

Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

May 20, 2024

Adoption Event Name: West Columbia Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Sale Event

State: South Carolina

District/Field Office: Southeastern States District Office

Providing Facility: Wheatland Off-Range Corral

Rest Facility: Ewing Off-Range Corral

Back Haul Facility: Pauls Valley Off-Range Corral

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, Jake Benson, Tami Howell, Meredith Kueck, and Ruby Kyle

Assessment Dates: May 13-19, 2024

Total Number of CAWP Adoption/Sale Standards: 187

Number of Applicable CAWP Standards: 158

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 153/158 = 97%

General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team: The assessment of the West Columbia 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.

The care, handling, and treatment of the wild horses and burros at the West Columbia adoption event was excellent. The adoption team was knowledgeable about the CAWP standards and ensured that all employees working the adoption were current on CAWP training. The communication of this adoption team was outstanding, allowing for excellent care, handling, and treatment of the wild horses and burros. The positive energy of this adoption team helped reduce stress on the animals as they were sorted and loaded. The adoption team worked together supporting, training, and helping one another including new team members.

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.

All personnel assisting with the West Columbia 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:

Providing Facility

Care of Wild Horses and Burros During Transport Preparation Procedures

Standard

- 2.II.D** Except for exceptional circumstances including but not limited to trap site adoptions, WH&Bs being offered for adoption should have received primary and booster vaccinations as well as deworming medications prior to adoption.

Non-Compliance: Not all animals were current with booster vaccinations and deworming.

Rest Facility

Care of Wild Horses and Burros During Transport Preparation Procedures

Standard

- 2.II.D** Except for exceptional circumstances including but not limited to trap site adoptions, WH&Bs being offered for adoption should have received primary and booster vaccinations as well as deworming medications prior to adoption.

Non-Compliance: Not all animals were current with booster vaccinations and deworming.

Adoption Event

Satellite Facility Design

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: Several of the pens were stocked with too many animals such that, when at rest, the animals occupied more than half the pen space.

Receiving Procedures

Standard

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

Non-Compliance: Hay was not provided immediately upon unloading, and it took several hours for the hay to arrive onsite.

Care of Wild Horses and Burros Received at Satellite Facilities

Standard

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

Non-Compliance: A couple of pens were overstocked during the adoption event.

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Total Numbers	Percent Compliant	Rating
Providing Facility	25/26	96%	Excellent
Rest Location Facility	31/32	97%	Excellent
Adoption Event	61/64	95%	Good
Transport Back Haul Loading/Receiving	36/36	100%	Excellent

Final CAWP Assessment Rating: Excellent. 97% 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.