

# Extreme Rescue Makeover

## Handbook



### Horse Plus Humane Society Extreme Rescue Makeover

GENERAL RULES, REGULATIONS, AND PROCEDURES  
2015

SAVING UNWANTED HORSES

*This handbook of rules is intended to establish uniform regulations and procedures for qualifying participants in the Extreme Rescue Makeover Contest.*



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# Extreme Rescue Makeover

The Extreme Rescue Makeover Contest is about giving second chances to rescued horses that no one wanted to adopt due to a lack of training and human bonding. Rescues, shelters and Animal Control Agencies are filled with horses that have never been handled. Many of these horses are humanely euthanized as no adopters can be found. The Extreme Rescue Makeover program aims to help these unwanted horses find a second chance, giving them the skills necessary to live in "Humanville" successfully.

This competition is not about seeing a horse jump through a ring of fire, ride in the back of a truck or lay on its back. It's about training horses to be well versed horses that will fit into the largest variety of homes possible. Horses that can be easily caught, lead, tied, saddled, bridled, easy to ride, will stand for the farrier, vet, in essence, horses that you would want your kids to ride. Thanks to the hard work of the trainers who enter the Extreme Rescue Makeover competition, these horses will become well-rounded, well-trained horses.

This handbook of rules is intended to establish uniform regulations and procedures for qualifying participants in the Extreme Rescue Makeover Contest. These rules may be modified or changed at any time without prior notice.

These rules are in effect for the 2015 Extreme Rescue Makeover Contest. **Failure to comply with the rules, regulations and procedures in this book may result in disqualification and/or disciplinary action.**

## **GENERAL RULES**

Trainers may only use rescued horses that have been selected by Horse Plus Humane Society for the Extreme Rescue Makeover Contest.

Trainers must train and show the same horse that was selected by Horse Plus Humane Society and the trainer from the beginning of the contest to qualify to go to the grand finale. Horses may have their microchips scanned for verification

A trainer may train up to 2 rescued horses in the contest for the grand finale, but under no circumstances will a contestant be allowed to enter the contest twice with the same horse.

All horses will be immunized prior to leaving Horse Plus Humane Society's shelter and contestants must receive the vaccination records so they can bring the records to the finale. Horses may need more vaccinations before coming to the contest. Horses may need a negative Coggins and Health Certificate before coming to the finale. Vaccination Records must be presented along with the horse to inspection personal before horse will be allowed to compete or possibly enter show grounds. Horse's name must appear on both Coggins and Health Certificate papers and entry form.

Arena will be available for warm up – (schedule and location of arena to be announced.) Competition schedule to be announced for the finale.

Winners will be announced following the competition.

Trainers may be asked to demonstrate their horses for potential adopters to help find the horse an adoptive home if trainer does not wish to retain ownership of horse.

## **TRAINERS**

Trainers must be a minimum of 18 years of age prior to entering contest.

No substitution or replacement of approved trainer will be allowed.

All trainers must have knowledge and experience with unhandled horses (if selecting a wild horse) and preferably have trained horses before.

Trainers must use a natural horseman style of training. Training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged.

Trainers must never use any training methods that are cruel or inhumane.

Hog tying or tying the horse to foreign objects such as large tires or logs etc. is not permitted and will lead to elimination from the contest.

*Should the competitors horse be deemed untrainable, the trainer must notify Horse Plus Humane Society no later than 30 days after the beginning of the competition and the trainer must bring the horse back to Horse Plus Humane Society's shelter within 30 days of notification.*

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## **FACILITY FOR THE HORSE**

The facility can consist of either a stall, round pen, corral, or paddock. Facility must be a minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet x 20 feet) and at least 5 feet high.

The pen must be safe, sturdy and made with materials like poles, pipes, or solid (not rotten) boards. Barbed wire, woven field fencing, wire strands and electric fences are not acceptable for fencing for the horse. Turning your horse out into a large area is not recommended until the horse has acquired the training and trust to allow you to catch him or her in a large area with ease.

You must provide shelter from the sun and rain for your horse. The shelter may be a natural shelter or a constructed shelter. A: Natural Shelter - can be a large shade tree(s), preferably evergreen tree(s). The horse needs to be able to have shade and protection from the elements. B: Constructed Shelter - must be a safe and well constructed structure with a roof. The ground inside the shelter should be mud free and have good drainage, rubber mats are preferred, but not required. The shelter needs to be easily accessible to the rescued horse. Tarp or loose plastic shelters are not acceptable.

