



FREE REIN

HORSES HELPING HUMANS

November/December 2019

Free Rein Mounts Program to Gentle Feral Mustangs



Volunteer Carolyn Dordoni at Free Rein's first Mustang Clinic on Oct. 27 with Mustang Program Coordinator Jason Teter and Boss, a mustang-in-training from northeastern California's Devil's Garden Wild Horse Territory in Modoc National Forest.

Nearly three times more horses roam public land than the fragile terrain can sustain, leading to overgrazing and starvation. About 50,000 mustangs rounded up by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forestry Service are stuck in holding pens awaiting adoption. Many will be slaughtered.

In 2019 Free Rein Foundation became part of the solution, rescuing 10 adorable mustangs hailing from South Dakota, Northeast California and Arizona. Several of them have already been gentled and adopted with the help of several amazing trainers at the Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center.

Free Rein is very fortunate to have Jason Teter heading up the Free Rein Mustang Program and Equine Trainer Virginie Rouleau working with the horses and volunteers. With their help and the support of Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center General Manager Mary Behrens, corrals have been built to meet BLM requirements, and volunteer training clinics are underway.

For centuries, wild horses have been "broken." Today, trainers are using a "gentling" approach – a more natural technique to tame, saddle and ride.

Jason Teter, Mustang Program coordinator, describes this process as a dance, a conversation. He explains, "We want to establish passive leadership rather than dominance.

You have to get into their head and understand they respond as prey animals. At first, they will automatically see you as a predator. It takes patience and persistence to build respect and trust."

Boss, 12 (at left), and Governor, 9 (who Jason has adopted), are bay-colored mustangs rescued by Free Rein a few months ago. Neither had been handled by humans and both were newly gelded. Jason spent hours in the pasture with them, at first with his back to them, leaning on the fence. Eventually he turned to face them, his posture relaxed. Next, he would slowly hold out his hand with a treat, watching them with his peripheral vision, but not looking them in the eyes. Gradually their desire for food replaced their fear. In the coming weeks, Jason was able to halter Governor, saddle and ride him in the arena. In less than 100 days he was leading him through the Huntington Central Park's trails and competed with him in an "Extreme Cowboy" obstacle competition. Governor is so gentle, even his young daughters now ride him.

Please join Free Rein in supporting this challenging but incredibly rewarding rescue effort by contacting teterjason@gmail.com or visiting freereinfoundation.org/donate-3/.

BLUE RIBBON VOLUNTEERS



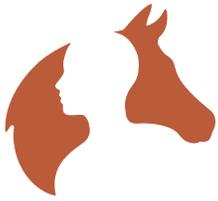
The farm alongside the Free Rein pasture is thriving, thanks to the diligent labors of Free Rein volunteers as well as clients. Local kids coming to Free Rein's pasture and farm will soon be planting seeds in its raised beds, courtesy of Huntington Beach Central Library's Seed Library. Seeds from what's grown will be donated back to the Seed Library for others to use. This system creates a sustainable and diverse stock of seeds for the entire community.

So far, this year's harvest has included peas, carrots, beans, arugula and sunflowers according to Farm Coordinator Steve Seavey. He reports, "Many of our kids from the inner city are planting, as well as seeing wild lizards and rabbits, for the first time."

Interested in volunteering with Free Rein Foundation? Please email volunteer@freereinfoundation.org.



Huntington Beach Central Library Librarian Lori Hellinger became an active Free Rein volunteer in January, spending Wednesday afternoons in the pasture and helping at monthly Hug & Groom community events.



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18381 Goldenwest St.
Huntington Beach, CA 92648



OUR MISSION:
To heal humans and rescued horses by creating a bond that empowers and nurtures both.

Learn more at freereinfoundation.org

MANE EVENTS



HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Saturday, Dec. 14, 11am - 3pm

Come & Celebrate the Holiday Season at the Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center (HCPEC), 6956 Ellis Ave., HB!

Food | Fun | Activities | Horses
Christmas Gifts | Prizes | Photos

Admission is free. To inquire about Holiday Boutique vendor opportunities, please contact Cheryl, HCPEC, 714-848-6565, or email cheryl@hcpec.com.

Hosted by Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center & Free Rein Foundation.

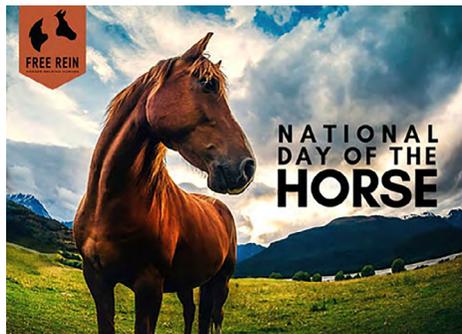
To RSVP, please visit freereinfoundation.org/events/.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE HORSE

Also Saturday, **Dec. 14, 11am - 3 pm** at the Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center with horse events, activities and fun!

Each year, National Day of the Horse brings awareness of the contribution of horses to the U.S. The domesticated horse we know today, also known as Equus caballus, was introduced into North America by Spanish explorers.

RSVP via freereinfoundation.org/events/.



WALK FOR HORSES 3K

Sunday, March 1, 2020

Course Surrounds the Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center

Walk in Nature! Meet the Rescued Horses! Kids Scavenger Hunt Map! T-shirts, food, drinks, gifts and prizes! All proceeds help rescued horses to help humans in equine assisted therapy programs for kids and Vets!

Early Bird until Feb. 16.
\$20 per person. Children under 6 are free. \$25 online Feb. 16 until Walk Day. \$30 at the gate.

Register at: <http://bit.ly/Walk4Horses2020>.