



Wild To Mild Training Challenge

**Rule Book
2022**

Table of Contents

General information	3
Deadlines	3
About fostering	4
Standard of care	4
Bits, equipment, & attire	4-5
Divisions	6
Eligible horses	6
Prospective adopters	6-7
Classes & scoring	7-8
Social media information	8
Procedures At the Expo	8-9
Sponsors	9
Appendix (score cards)	9-14

The Wild To Mild Training Challenges are competitions in which volunteer foster homes and professional trainers work with a Evanescent Mustang Rescue & Sanctuary foster horse for about 100 days.

Wild To Mild Training Challenge Mission Statement:

- To show the public that rescued mustangs and donkeys can be useful, trainable and enjoyable equine partners.
- To provide training and adoption opportunities for EMRS rescued horses.
- To provide a fun, competitive venue for Professional and Amateur trainers to display their horsemanship skills.
- To provide an opportunity for youth to work with and learn about rescued equines.

General Information about the Event:

The competition is open to the public who applies to foster and compete, as well as any professional trainer.

Current foster homes should fill out an application the first time they sign up for the Challenge and pay the entry fee.

Deadlines

July Event application deadline: March 30th. Evanescent Mustang Rescue & Sanctuary may accept late applications on a case-by-case basis.

Horse pick-up: Participants will pick up their equine from April 1st – 3rd. Failure to meet this deadline will result in less days to train the horse

Training Summary Form Deadline:

Trainer adoption application deadline: If you plan to adopt your Training Challenge horse, you must notify the Training Challenge Coordinator via email One month before the event. **We still strictly adhere to this rule and to these dates.**

DEADLINES:

March 1 – 30: Applications accepted

March 30: Completed applications must be turned in

April 1 - 3: Horse assignments made, and horse pick-ups scheduled

June 15: Trainer Bio due

June 15: Music selection due

June 15: Training adoptions (for those adopting) must be complete

About Fostering Your Training Challenge Horse:

Foster homes pay for hay, grain, shavings, and farrier/vet care. Since EMRS is a 501(c)(3) organization, fostering expenses may be tax-deductible. A record must be kept for all medical, farrier, deworming and other monthly/weekly routines.

Standard of Care:

Every EMRS equine shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion.

Training techniques used on EMRS foster equines will be humane, least amount of force techniques, keeping in mind the mental and physical well-being of the equine at all times. Any evidence of failure to do so will result in an investigation and possible disqualification from the Challenge. If trainers demonstrate any excessively forceful training practices during the Challenge, warm-ups for the event, or any other time, the trainer can be docked points or removed (disqualified) from the competition at the discretion of the Training Challenge Coordinator.

Use of any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, or sedative which could affect the performance of a horse (stimulants and depressants are defined as substances that stimulate or depress the cardiovascular, respiratory or central nervous system) is strictly prohibited. Use of any performance-affecting drug on a EMRS equine at the Challenge will result in disqualification from the Challenge.

Bits and Equipment:

Violation of these rules will result in dismissal from the class and a score of 0 for that class and potential dismissal from the Training Challenge:

Equines in the Riding Division may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, bosal, or side pull. A curb bit may also be allowed if the Professional trainer feels their horse is ready, but caution is encouraged, and extra points will **NOT** be awarded for showing in a curb bit. Using an ill-fitting, modified, or improperly worn bit may result in disqualification.

Prohibited equipment includes jerk lines, tack collars, draw reins, standing or running martingales, a curb bit without a curb strap, wire, curb strap with tacks/rivets or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded, wire cavesson, or headstalls made of metal (even if encased in a protective material). Please contact Training Coordinator if you have any questions regarding equipment requirements.

* Draw reins & martingales may be used at home.

Natural horsemanship stick and strings or other types of longe whips, longe lines, riding crops and drive lines are allowed in the In-Hand Division classes and in all Divisions for the Freestyle class, as long as they are used correctly and humanely. At no time should there ever be any evidence that a whip was used on the horse. If there is swelling, welts, raw skin or blood, it is an indication that the whip has been abused by the trainer. If it is determined that a whip has been misused by a trainer, he or she will be disqualified from the Training Challenge and, if he or she has applied to adopt his or her Training Challenge horse, the application and adoption may be discarded and denied at the discretion of any of the following: the Training Challenge Coordinator, Adoption Coordinator, or Fostering Coordinator. Striking a horse during training, warm-up, or during any phase of competition is an automatic disqualification and the trainer will be removed from the training event and any trainer adoption application approval will be rescinded immediately.