## **SPONSORSHIPS**

Horse Plus Humane Society wants you to find sponsors for your Extreme Rescue Makeover Horse. Sponsors are to be run through Horse Plus Humane Society. Sponsorships cost \$15 per month, of which \$10 a month goes to you, the trainer, and \$5 a month is retained by Horse Plus Humane Society. Sponsorships must be paid to Horse Plus Humane Society Paypal Extreme Rescue Makeover account: ERM@HorseHumane.org. The payment must include the horse's name and the trainer's name. Direct links will be posted on the website for ease of sponsorship. If a contestant collects financial sponsorship directly, the contestant is responsible for sending the sponsorship to the ERM Paypal account monthly. Item donations given to contestants are not counted as sponsorships for points and are not tax deductible.

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Each sponsorship of \$15 per month is worth 1 point per month of sponsorship. Sponsorships are counted in the month that they are received. Sponsorships cannot be paid before or after the month for which the sponsorship is counted.

**Get Sponsors!** - Ask local businesses, friends, family and co-workers to sponsor you and the horse in the Extreme Rescue Makeover contest. If you can get 20 sponsors for you and the horse at \$15.00 a month, you will have \$200 a month to help care for the horse and other related costs. Every trainer will have a page on Extreme Rescue Makeover's website featuring the horse and you. Your sponsors (including item donation sponsors with proof of sponsorship) will also be featured on your webpage. There is no limit to the number of sponsors that a horse can get, but you are limited to a maximum of 100 points total for sponsors. Financial sponsorships received through the ERM Paypal account are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Trainers are responsible for thanking their sponsors, and must encourage their sponsors to continue supporting Horse Plus Humane Society after the competition. Any recurring sponsorship received after the Grand Finale will be transferred to Horse Plus Humane Society as a general donation.

Horse Plus Humane Society and Extreme Rescue Makeover has entered into corporate sponsorship agreements with a variety of companies. We ask that trainers honor those sponsorships.

a: Horse Plus Humane Society may supply shirts with sponsor logos for trainers to wear during the event. Trainers will not be required to wear Horse Plus Humane Society/Extreme Rescue Makeover event shirts during the Grand Finale Freestyle event, but may be required to wear shirts or other clothing with logos during other events.

b. Trainers will be restricted from wearing personal apparel or equine products during the competition that have logos that are larger than 3 inches wide and 3 inches tall.

c. Trainers may not hang banners of any size in the stall area promoting any sponsors not approved by Horse Plus Humane Society. Trainers may have brochures or small printed materials available in their stall areas to promote their training business and their sponsors during the event.

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## **UPDATES, WEBSITE & FACEBOOK**

Horse Plus Humane Society wants to promote the ERM trainers as much as possible. Each horse and trainer will have their own webpage on the Extreme Rescue Makeover and/or other Horse Plus Humane Society's website(s).

Each contestant will be assigned their own Facebook page (created by Horse Plus Humane Society.) Each trainer will be an Editor on their page. The Facebook feed will be automatically updated onto the trainers Webpage. Trainers must post their updates on their Facebook page, only certain posts as defined below will qualify for points.

**1: For every update with pictures (1 - 3 pictures, minimum 1 megapixel) and consisting of 200 - 800 characters and no more than once a week you will receive 3 points.**

**2: For every update with video link (30 - 300 seconds, 240p resolution or greater) and consisting of 200 - 800 characters and no more than once a week you will receive 5 points.**

Updates must be posted to the trainers Facebook page in the week for which points are desired. Weeks are considered Sunday to Sunday. No updates will be counted posted during the week prior to the Grand Finale.

All updates must be family friendly. Written and/or video update must be free from any foul language. Any written or video update with foul language will be deleted and no points will be received. Determination of inappropriate video and update content is at the sole discretion of Horse Plus Humane Society.

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## **TACK**

**Halter** - Regular rope, nylon or leather halters are acceptable for the competition.

**Bridle** - Regular rope, nylon or leather, English, Western or Australian bridles are acceptable for the competition.

**Bit** - The rescued horse should be ridden in the mildest bit that the horse will respond to and be the appropriate size. The rescued horse should be started and ridden in a snaffle bit. Preferably O-Ring snaffle with a 7/16 diameter, the judges will be looking for thick and mild bits.

Chain mouthed bits (regular chain, bicycle or chainsaw link chain), Twisted bits, Wire bits, High Port bits, Spade or Spoon bits, or any other bits that are harsh or severe bits are not acceptable. Any bit or equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed.

**Bitless** – Properly fitted Bosals and Sidepulls are allowed however the rescued horse must know how to accept and use a bit as well. Mechanical hackamores are not acceptable.

