Adoption Requirements

Minimum requirements to adopt a wild horse or burro.

1) Applicant must be at least 18 years old.

2) Adopted animal must remain in the United Sates until titled.(Eligibility occurs on its 1 year anniversary.)

3) Applicant has no convictions of inhumane treatment of animals or violation of the Wild Free – Roaming Horses & Burros Act.

4) Applicant must provide a facility with access to feed, water, and shelter. NOTE: Facility refers to enclosed area such as corral, barn, stall, etc. Approval is not based on pasture fence height, but the height of the enclosed area.

5) Basic facility requirements are:

- Minimum of 400 sq. feet of corral space per animal. i.e. 20' X 20'
- Suitable materials: pipe panels, wood post, planks 9 min. (1.5 thick), horse fence (V Mesh or 2" X 4" square)
- 5' High facility for yearling or gentled horse of any age
- 6' High facility for an ungentled horse two years or older
- 4.5' High facility for a burro of any age.
- Applicant is required to adhere to the shelter requirements for wild horses and burros based on the state or region in which the animal resides, unless otherwise stipulated by the authorized officer.

6) Applicant must provide a stock or horse trailer with a rear swing gate and covered top. Provided the dividers are removed or folded back, three-horse slant trailers are acceptable.

Drop-ramps are acceptable if there is an additional back gate to the trailer. Two-horse trailers approved on case-by-case basis. No one-horse trailers approved.

For more information visit

BLM.gov or call **866.468.7826**

Minimum shelter requirements by state.

CO, ID, KS, NV, NM, OK, TX, UT, WA/OR (east of the Cascade Mountains)

Minimum requirement:
Shelter shall be available to mitigate the effects of inclement weather and temperature extremes. The requirement is at the discretion of the authorized officer and will vary dependent on the severity of weather in the region.

Example:
Natural cover (tree, etc.) or man-made structure (plywood or other material on side of corral, stall, etc.)

NE, WY

Minimum requirement:
Natural cover or man-made structure that provides a wind break.

Example:
Tree (etc.) or structure with a side (plywood on side of corral, stall, etc.)

AL, AR, AZ, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA

Minimum requirement:
Natural cover or man-made structure that provides shade.

Example:
Tree (etc.) or structure with a roof (wood, metal, etc.)

CA, WA/OR (west of the Cascade Mountains)

Minimum requirement:
A two (2)-sided shelter with a roof.

Example:
Structure with sides and a roof (wood, metal, etc.)

AK, CT, DE, IL, IN, IA, ME, MD, MS, MI, MN, MS, MO, NH, NJ, NY, ND,OH, PA, RI, SD, VT, WV, WI

Minimum requirement:
A three (3)-sided shelter with a roof. Heated water source (Alaska only).

Example:
Structure with sides, a back and a roof (wood, metal, etc.)

*These requirements are in addition to state, county and local animal health and welfare laws and regulations for the area the animal resides.