Spurs are permitted provided they are used correctly and humanely. At no time should there ever be any evidence that a spur was used on the horse. If there is swelling, welts, raw skin or blood, it is an indication that the spur has been abused by the rider. If it is determined that spurs have been misused by a trainer, he or she will be disqualified from the Training Challenge and, if he or she has applied to adopt his or her Training Challenge horse, the application and adoption may be discarded and denied at the discretion of any of the following: the Training Challenge Coordinator, Adoption Coordinator, or Fostering Coordinator.

If a horse is shown in a curb bit or a bit with shanks, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed. In trail, it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle. Violation of this rule is an automatic disqualification.

Equines shown with a hackamore or snaffle bit may be ridden with one or two hands on the reins.

Trainers will all be required to ride with soft hands; no jerking on the horse's mouth will be permitted. The bit is a tool and should never be used as a weapon.

Attire

Helmets will be required for any youth (under age 18) that are competing. Youth appearing in the arena without a helmet will be dismissed from the arena and asked to return with a helmet. Adult competitors are encouraged to wear a helmet but, it is not required. All riders/handlers will wear a boot with a heel while showing their horses either under saddle or in hand in all classes. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the ring and a 0 in that class.

Divisions (Definitions and Rules):

Training Challenge Divisions:

Under Saddle: Adults and approved youths (14 and over) that are willing to take on a EMRS equine as a foster horse for the length of the Challenge are eligible to compete in this division. All mustangs 3 years of age and older are eligible.

In-Hand: Adults and pre-approved youth (14 and over) exhibitors that are willing to take on a EMRS equine as a foster horse for the length of the Challenge are eligible to compete in this division. All mustangs are eligible.

Youth In-Hand 13 and Under: Youths who are 13 or under and are supervised by a professional trainer or parent with extensive horse experience who are willing to take on a EMRS equine as a foster horse for the length of the Challenge are eligible to compete in this division with approval. All Mustangs are eligible.

Eligible horses:

EMRS will assign the horse to the applicant via a lottery style drawings.

Non-Pro may attend a maximum of ten training sessions, riding lessons or clinics with a professional trainer during the competition. The Rescue Horse Training Challenge participant should handle or ride the horse for the majority of the time spent in those training sessions, lessons or clinics.

Participants will be responsible for picking up their Challenge horses after receiving their assignments. EMRS does not provide transportation.

Competitors will NOT be allowed to switch divisions without permission from the Training Challenge Coordinator.

Prospective Adopters

If the trainer declines to adopt his/her Training Challenge equine, then the mustang/burro will be put into the Auction at the end of the Training Challenge. If you know of someone who is interested in adopting your Challenge horse, encourage them to attend the auction. There is no guarantee, mustang/burro will go to the highest bidder. Prospective adopters may contact you via Facebook Messenger during your time with your Training Challenge horse. Please do your best to answer

their questions in a timely manner. At the event, those interested in purchasing an equine will be given a bidder's number to use during the auction.

Classes (Definitions and Rules):

***Scorecards are posted in the appendix of this document. Trail maps may, at the discretion of the Training Challenge Coordinator, be published just prior to the competition. Allowing trainers to practice on the obstacles the day before a competition is a decision that will be made by the Training Challenge Coordinator.**

Body Conditioning: Animals will be judged for weight based on the Henneke body score system (see attached in appendix), coat condition, grooming, hoof condition and overall appearance. Equines are NOT in any way to be judged based on conformation or presence of previously incurred scars or injuries. Body conditioning may be judged while the horses are in tied out or during the Patterned.

Trail Class: The goal of this class is to show case the ability of the EMRS horse to the public. Horse and handler/rider teams will complete a course that will include a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 9 obstacles. The obstacles will be selected from the following: tarp, serpentine, hanging obstacles, arch, jump (no more than 18"), bridge, back-through, turn in a box, water or simulation obstacle, log drag, trot-/lope-overs, raised cavaletti, mailbox, gate, trailer-loading, pool noodles. Teams will be given three attempts on each obstacle. If the horse and rider or handler do not successfully compete the obstacle within three tries, they will receive a score of zero for that obstacle. Some points may be awarded for any horse under saddle who dismounts and walks their horse through any obstacle. Teams will be judged on completion of obstacles, completion of course in correct order, transitions, willingness, and calmness of the horse. Trainers will receive point deductions if they do not navigate the obstacles in the correct order and/or enter and exit the obstacles in the correct places.

