

**BLM Utah's Salt Lake Regional Wild Horse and Burro Center
Questions and Answers**

Q. How many horses and burros are currently housed at the Salt Lake Regional Wild Horse and Burro Center (SLWHC)?

A. There are 461 animals at the facility; 448 horses and 13 burros

Q. What are the conditions of the pens at the SLWHC?

A. Current conditions at the SLWHC are muddy, which is to be expected at this extremely wet time of year, especially given the 200 percent of normal precipitation that has occurred this year. Even though it is muddy, animal health is not being compromised as a result of the muddy conditions. BLM employees have added extra straw in the pens to help mitigate the muddy conditions. In addition, the mares always have straw for foaling.

Q. What is the average overall condition of animals at the SLWHC?

A. The animals at the SLWHC are in good condition. Most have been classified as being in a Henneke Equine body condition class 5-6 (moderate to moderately fleshy).

Q. How often are the horses fed?

A. The horses are fed early each morning by a contract feeder. The SLWHC feeds alfalfa and alfalfa/grass hay in large (800-1,200 pound) bales. Hay is distributed into multiple large feed bins per corral or paddock. The hay is given as "free choice," which means the horses are able to eat as much as they would like to meet their needs. The bins are usually always full. A number of small feeding bins are located throughout the facility, but are not currently being used. These are used when smaller groups of animals are held in a corral or there is a need to separate animals.

Q. What is the status of the mare that had an injured shoulder?

A. As soon as the injury was noticed on Feb. 27, the feeder contacted the SLWHC Manger reporting that a buckskin mare had an injury on her front left shoulder. On Feb. 28, the mare was separated from the rest of the horses. A veterinarian examined the horse that day, within the hour. The veterinarian determined that the injury was in a location that could not be effectively stitched and recommended topical treatment. It is normal for horses with this type of injury to be treated with a topical antibiotic, allowing the wound to heal from the inside out. Over the next few weeks, the mare was monitored daily and treatments were administered as needed. On March 14, the mare was once again treated with a topical antibiotic and moved from a smaller corral into a larger paddock or general population.

Q. What is the status of the black horse that was in thin condition last month?

A. The horse that was in thin condition is a 3-year-old black mare that was gathered from Nevada and the Mt. Moriah HA in August 2010. The mare arrived at the SLWHC in thin condition and was examined by the veterinarian shortly after her arrival. The veterinarian decided that there were no apparent health disorders and given time, the mare should regain

the weight. The mare is monitored daily and since the gather, has put on some weight and appears to be doing much better.

Q. Are pregnant mares kept in the pens with the other horses?

A. Pregnant mares are kept in a separate pen out of traffic for their protection and for the protection of their foals. Extra straw is added to the mare and foal pen as needed to help absorb extra moisture. Mares with foals will instinctively move away from other horses and people. These mares are kept further away from the rest of the pens so that the mares and foals stay calm. The center currently has six foals, with more expected in the future.

Q. Has the SLWHC been visited from any outside agencies regarding the allegations made of horses and burros being treated inhumanely?

A. The SLWHC was visited by the following agencies on Mon. April 11: The Humane Society of Utah, The Salt Lake County Sheriff's Department and the Salt Lake County Animal Control. These groups will also be contacted by the review team to formally document their findings.

Q. What does the SLWHC do to address on-site waste and manure management?

A. Manure is removed from pens in the spring, summer, and fall, to an off-site location. When conditions do not allow for removal, manure is stock piled in paddocks or corrals until conditions are favorable for removal.

Q. When are horses available for adoption at the SLWHC?

A. The horses and burros at the SLWHC are offered for adoption every Monday-Friday, and one Saturday each month, on a first come, first served basis for \$125.00. Horses are also offered periodically through the Adopt-a-Horse Internet Adoption Program. Animals housed at the SLWHC are shipped to various satellite adoptions throughout the state as well as the nation.

Q. How are adoptions conducted at the SLWHC in regard to "three strikes" adoptions?

A. The "three strike" criteria refer to animals that have been offered for adoption three times or more, making them available for sale through the BLM's sale regulations. In order to qualify as being sale eligible, animals must be offered unsuccessfully for adoption at three adoption events, as defined as (1) a satellite adoption (held at a location other than a BLM holding facility) or (2) via a national Internet adoption.

Wild horses may be shipped to long-term pastures prior to receiving "three strikes" or unsuccessful adoption opportunities. This is dependent on availability of space in long-term pastures, and the need for capacities in short-term holding. There is no legal requirement to hold wild horses for a given period of time in short-term holding, prior to shipment to a long-term pasture, other than individual State vaccination and testing requirements.

Q. How long are animals kept at the SLWHC?

A. Wild horse and burros are usually kept at the location from a few months, to several years depending on adoption demand, holding capabilities in long-term pastures, and capacities of other short-term facilities.

Q. What method does the BLM use to transport horses?

A. Horses are transported in a single-deck horse trailer or large single-deck semi trailer that may have multiple compartments in accordance with Bureau standards.

Q. What herd areas did the horses and burros at the SLWHC come from?

A. The Eagle Complex (UT and NV), Antelope Complex (NV), Confusion Mountain (UT), Onaqui (UT), Cedar Mountain (UT), Four-mile (UT), Sand Basin (ID), Calico (NV), and Chemehuevi (CA) Herd Management Areas.

Q. How many people visit the SLWHC?

A. On average, approximately 850 visitors visit the horse center monthly.

Q. Where is the SLWHC located?

A. The SLWHC is located in the mouth of Butterfield Canyon at 8605 W 123000 S, Herriman.