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.
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.