**Saddle** - The saddle must be a safe well fitted saddle that does not cause discomfort to the rescue horse. A nice saddle pad at last 1/2" thick must be used when the rescued horse is under saddle. The horse should be able to be ridden bare back. English, Western or Australian saddles are acceptable for the competition.

## **CONDUCT**

Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and humane in the treatment of the rescued horses, such as to promote the implementation of the event and promote fair competition. This includes, but is not limited to: conduct while trainers have the rescued horse in their care; conduct on the show grounds; conduct

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while trainers are wearing Horse Plus Humane Society or Extreme Rescue Makeover logos on or off the show grounds; and includes the conduct of individuals traveling with trainers, spectators or event managers and all other persons being present on show grounds. Trainers are responsible for maintaining good sportsmanship among their assistants and guests.

Any alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct or any other form of misconduct, such as illegal, indecent or profane, and the inhumane treatment of horses are prohibited and shall be grounds for the disciplinary action against offending individuals.

Further, event management may immediately expel offenders from the competition or show grounds in order to preserve the decorum of the show.

## **TRAINING**

*What will the judges be looking for?*

The rescue horse needs to be well trained and have a good foundation to live in “Humanville.” The rescued horse must be shown in a regular rope, nylon or leather halter for all the ground work. The rescued horse needs to be easy to catch, halter trained, leads and stand tied calmly. The rescued horse should not be pushy to humans while being lead and should be able to stand and back up. The horse needs to stand calmly while being fly sprayed and bathed. The rescued horse should lift all four feet and stand calmly for a farrier. The rescued horse should take the saddle pad, saddle and bridle without the horse tossing its head or moving about. The rescued horse should stand calmly for a rider to mount without walking, backing or side stepping. The rescued horse should walk, trot, canter, stop and back up under saddle with a rider. The rescued horse should stand calmly for a vet exam.

The rescued horse should load into a horse trailer (2 horse slant or larger.)

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## **GROOMING**

The horse should be in the best condition for the Grand Finale as possible. Conditioning includes weight, muscling, conditioning, hair coat and overall presentation.

Horse's ears, muzzle and legs may need to be clipped or trimmed to look their best at the Grand Finale. Horses may be body clipped or unclipped. The horse's body should be clean and free from dust and dander. The horse may have sparkles in its coat.

Horse's mane and tail should be well cared for. Manes may be left flowing or braided. Depending on what style of riding the mane may be cut or trimmed. Roached manes are not preferred and will have a 10 point deduction off your Grand Finale points score.

Tails may be flowing or braided, depending on what style of riding the tail may be cut or trimmed. Tails cut above the hock is not preferred and will have a 10 point deduction off your points score. Manes and tails may have sparkles

Horse's hooves may be shod or barefoot for the Grand Finale. They should have their hooves polished, with black, clear, white, colors or sparkles.

No points will be deducted for naturally rubbed out manes or tails.

No person shall alter in any way, change, or attempt to hide the natural marking and/or rubbed or raw skin of a horse by surgery, dye, powder or in any other manner.

Use of false tails or extensions on the mane or tail are prohibited. No points will be deducted for naturally short or rubbed out manes or tails. The score will not reflect conformation.

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## **GRAND FINALE COMPETITION**

The grand finale consists of three parts: Citizenship Test, followed Maneuvers Test followed by a Freestyle Performance. Trainers will be on-horse and ready for Maneuvers Test at the start following the Citizenship Test. After last trainer and horse complete the Maneuver test, the first Freestyle Performance competitor will be given 4 minutes to set up arena for their Freestyle Performance. At completion of trainers Freestyle Performance the next trainer is given 4 minutes to set up arena, etc.

**Prior to Grand Finale** – Contestants must send in their Freestyle Performance music and performance explanation (description, choreography map, etc) no later than Wednesday before the Grand Finale. Failure to provide the music and Freestyle Performance description will result in 90 points being deducted from Freestyle Performance points.

## **CITIZENSHIP TEST**

### ***Citizenship Test – Maximum 120 Points***

Immediately preceding the Grand Finale will be the Citizenship test. Successful completion of this test will result in a maximum 120 points towards your total Extreme Rescue Makeover points!

The horse may be asked to walk or jog by the judge to determine any lameness or poor health. If the horse is found to have lameness or poor health the horse may be removed from the competition.