Freestyle Class: The freestyle presentation is an opportunity for the trainer/foster home to showcase the horse's abilities, training level and aptitude. Each team will have 4 minutes to perform their freestyle routine plus 2 minutes to set up any props and 2 minutes to tear down their props. The use of music and/or costumes is strongly encouraged during the freestyle. If a trainer chooses to use music, the music selection must be commercially available (Amazon, etc) or the trainer must email an .mp3 of the song to the Training Challenge Coordinator. All music selections must be sent to the Training Challenge Coordinator no later than 14 days prior to the event. After that time, the Training Challenge Coordinator will choose a music selection for the trainer. No trainer will be permitted to supply their own music the day of the event **WITHOUT EXCEPTION**. Skills the judges are looking for during the freestyle presentation:

For horses under saddle, ability to walk, trot, extend the trot, canter both directions in the correct lead, simple or flying lead change, side pass both directions, stop,

minimum of 180 degree turn both directions on haunches or forehand, transition smoothly up and down, and back with a rider.

For horses in hand, ability to walk, trot, extend the trot, side pass both directions, turn 180 degrees each way on haunches or forehand, stop and back in hand without being pulled/tugged or encouraged using a whip/stick. In-hand horses may be shown with a saddle, but trainers may not stand in a stirrup, mount the horse in any fashion, or have the horse bear any of the trainer's weight in any fashion; to do so will result in an automatic disqualification in the Freestyle class and no points will be awarded.

The judges are also looking to see that the handler demonstrates "softness" with the equine as well as positive training and positive reinforcements are used instead of harsh corrections. Rather than deduct points for a performance going over the given time, the contestants music will be turned off at the 4 minute mark, judging will stop, and removing of props from the arena will begin.

Patterned: Each horse/trainer combination will be asked to show off a predetermined set of basic skills such as: picking up all four feet, standing for fly spray, standing for bareback or saddle pad to be placed on them, putting on a halter, loading in & out of a trailer, etc. There will be a set pattern that each team must complete.

TOTAL SCORES will be a combination of scores in the compulsory classes of **Patterned, Trail and Freestyle.**

Patterned 75 pts

Freestyle 125 pts

Trail 100 pts

Social Media Information:

Since one of the goals of the Training Challenge is to help horses get adopted and, in an effort, to help find horses homes, we recommend posting your journey in training for this challenge. Post only information that you KNOW is true about your horse. We highly recommend seeking out a sponsor for your challenge.

At the Challenge

Check In/Out at the Event

Check-in: Friday 7am. If you need to arrive after 7am, are delayed, etc, please contact Shawnee at 214-772-5777 to make alternative arrangements.

Check-Out: Adopted horses may leave once they've finished competing, the adoption contract is signed, and the adoption fee has been paid. Please let us know if arrangements will need to be made resulting in the equine staying longer than Sunday.

Stalls and Equipment at the Event

You will need to bring food and water buckets, hay, grain, a halter, and lead. We will provide hoses for water.

We recommend bringing a portable stall system or tying out to your trailer. No stalls will be provided.

Sponsors:

Participants may recruit individuals and businesses to sponsor their horse in the Challenge. Sponsors may help cover the cost of feeding the horse, gift equipment, gift services, etc. Sponsorships made directly to the trainer or foster home are not tax-deductible, but trainers/foster homes may promote sponsors on their social media, in signage on their trailers, clothing, etc.

Open to all Texas residents

APPENDIX

**EMRS CHALLENGE
FREESTYLE JUDGES SHEET
UNDER SADDLE**

- The exhibitor has 4 minutes to complete pattern & 2 minutes to set up & 2 minutes to take down.
- Stop judging when the music stops, please.
- If the exhibitor does not complete a maneuver, they will receive a score of zero for that maneuver.

CONTESTANT ID/#: _____

Maneuver	Score (100 pts)
(5 pts) Walk	
(10 pts) Trot to earn 10 points, must show at slow & extended trots	
(10 pts) Canter right lead to earn 5 pts, must pick up & stay in the correct lead for at least 6 strides)	
(10 pts) Canter left lead to earn 5 pts, must pick up & stay in the correct lead for at least 6 strides)	
(5 pts) Stop to earn 5 points, the stop must be fast, smooth, & quiet	
(10 pts) Back to earn 10 points, the horse must back quietly & willingly for at least 6 steps	
(10 pts) Turn a minimum of 180 degrees to the right & the left turns may be on the haunches or the forehand, the horse must turn quietly & willingly.	

