

# ARIZONA WILD HORSE INMATE PROGRAM

**ACI**

QUALITY PRODUCTS <-> PRODUCTIVE LIVES

## CHANGING LIVES



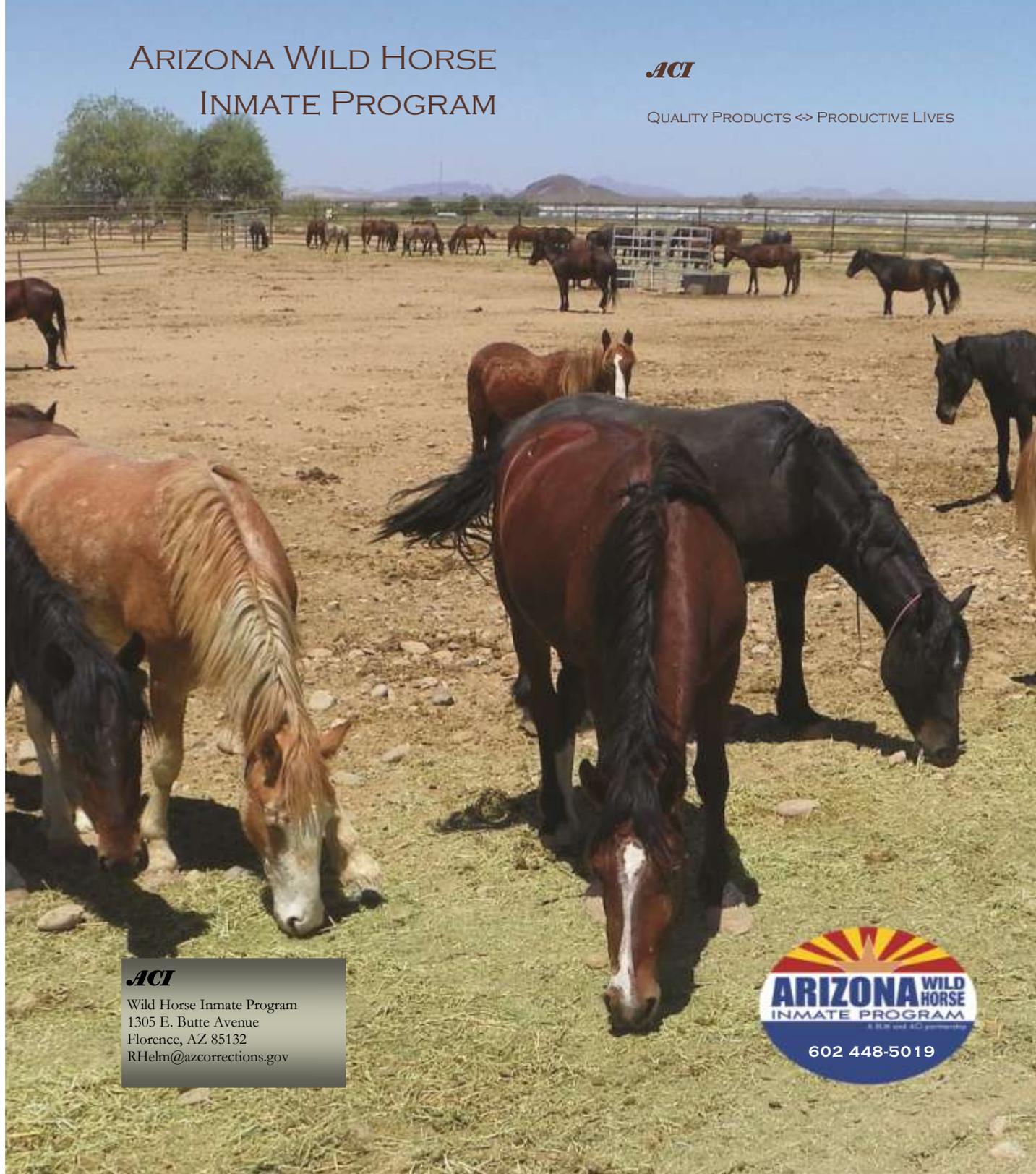
THE US INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) PROTECTS WILDLIFE ON ALL FEDERAL LANDS.

In 2012 Arizona State Prison began a partnership with the BLM's wild horse and burro program (burros are also called donkeys).

Excess wild horses and burros are removed from public land to keep the herd numbers at a healthy and manageable level. These animals are taken to facilities where they are cared for, trained and hopefully placed in good homes. Adopters benefit from a wide range of tasks that these horses and burros can perform for law enforcement agencies, boarder patrols, farms or ranches.



**RANDY HELM, SHOWS INMATES HOW TO USE NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP METHODS TO TRAIN THE ANIMALS IN THEIR CARE**



**ACI**

Wild Horse Inmate Program  
1305 E. Butte Avenue  
Florence, AZ 85132  
RHelm@azcorrections.gov





# TRAINING AND ADOPTION PROGRAMS

*At the Arizona State Prison Complex in Florence, inmates learn to tame wild horses and burros.*

*The men work their way up from cleaning stalls to working in a pen with a horse, to finally riding it in cactus-strewn fields far outside the prison fences. It takes about four months of daily work to tame a wild mustang, and the inmates work with the same animals for the full stretch, from the day the horses arrive to the day they are adopted. This allows the inmates to form bonds with the animals, and to feel the sense of accomplishment that comes from taking the task from start to finish. The effects can be lasting.*

*"I've had a couple guys who have tried to waive their early release so they could stay and work with the horses longer," said Randy Helm, the horse trainer who runs the program. "It's life changing for some of them."*

– Alissa Figueroa, *Fusion.net*, March 4, 2014



## Training Program

The training program uses natural horsemanship methods of training and gentling.

Inmates are trained to bring horses from wild to very dependable saddle horses able to perform on trail rides as well as in competition.

ACI also has a very active burro training program. The wild burros are gentled and trained for pets, packs, carts/wagons. These burros are also often adopted as guard animals as they are naturally protective of sheep and other animals vulnerable to predators.

ACI employs approximately 25 inmates in the wild horse and burro program.

## Animal Adoption Program

Halter trained animals can be approached, haltered, led and trailer loaded. Halter trained animals will also give all four feet for trimming/shoeing.

Saddle trained horses have at least 90 days of training which includes all the requirements for halter training plus they have been trained with a foundation for saddling, riding, crossing objects including water. Saddle trained horses have been ridden on trails and know the basic reining cues. They will move from a walk to a trot and a lope. These horses have been worked in an obstacle course which includes terrain, scary objects, tunnels, water, gates and a variety of desensitizing challenges.



## Adoption Fees

BLM horses and burros can be adopted by qualified individuals for a fee.

	Training Fee	Adoption Fee	Total
Untrained BLM animals.....	n/a.....	\$125.....	\$125
Halter trained Burro .....	\$100.....	\$125.....	\$225
Pack trained Burro.....	\$200.....	\$125.....	\$325
Halter trained horses .....	\$200.....	\$125.....	\$325
Saddle trained horses .....	\$700.....	\$125.....	\$825

## ACI

Wild Horse Inmate Program  
1305 E. Butte Avenue  
Florence, AZ 85132

RHelm@azcorrections.gov  
602 448-5019