There will be 10 preliminary tests that the horse and trainer may be asked to do. The horse should be ready to perform all 10 of the preliminary tests the day of the Grand Finale but each horse will be tested on a minimum of 5 of these -

1. Halters

2. Leads - walks, trots, stops and backs up
3. Is calm around swinging whips and lead ropes
4. Ties and stands calmly
5. Stands calmly while being bathed with a hose
6. Stands calmly while being fly sprayed
7. Stands calmly for vet exam
8. Lifts all 4 feet
9. Loads into trailer, stands calmly in trailer, unloads calmly.
10. Saddles and bridles with bit and allows trainer to mount/dismount from both sides. Allows trainer to sit bareback and mount/dismount from both sides of the horse bareback.
11. Goes on short trail ride with obstacles which may include bridges, tarps, logs, and more. Horse may be ridden by contestant or by the judge, at the judge's discretion.

The citizenship tests will be determined by the judges and announced prior to the start of the citizenship test. All horses and trainers will be awarded a maximum 120 points.

## **MANEUVER TEST**

### ***Maneuver Test – 4 points per maneuver per judge***

Contestants will be judged on the execution of 10 maneuvers within. Failure to complete all maneuvers will result in a 0 score for any uncompleted maneuvers. Maneuver's need not be done in order listed here. Each maneuver is worth four points each per judge, maximum of 120 points. This score will reflect completion of the maneuver as well as the horse's level of willingness to execute the maneuvers in a relaxed and confident manner. Maneuvers may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Walking
- Trotting
- Cantering
- Turning
- Spinning
- Stopping
- Mounting
- Dismounting

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- Leading
- Catching

Contestants will be given finalized list of maneuvers before check-in.

## **FREESTYLE PERFORMANCE**

### ***Freestyle Performance – 60 total points per judge***

The freestyle portion of the Grand Finale competition encourages trainers to choose music, costumes and props which permit them to show the athletic abilities and training of their horse in a crowd appealing way. Trainers will have 4 minutes to set up arena prior to their Freestyle Performance. Trainers will have 4 minutes for their Freestyle Performance. During the freestyle performance, contestants will be scored based on the following:

#### ***Overall Horsemanship - 30 points per judge***

- The communication and partnership between horse and rider, and the horse's overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers correctly in a controlled, relaxed and confident manner (15 points per judge.)
- Incorporation of maneuvers and their degree of difficulty (15 points per judge.) These maneuvers should include but are not limited to: *sidepass, jumping, rollbacks, roping, lead changes, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, etc.*

#### ***Artistic Interpretation - 30 points per judge:***

- Components of Choreography – the composition and arrangement of the ride in relation to the music and its rhythm, as well as the use of maneuvers, costumes, and/or props to enhance the performance (10 points per judge.)
- The “WOW” Factor – level of originality and the overall entertainment value of the performance (20 points per judge.)

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## **ADDITIONAL GRAND FINALE INFORMATION**

Each contestant must complete required maneuvers (example listed above, final listed given to trainers at check-in.)

The completion of the maneuvers will take place separately from the freestyle performance. For the freestyle performance, trainers will have four minutes to stage or set the arena.

Trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up and tear down for the freestyle performance - it is the trainer's responsibility to make sure all props are cleared from the arena immediately following the conclusion of the freestyle performance, including hay, confetti, etc, within 2 minutes. Have a team of assistants ready!

Props of pyrotechnic nature including fireworks, flares, firecrackers, rings of fire, Cowboy Mounted Shooting etc. are not allowed. Cap Guns with no projectiles are allowed, but Cap Gun must be examined by a Safety Officer upon check-in and prior to Freestyle event. Cap Gun must maintain factory coloration (bright orange tip) and must not be a replica gun or blank gun.

No trainer shall tie anything to their horse during the freestyle. A rope may be looped around the saddle horn but it must slip off if trainer released their hold on the rope.

Trainers will have 3.5 minutes to complete their freestyle performance – music and time will start when competitor and/or horse enters the arena.

Live "voice-overs" and/or commentary from the trainer are not allowed during the performance. Music is a required component of the freestyle performance – if the trainer does not supply their own music during the finalists' meeting at the event, management may select music for him/her, and 90 points will be deducted from the Freestyle Performance points. All music is subject to review and approval by HPHS.

Animals (dogs, additional horses, cattle, etc.) will NOT be

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allowed in the arena during the Grand Finale performance for any reason. Other animals are not allowed to act as props for the performance at any time.

Children under 18 will NOT be allowed in the arena during the Grand Finale performance for any reason. Up to 2 adults may be used to help move props etc during the performance.

Horses are not allowed to walk, trot or lope onto or into any *moving objects* or *covered* vehicles or trailers of any kind during the Grand Finale.

It is the responsibility of the contestants to check entries to assure they are correctly filled out.