(10 pts) Side pass or move laterally left & right at any gait. Back to earn 10 points, the horse must back quietly & willingly for at least 6 steps	
(10 pts) Smooth transitions	
(10 pts) Lead change simple or flying at least 1 change, extra credit may be given for more changes. All changes must be smooth & quiet to earn full credit	
(10 pts) Overall flow, willingness, & calmness of the pattern given at judge's discretion	
(25 pts) Extra credit may be given at judge's discretion for going above and beyond: this could include riding bareback, bridle-less, or anything that would show off the horse's talents and usability.	
Total (125 pts)	

**BEHS CHALLENGE
FREESTYLE JUDGES SHEET
IN-HAND DIVISION**

- The exhibitor has 3 minutes to complete pattern & 2 minutes to set up & 2 minutes to take down.
- Stop judging when the music stops please.
- If the exhibitor does not complete a maneuver, they will receive a score of zero for that maneuver.

CONTESTANT ID/#: _____

Maneuver	Score
(5 pts) Walk	
(15 pts) Trot to earn 15 points, must show at slow & extended trots	
(10 pts) Stop to earn 5 points, the stop must be fast, smooth, & quiet	
(15 pts) Back to earn 15 points, the horse must back quietly & willingly for at least 6 steps	
(10 pts) Smooth transitions	
(15 pts) Side pass or move laterally left & right at any gait. Back to earn 10 points, the horse must back quietly & willingly for at least 6 steps	
(15 pts) Turn a minimum of 180 degrees to the right & the left turns may be on the haunches or the forehand, the horse must turn quietly & willingly.	
(15 pts) Overall flow, willingness, & calmness of the pattern given at judge's discretion	
(25 pts) Extra credit may be given at judge's discretion for going above and beyond	

Total (125 + pts)	
-------------------	--

BEHS CHALLENGE TRAIL JUDGES SHEET

Please blow the whistle if the participant exceeds the time or attempt limit.

- 3 attempts = 1 burst of the whistle
- Exhibitor may dismount to attempt obstacle & still receive partial points
- If the exhibitor does not complete a maneuver, they will receive a score of zero for that maneuver.

CONTESTANT ID/#: _____

DIVISION:

- UNDER SADDLE
- IN-HAND

Obstacle	Score
1. 8 pts	
2. 8 pts	
3. 8 pts	
4. 8 pts	
5. 8 pts	
6. 8 pts	
7. 8 pts	
8. 8 pts	
(11 pts) Overall flow, willingness, & calmness of the pattern given at judge's discretion	
Final score (75 pts)	

**BEHS CHALLENGE
PATTERNED JUDGES SHEET**

CONTESTANT ID/#: _____

DIVISION:

- UNDER SADDLE
- NON-PRO IN-HAND

<u>Maneuver</u>	<u>Score</u>
1.(6 pts)	
2.(6 pts)	
3.(6 pts)	
4.(6 pts)	
5.(6 pts)	
6.(6 pts)	
(14 pts) Extra credit may be award for those that go above and beyond.	
Total (50 pts)	

In order to receive a 6, the horse must do the maneuver willingly & easily.

Use the following charts for body score:

