-two hours in a body condition score of less than Henneke body condition score 4 appear even more shocking due to the shrink loss. Many of the animals provided for this adoption event began the trip in body conditions less than 4 (moderately thin). The adoption team recognized the conditions facing these animals and provided trace mineral blocks to help with water intake. Providing supplements is an acceptable practice and compliant with comprehensive animal welfare program standards for the wild horse and burro program. Another step that the adoption team did was to provide good quality alfalfa hay upon arrival at the adoption location.

### **Requirements of Permanent Instruction Memorandum (PIM) 2021-002, Wild Horse and Burro Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program (CAWP):**

- All state, district, and field offices will continue to comply with the WHB CAWP policy within their jurisdictions at all times. This includes the CAWP Standards for off-range corral facilities, transportation, and adoption/sale events.

- All personnel, including contractors and partners, involved in the care, handling, and transportation of wild horses and burros at off-range corrals and adoption/sale events are required to complete training annually.

*Not all personnel assisting with the Raleigh adoption/sale event were current with CAWP training.*

**Conditions found to be in non-compliance with the CAWP Standards for Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Sale Events:**

**Adoption Event Personnel**

**Standard**

- 3.I.A** BLM establishes and implements standards of care, treatment, and handling of WH&Bs, and communicates expectations to all personnel to ensure the humane care and treatment of all WH&Bs at the adoption event.

**Non-Compliance:** Based on the actions and communications with BLM event personnel expectations of care, treatment, and handling were not communicated to all event personnel. The CAWP Team communicated with the Adoption Team about corrective actions for care (feed placement). These were implemented initially but not continued throughout the event.

**Satellite Facility Design**

**Standard**

- 3.II.B** The satellite facility must have a sufficient number of pens available to sort WH&Bs according to sex, temperament, or physical condition as needed.

**Non-Compliance:** There were not enough pens to sort by sex, age, and species. Male and female burros were penned in the same pen.

**Standard**

- 3.II.G** Adoption pen feeding areas must be accessible to all WH&Bs in the pen at the same time.

**Non-Compliance:** In multiple pens all animals could not access the hay at the same time, animals were hanging back waiting for the opportunity to eat.

**Standard**

- 3.II.I** WH&Bs in pens at the satellite facility should be maintained at a stocking density such that when at rest all WH&Bs occupy no more than half the pen area.

**Non-Compliance:** When at rest the stocking density of multiple pens occupied more than half the pen. Many of the pens were overcrowded.

## **Care of Wild Horses and Burros Received at Satellite Facilities**

### **Standard**

- 1.IV.A.3** Health care protocols must be in accordance with Program guidelines and accepted by the facility veterinarian for preventive health care procedures (vaccinations, deworming, hoof trimming, freeze marking). Medical treatments will be prescribed by or performed under the supervision of a veterinarian. Surgical procedures will only be performed by a veterinarian.

**Non-Compliance:** Some animals did not have current boosters for 6-way/3way, and many expired at the beginning of August for 6-month boosters.

### **Standard**

- 3.III.C** WH&Bs must be sorted upon arrival at adoption events into pens with animals of appropriate age and temperament such that animals can promptly begin a period of rest, eating, and drinking with limited disturbance.

**Non-Compliance:** A female burro was shipped with male burros and was not sorted at the arrival of the adoption event. Animals were not provided feed promptly upon arrival at the adoption event.

### **Standard**

- 3.III.D** All WH&Bs must have adequate space to move freely within an adoption facility pen.

**Non-Compliance:** Animals were overcrowded in several of the pens during the adoption event.

## **Handling Aids**

### **Standard**

- 1.V.C.1** Handling aids such as flags and shaker paddles must be the primary tools for driving and moving WH&Bs during handling and transport procedures. Contact of the flag or paddle end of primary handling aids with a WH&B is allowed. Ropes looped around the hindquarters may be used from horseback or on foot to assist in moving an animal forward or during loading.

**Non-Compliance:** In some situations, handling aids were not used, and gates were used to bump animals to make them move forward.

## **Care of Wild Horses and Burros During Transport Procedures**

### **Standard**

- 2.II.B** WH&Bs being transferred to another off-range corral facility, off-range pasture, eco- sanctuary, or adoption event must be fit to endure the travel.

**Non-Compliance:** Many of the wild horses shipped to the adoption event did not meet the requirement as outlined in the Animal Selection Requirements for Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Sale Events (IM 2018-071), selected animals in a Henneke condition class  $\geq 4.0$ . Additionally, a mare meeting the euthanasia criteria (swayback deformity) was shipped from the providing facility and ended up being shipped to a Storefront in another state after the adoption ended.

#### **Standard**

**2.II.C** WH&Bs being transferred to another off-range corral facility, off-range pasture, eco- sanctuary, or adoption event must be sorted prior to shipping to ensure compatibility and minimize aggressive behavior that may cause injury during transport.

**Non-Compliance:** A female burro was initially shipped to the adoption event mixed with males on the truck and not sorted from the male burros on arrival. When the adoption event completed animals were sent to the Storefront with mixed, ages, sexes, and species in the same compartments.

#### **Transport Procedures**

##### **Standard**

**2.IV.G** WH&Bs should not be allowed to remain standing on straight-deck and stock trailers while not in transport for a combined period of greater than three (3) hours.

**Non-Compliance:** On arrival at the rest facility in Ewing, animals were held standing on the straight-deck trailers for greater than three hours.

#### **Receiving Procedures**

##### **Standard**

**1.III.B.8** Newly arrived WH&Bs must immediately be provided hay and water upon unloading.

**Non-Compliance:** Upon receiving wild horses at the adoption event, they were not immediately provided hay upon unloading.

##### **Standard**

**1.III.B.10** WH&Bs should be penned with WH&Bs of like age, sex, and temperament.

**Non-Compliance:** A female burro was penned with male burros during the event until she was adopted.

**Table 1: Overall Summary Rating**

<b>CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements</b>	<b>Compliant</b>	<b>Partially Compliant</b>	<b>Non-Compliant</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>CAWP Trained BLM Staff</b>		✓		
<b>Adoption Event Personnel</b>		✓		
<b>Satellite Facility Design</b>		✓		
<b>Care of WHBs Received at Satellite Facilities</b>		✓		
<b>Euthanasia Procedures at Satellite Facilities</b>	✓			
<b>Carcass Disposal at Satellite Facilities</b>	✓			
<b>Willful Acts of Abuse</b>	✓			
<b>General Handling</b>	✓			
<b>Handling Aids</b>			✓	
<b>Loading and Unloading Facilities</b>	✓			
<b>Care of WHBs During Transport Preparation Procedures</b>		✓		
<b>Vehicles</b>	✓			
<b>Transport Procedures</b>		✓		
<b>Receiving Procedures</b>		✓		
<i>Compliant – all the activities of the section were compliant with the standards or policy requirements.                      Partially compliant – one or more activities of the section were non-compliant with the standards or policy requirements.                      Non-Compliant – all activities of the section were non-compliant with the standards or policy requirements.                      N/A –activities were not observed during the assessment.</i>				

**Final CAWP Assessment Rating:** Complies. 84% of applicable CAWP standards were met overall.

Possible ratings for CAWP Assessments are 96-100% Excellent, 86-95% Good, 70-85% Complies, and 0-69% Failure to Comply.