Contestants must remain on the premises during the entire Grand Finale competition, until excused by Horse Plus Humane Society staff. Failure to remain on premises could result in forfeiture of all points and prizes. During the events, Trainer must remain with their horse at the event (Citizenship Test, Maneuver Test and Freestyle) and may not leave the event until they have completed the event.

**The P.A. system is used to help the show move as smoothly as possible, but is only a courtesy. It is the responsibility of the contestants to know when they are required to be in the make-up area or arena. Not hearing or understanding gate calls, etc. is NOT an excuse for missing one's order in the contest.**

## **JUDGING**

If for any reason one of the judges has to be withdrawn from judging due to circumstances unforeseen in advance by the Extreme Rescue Makeover management, another judge will be substituted.

Decisions of the Judge or Judges will be final.

## **TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURES**

In the event of a tie in the Extreme Rescue Makeover competition, a tie-breaking competition not to exceed 5 minutes will be determined by the judge(s.) In the event of a Grand Finale tie, the judge(s) may choose to use the pre-Grand Finale scores of the tied contestants as the tie-breaker.

## **POINT SYSTEM**

The Extreme Rescue Makeover competition is based upon two aspects: Pre-Grand Finale and Grand Finale. Points awarded during the pre-grand finale will count only towards the Pre- Grand Finale prize. All trainers will be starting the Grand Finale competition with equal points (0) other than trainers who chose a wild (not halter trained, unhandled) horse will be given 25 points.

### ***Pre-Grand Finale***

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Weekly Update w/ Video  | - 5 points             |
| Weekly Update w/Picture | - 3 points             |
| Facebook Fan            | - 1 point per 10 likes |

Sponsor, 1 points per sponsor per week - 250 points max

### ***Grand Finale***

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Citizenship Test                                       | - 120 points max |
| Compulsory Maneuvers<br>10 events, 12 points per event | - 120 points max |
| Freestyle<br>3.5 minutes Freestyle                     | - 180 points max |
| Wild Horse   | - 25 points      |

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## **AWARDS**

The contestant with the most points prior to the Grand Finale will be given a \$500 cash prize. Points acquired prior to the Grand Finale will **NOT** count towards the Grand Finale final score.

The top three trainers scoring the highest total points in the Grand Finale, including the Citizenship Test, Maneuver Test and Freestyle, will be awarded prizes. The cash prizes are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$3,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$1,000, 3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$500.

Any person receiving a cash prize must fill out and sign an IRS W9.

## **ADOPTION**

If the trainer is unwilling or unable to retain ownership of their horse after the Grand Finale, they are encouraged to find the horse a new local home where they can continue the training process with the new owner of the horse. All new adoptive homes must be approved by Horse Plus Humane Society. If trainer desires new adopter will be required to complete a minimum of 1 hour training with trainer at adopters expense. Adoption fee is set by trainer, but must be over \$250. Trainer retains adoption fee to help cover training and care costs.

Trainer is welcome to return horse to Horse Plus Humane Society at any time. The surrender fee is waived for returned horses.

## **DRUGS**

The trainer or any other person shall not administer drugs internally or externally to the rescued horse, either before or during the Extreme Rescue Makeover competition, any medication, drug, unauthorized mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of

such character as, could affect its performance or appearance at the event.

If the rescued horse is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the Extreme Rescue Makeover event manager as to the reason for medication and the prescribed amount. **The Extreme Rescue Makeover management reserves the right to randomly or uniformly drug test any or all of the rescued horses in the competition.** Positive tests may result in removal from the event, removal of reimbursement and prize money, refund of adoption fees paid by an adopter and return of the rescued horse to Horse Plus Humane Society should the adopter wish to return the adopted rescued horse, at the trainers expense.

## **REMOVAL FROM COMPETITION**

Horse Plus Humane Society has the unqualified right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove an applicant or contestant from the Extreme Rescue Makeover competition for any reason without disclosure of reason.

Any applicant or contestant may be removed from the selection process or competition at any time if found to have any alleged history of cruelty to animals or humans.

Removal of any trainer from the application process or competitions is at the discretion of the Horse Plus Humane Society's Board of Directors.

Horse Plus Humane Society's Board of Directors may at any time conduct a criminal background check on applicants or contestant and/or remove any applicants or contestant from the process for any reason or for no reason.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) have read and understand these rules governing the 2015 Extreme Rescue Makeover competition.

\_\_\_\_\_, signed

\_\_\_\_\_, 2015

*Horse Plus Humane Society and Extreme Rescue Makeover reserve the right to make changes to the Extreme Rescue Makeover competition rules and rule book and / or competition location time or place without prior notification.*



# Extreme Rescue Makeover

## Horse Plus Humane Society

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