



## Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

July 12, 2023

**Adoption Event Name:** Doswell Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Sale Event

**State:** Virginia

**District/Field Office:** Eastern States State Office

**Providing Facilities:** Litchfield Off-Range Corral, Carson City Off-Range Corral, Canon City Off-Range Corral, Wheatland Off-Range Corral

**CAWP Assessment Team Members:** Jerrie Bertola, Jake Benson, and Doug Satica

**Assessment Dates:** June 14-17, 2023

**Total Number of CAWP Adoption/Sale Standards:** 94

**Number of Applicable CAWP Standards:** 82 out of 94

**Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards:** 78/82 = 95%

**General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team:** The assessment of the Doswell 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 Doswell adoption event is different than other adoptions that the CAWP Team has assessed to date. This adoption was led by the Eastern States State Office with support from the Online Corral (OLC) and various people from within Eastern States as well as Arizona, Montana, and Wyoming. This adoption was intended to demonstrate how different offices can work together successfully to place wild horses and burros. For some it was a learning opportunity, for others this is what they do on a regular basis. It was an event where new ideas can be brought forward and tested.

An important part of the CAWP is incorporating feedback to make the program stronger. The Doswell event was the first opportunity for the CAWP Team to implement recommendations from recent feedback. This feedback helps reinforce the standards and how they are assessed. As documented below, there were four non-compliant standards of the 82 applicable standards for this adoption event. Two of the non-compliant standards were things that the adoption team could have influenced. For one such standard, the team had purchased materials to correct the non-compliance, but the materials were not received before the event. The other standard with which the team was not in compliance was the clearance between the ground and the floor of the trailer. The team tried several techniques but was not able to achieve this standard every time. The other two non-compliant standards were items that were outside the control of the adoption team: how the animals were sorted for shipping and horses with hooves that were not trimmed.

The care, handling, and treatment of the wild horses and burros at the Doswell adoption event was excellent. The alfalfa hay that was provided to the animals was good quality. The spacing in the pens allowed for all animals to have room to rest and, the ability to eat simultaneously. All animals had access to water, and all animals were sorted according to age, sex, and temperament. The adoption team was knowledgeable about the CAWP Standards and had ensured that all employees working the adoption were current on CAWP Training.

**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 Doswell 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:**

**Veterinarian**

**Standard**

**I.IV.A.3**

Health care protocols must be in accordance with Program guidelines and accepted by the facility veterinarian for preventive health care procedures (vaccinations, deworming, hoof trimming, freeze marking). Medical treatments will be prescribed by or performed under the supervision of a veterinarian. Surgical procedures will only be performed by a veterinarian.

**Non-Compliance:** There were multiple horses in several pens with hooves that were not trimmed prior to shipping to the adoption event. These horses had hooves that had wings, flares, and paddling, and were not in proper condition.

**Loading and Unloading Facilities**

**Standard**

**2.I.E**

Trailers must be properly aligned with loading and unloading chutes and panels with no gaps between the chute/panel and floor or sides of the trailer creating a situation where a WH&B could injure itself.

**Non-Compliance:** There were gaps between the uprights of the unloading ramp and the semi-trailer creating a situation where wild horses and burros could be injured. The adoption team was aware of this situation and had purchased supplies to correct this issue; however, the supplies had not been delivered to the office so that they could be added to the loading/unloading ramp prior to the adoption/sale event.

**Standard**

**2.I.F** Stock trailers should be positioned for loading and unloading such that there is no more than 12” clearance between the ground and floor of the trailer for burros and 18” for horses.

**Non-Compliance:** The clearance between the ground and the floor of stock/horse trailers were greater than 12 inches when loading burros and greater than 18 inches for horses. The adoption team made a concerted effort to meet the standard, including jacking up the front of some of the trailers that were further from the height identified in the standard.

**Care of Wild Horses and Burros During Transport Preparation Procedures**

**Standard**

**2.II.C** WH&Bs being transferred to another off-range corral facility, off-range pasture, eco-sanctuary, or adoption event must be sorted prior to shipping to ensure compatibility and minimize aggressive behavior that may cause injury during transport.

**Non-Compliance:** Burros were not sorted prior to shipping and were shipped with mixed sexes.

**Table 1: Overall Summary Rating**

<b>CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements</b>	<b>Compliant</b>	<b>Partially Compliant</b>	<b>Non-Compliant</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>CAWP Trained BLM Staff</b>	✓			
<b>Adoption Event Personnel</b>	✓			
<b>Satellite Facility Design</b>	✓			
<b>Care of WHBs Received at Satellite Facilities</b>	✓			
<b>Euthanasia Procedures at Satellite Facilities</b>	✓			
<b>Carcass Disposal at Satellite Facilities</b>	✓			
<b>Willful Acts of Abuse</b>	✓			
<b>General Handling</b>	✓			
<b>Handling Aids</b>	✓			
<b>Loading and Unloading Facilities</b>		✓		
<b>Care of WHBs During Transport Preparation Procedures</b>		✓		
<b>Vehicles</b>	✓			
<b>Transport Procedures</b>	✓			
<b>Receiving Procedures</b>	✓			
<i>Compliant – all the activities of the section were compliant with the standards or policy requirements.                      Partially compliant – one or more activities of the section were non-compliant with the standards or policy requirements.                      Non-Compliant – all activities of the section were non-compliant with the standards or policy requirements.                      N/A –activities were not observed during the assessment.</i>				

**Final CAWP Assessment Rating:** Good. 95% 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.