



MISSION **MUSTANG**<sup>™</sup>

---

EQUICENTER

AT THE WILLIAM & MILDRED LEVINE RANCH



MISSION **MUSTANG**<sup>®</sup>  
EQUICENTER  
AT THE WILLIAM & MILDRED LEVINE RANCH





MISSION **MUSTANG**<sup>™</sup>  
EQUICENTER  
AT THE WILLIAM & MILDRED LEVINE RANCH

- Approximately 115 riders each week, ranging in age from 2 to 85 years old
- Hosted large groups. For example, 35 at-risk students from inner city schools for equine-assisted learning
- Home to 30 horses, including the six horses in Mission Mustang
- Coordinate over 150 weekly volunteers







MISSION **MUSTANG**  
EQUICENTER  
AT THE WILLIAM & MILDRED LEVINE RANCH

- EquiCenter offers therapeutic horseback riding, equine assisted learning, therapeutic horticulture, culinary arts, adaptive yoga, and canine assisted learning
- Partners with organizations including the VA , PATH Intl and Invictus Games





**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND  
EQUICENTER, INC.**



**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and EquiCenter, Inc. (EquiCenter) to facilitate coordination and cooperation with respect to the *Mission Mustangs Project (MMP)* ....





# Getting “mustang ready”

- Working with BLM to meet requirements to safely care for mustangs
- Identifying funding: foundation grants, corporate sponsors, private donors, and special events







MISSION **MUSTANG**  
EQUICENTER  
AT THE WILLIAM & MILDRED LEVINE RANCH

- Mustang Arrival
- Securing experienced trainers Jack & Emma Minter (EMM Champion)



# First Mustang Training Day







Trooper and Mark Hanson  
*US Army (Ret.) Iraq & Afghanistan Veteran*



“It’s only been six days I’ve been in the ring with him (Hero), but the changes I’m picking up are already pulling me up and changing me. He’s a hero to me, and I want to be that for him, too.”

*- Nate Bush, US Air Force Veteran at the beginning of Mission Mustang*





MISSION **MUSTANG**

EQUICENTER  
AT THE WILLIAM & MILDRED LEVINE RANCH



Brett Avery and Ranger  
*US Marine Corps (Ret.)*

*End22 Hike for Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention*



**MISSION MUSTANG™**  
**EQUICENTER**  
 AT THE WILLIAM & MILDRED LEVINE RANCH

# Veteran Progress

- Quantitative and qualitative outcomes
- Intake and Progress Interviews
- Testimonials



**Questions for Jack/Emma  
 to use per lesson with veteran:**

Did the veteran arrive at the lesson appearing to be anxious?  
 Yes/No  
 On a scale: 1 being not anxious, 2 moderate, 3 very anxious  
 1    2    3

Did the veteran make a connection with the horse today?  
 Yes/No

Did the veteran make a connection with you (trainer) today?  
 Yes/No or N/A

Did the veteran show or express fear today?  
 Yes/No or N/A

Additional Comments related to today's session?

**Questions for Veteran  
 to use per lesson with trainers:**

Did you arrive at the lesson feeling anxious?  
 Yes/No  
 On a scale: 1 being not anxious, 2 moderate, 3 very anxious  
 1    2    3

Did you make a connection with the horse today?  
 Yes/No

Did you make a connection with your trainer today?  
 Yes/No or N/A

Did you feel fearful today?  
 Yes/No or N/A

Additional Comments related to today's session?



## MISSION MUSTANG HANDBOOK 2019



### The Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (SWEMWBS)

Below are some statements about feelings and thoughts. Please tick the box that best describes your experience of each over the last 2 weeks

STATEMENTS	None of the time	Rarely	Some of the time	Often	All of the time
I've been feeling optimistic about the future	1	2	3	4	5
I've been feeling useful	1	2	3	4	5
I've been feeling relaxed	1	2	3	4	5
I've been dealing with problems well	1	2	3	4	5
I've been thinking clearly	1	2	3	4	5
I've been feeling close to other people	1	2	3	4	5
I've been able to make up my own mind about things	1	2	3	4	5



# Mustang Progress

**Horse:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Arrival:** \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Training Milestones</u>	<u>Date</u>
Drive horse away	
Yield Hip	
Approach & Retreat / Direct & Drive	
Turn towards you	
Stays with you	
Steps towards you	
Circles both directions	
First touch	
Touch both sides	
Remove Tag	
Put Halter On	
Lead with halter and lead rope	
Desensitize w/ stick & string	
Use Curry or Hard Brush	
Brush Mane	
Brush Tail	
Pick up front feet	
Pick up back feet	
Lunge	
Step on tarp	
Step on block	
Sidepass	
Step/Jump over poles	
Trailer	
Farrier	