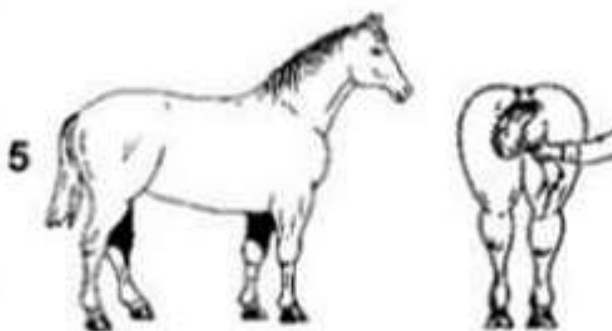
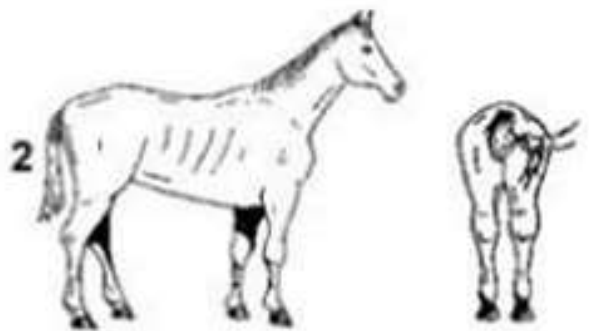
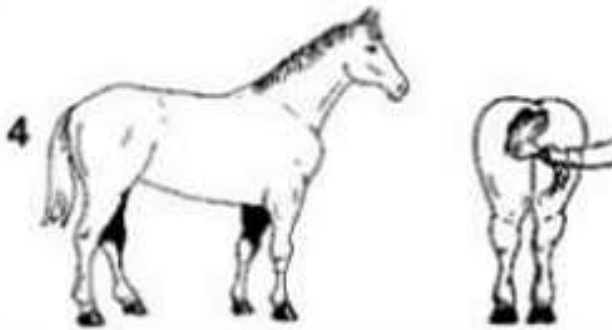
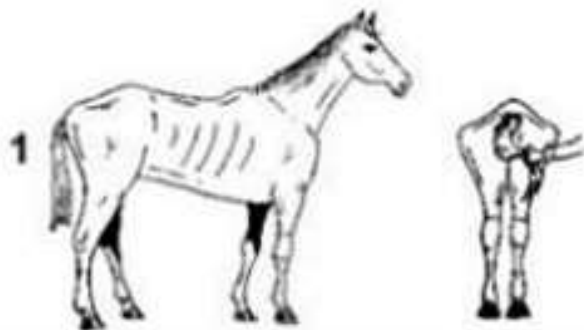
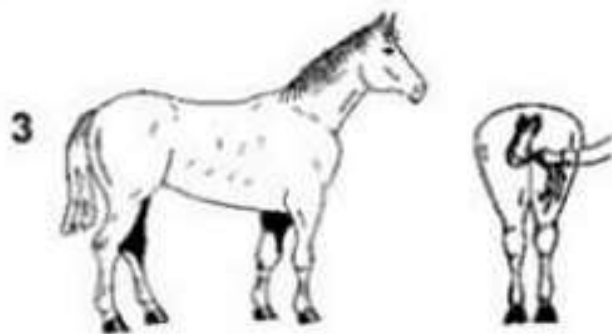
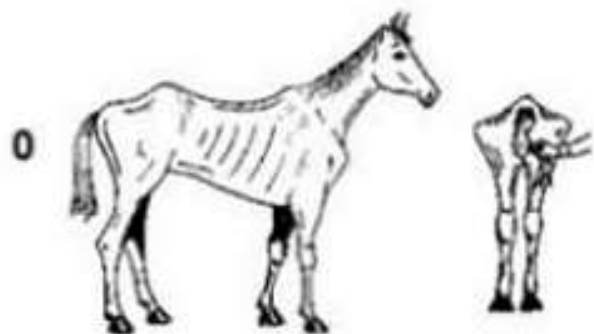


Table 1. Descriptions of Anatomical Differences Between Body Condition Scores

Condition	Neck	Withers	Back & Loin	Ribs	Hind Quarters
0 Very thin	bone structure easily felt- no muscle shelf where neck meets shoulder	bone structure easily felt	3 points of vertebrae easily felt (see Figure 2)	each rib can be easily felt	tailhead and hip bones projecting
1 Thin	can feel bone structure- slight shelf where neck meets shoulder	can feel bone structure	spinous process can be easily felt transverse processes have slight fat covering	slight fat covering, but can still be felt	can feel hip bones
2 Fair	fat covering over bone structure	fat deposits over withers - dependent on conformation	fat over spinous processes	can't see ribs, but ribs can still be felt	hip bones covered with fat
3 Good	neck flows smoothly into shoulder	neck rounds out withers	back is level	layer of fat over ribs	can't feel hip bones
4 Fat	fat deposited along neck	fat padded around withers	positive crease along back	fat spongy over and between ribs	can't feel hip bones
5 Very fat	bulging fat	bulging fat	deep positive crease	pockets of fat	pockets of fat

0=0 points, 1 = 5 pts, 2 = 10 pts, 3 = 15 pts, 4= 12 pts, 5 =10 pts