



Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program Team Assessment Report

February 28, 2025

Adoption Event Name: Seguin Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Sale Event

State: Texas

District/Field Office: Oklahoma Field Office

Providing Facility: Axtell Off-Range Corral

Providing Facility: Pauls Valley Off-Range Corral

Backhaul Facility: Pauls Valley Off-Range Corral

CAWP Assessment Team Members: Jerrie Bertola, John Hall, Tami Howell, Meredith Kueck, and Lisa Reid

Assessment Dates: February 19-22, 2025

Total Number of CAWP Adoption/Sale Standards: 187

Number of Applicable CAWP Standards: 152

Compliance with Applicable CAWP Standards: 144/152 = 95%

Understanding Assessments: The Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program aims to promote the welfare of wild horses and burros during management activities while minimizing stress and ensuring humane care, handling, and treatment. CAWP assessments evaluate compliance with standards during the activities taking place at the time of the assessment. This framework helps ensure a clear and unbiased evaluation of events or actions as they occur. Here are some key points:

- **Holistic Approach:** Assessments reflect the entirety of the activity, not targeting individuals or specific groups.
- **Time-Specific:** The evaluation focuses solely on the observed circumstances during the assessment period.
- **Limitations:** Previous or subsequent events are not accounted for, meaning the assessment is a standalone observation.

General Notes and Comments from the CAWP Team: The assessment of the Seguin 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 the providing off-range corral and the transportation of the wild horses and burros to and from the event. Assessments are a snapshot of what is happening regarding compliance with CAWP standards at that specific time.

The adoption team at the Seguin adoption event was made up of staff primarily from the BLM Oklahoma Field Office.

Effective communication is key for a successful adoption event, ensuring the safety of the adoption team, the wild horses and burros at the event, and the public. The communication of this adoption team was outstanding. The team sorting the wild horses and burros took the time to move all animals in a safe manner, even when it was difficult to separate some animals. The sorting and load-out teams remained positive and calm, which helped reduce stress on animals as they were sorted and loaded.

Due to weather conditions impacting many parts of the United States at the time of the adoption/sale event, adjustments were made on shipping routes and locations. Both providing facilities shipped animals directly to the adoption/sale event and therefore no rest location facility was used. Changes in routes were communicated so that the adoption team would be ready to unload wild horses and burros first thing in the morning opposed to late morning or early afternoon. The adoption team handled this well and adapted to challenges of freezing temperatures in South Texas as the adoption event continued.

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 Seguin 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:

Providing Facility Pauls Valley

Loading and Unloading Facilities

2.I.B The side panels of the loading chute must be a minimum of 6 feet high and covered with materials such as plywood or metal without holes that may cause injury.

Non-Compliance: The height of the side of the loading chute was not 6 feet high.

2.I.C There must be no holes, gaps, or openings, protruding surfaces, or sharp edges present in fence panels or other structures that may allow escape or cause possible injury.

Non-Compliance: There was a sharp point on one of the sucker rods in the loading chute that may cause possible injury.

Care of Wild Horses and Burros During Transport Preparation Procedures

2.II.A WH&Bs being transferred to another off-range corral facility, off-range pasture, eco- sanctuary or adoption event must have a current negative EIA test, be in a state of health appropriate for a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) and be accompanied by appropriate paperwork as required by the laws of the receiving state.

Non-Compliance: There was an animal with a missing a Coggins sheet and some of the health records were not updated or current.

Vehicles

2.III.J Surfaces and floors of trailers must be cleaned of dirt, manure and other organic matter prior to the beginning of a shipping event, and must have non-skid material on the trailer floor, such as, wood shavings, rubber non-skid mats etc.

Non-Compliance: The straight deck trailer floor was not clean of dirt, manure, and other organic matter prior to the beginning of the event.

Adoption Event

Satellite Facility Design

3.II.I WH&Bs in pens at the satellite facility should be maintained at a stocking density such that when at rest all WH&Bs occupy no more than half the pen area.

Non-Compliance: Many of the pens were over stocked and the animals occupied more than half the pen space when at rest.

Backhaul Facility

Loading and Unloading Facilities

2.I.B The side panels of the loading chute must be a minimum of 6 feet high and covered with materials such as plywood or metal without holes that may cause injury.

Non-Compliance: The height of the side of the loading chute was not 6 feet high

Table 1: Overall Summary Rating

CAWP Standards and Policy Requirements	Total Numbers	Percent Compliant	Rating
Providing Facility	27/27	100%	Excellent
Providing Facility	24/28	86%	Good
Adoption Event	83/84	99%	Excellent
Backhaul Facility	12/13	92%	Good

Final CAWP Assessment Rating: Excellent. 96% 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.