MISSION **MUSTANG**  
EQUICENTER  
AT THE WILLIAM & MILDRED LEVINE RANCH

## Preparing Mustangs for New Homes

- Trail Riding
- Jumping
- Gentle therapy work







# Mission Mustang™ Horses for Sale

MISSION MUSTANG™  
EQUICENTER  
AT THE WILLIAM & MILDRED LEVINE RANCH



## Trooper

6 Year Old Sorrel Gelding  
15 hands originally gathered from Wyoming

*A sweet, gentle horse who will thrive with his own person.*

When Mission Mustang began it quickly became obvious that each of the horses is different and were going to take varying amounts of time to train. Trooper stood out as the most challenging horse in the group to win over, as his fear and mistrust prevented him from accepting human contact. For months, veterans under the guidance of our trainers, patiently and carefully took small steps towards gaining his trust. When Trooper was able to be haltered for the first time, no one could have imagined what a transformation he would have. He not only accepted human touch, but started to lean into it and look for more affection. Since then, Trooper has learned to stand to be haltered, brushed and tied. He stands for the farrier to have all four hooves trimmed. Trooper leads and lunges well and will side pass in hand. He loves to show off by standing on his block! He has been lightly backed and is ready to continue his under saddle training. This stocky boy has earned a special place in the hearts of many people and will certainly make one lucky person an incredible horse.



## Sergeant Baker

4 Year Old Roan Gelding  
14 hands originally gathered from Wyoming

*An affectionate, charming horse ready for the next steps.*

The smallest and youngest of the original four mustangs, our roan gelding Sergeant Baker was another tough horse to connect with. "Sarge" had a different fear response than Trooper, instead choosing to be a tough guy in moments of pressure. For our veterans, who had not been exposed to a horse demonstrating these behaviors, it was a huge learning moment. After countless hours of trying, the veterans and our trainers had a breakthrough and during a long session of standing their ground, Sarge was haltered for the first time. The change in the little horse was instant. His eye softened and he gave up the fight he had come to rely on. Everyone was finally able to meet the horse underneath all the fear. Sergeant Baker continued his training, making quick progress after his big breakthrough. He now enjoys being groomed and will stand on crossties. He also loads into a trailer and stands for the farrier. He leads well and lunges. He will also side pass in hand. Sergeant Baker has been lightly started under saddle and is ready for an experienced rider to continue his training.



## Liberty

4 Year Old Bay Mare  
15.1 hands originally gathered from Nevada

*A smart, careful mare looking for her own person.*

The mare is conservative and carefully positions herself to feel safe in new situations. She is very smart and reacts using her instincts that have been bred and built into mustangs for hundreds of years. The veterans and trainers have been patiently working towards building her confidence. She now is able to be haltered, led and lunged. She picks up all four hooves and has practiced loading into a trailer. She side passes in hand and continues to excel with each session.

This big mare is going to make a wonderful partner when she finds her new person!



## Freedom

4 Year Old Bay Mare  
14.2 hands originally gathered from Nevada

*A sweet, curious mare ready to excel in any discipline.*

From the moment Freedom was selected she seemed like a horse that was going to present a challenge. Freedom's first day in the round pen showed her fear and she ran the perimeter of the pen while our trainer stood in the middle, unwilling to accept the proximity of a person for almost 20 minutes. The second day she came into the round pen a veteran and our trainer stood all the way to the side and gave Freedom even more room. She accepted their presence much quicker. From those first few sessions, Freedom has surprised us all. In her continued training, she has accepted and even begun to seek out human contact. Just a couple of weeks after arriving, a veteran was able to take the big step of removing her tag and giving her a name. Now the petite, refined mare has started to show off her personality! Freedom has a habit of wrinkling her nose up and flipping her top lip whenever she is processing something new. Our trainers are working on giving her a cue each time she does this so she can do it on command! Freedom now confidently leads and lunges. She has practice loading into a trailer and will pick up all four hooves. She has also learned to side pass in hand. She is a beautiful mover and will certainly excel in whatever discipline is chosen for her.



# What is next?

## Mission Mustang: A National Model







MISSION **MUSTANG**  
EQUICENTER  
AT THE WILLIAM & MILDRED LEVINE RANCH

# Invictus Games 2018 Brought Opportunities to extend model internationally





MISSION **MUSTANG**<sup>™</sup>

---

EQUICENTER

AT THE WILLIAM & MILDRED LEVINE RANCH