



**U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
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Press Release

For Release: Immediately

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Find Out How to Gentle a Wild Horse at the Virginia Horse Center

Free gentling demonstrations will be conducted by nationally-known horse trainer Lesley Neuman on Friday March 9 at 1 p.m. and Saturday March 10 at 8 a.m. at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia. In conjunction with the gentling demonstrations, the Bureau of Land Management will offer mustangs and burros gathered from western rangelands for adoption by competitive bid process for a minimum of \$125. One of these young, intelligent animals can be yours if you qualify and are willing to provide the animals a good home.

Lesley Neuman from California has been working with mustangs for approximately 7 years. She was first involved with horses at age 4 when she got a pony. She has participated in endurance competition, finishing the Tevis 100 mile ride; trail riding and packing; has shown horses in western and English pleasure, trail and jumping. In addition to her 'regular' job as a graphic artist, she takes in horses for training...and her preference is mustangs.

"To me, mustangs are the REAL horses. Man has not stepped in to breed them to his own ideals. On the range, mustangs have to be the best of the breed. In my work with mustangs I have found that they are above average in brains, athletic ability and endurance, not to mention social skills and disposition," Neuman said.

Most people are amazed how easily Neuman relates to wild horses. "Gentling mustangs seems to be my forte. I feel I have a gift because most of what I do just comes from the inside of me. I have watched many trainers, but when I get in the pen with the horse, that is all there is – just me and that horse. And the horse tells me what to do," she said.

For more than 30 years, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, has helped find caring homes for over 175,000 wild horses and burros that roamed the western rangelands. Without the public's help, many of these animals would have died from lack of food and water. More information about adopting a wild horse or burro can be found on the National Wild Horse and Burro website at www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov or by calling 1-888-274-2133.

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