



Kathleen Ellyn

Chieftain "Ghost" demonstrates how well she has been accustomed to handling by letting trainer Dawn Medley-Fowler hold her tongue to examine her teeth — even though she is completely free in the pasture and can easily step away.

Mustangs: New Imnaha residents train mustangs

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More than 5,000 horses have been placed at Extreme Mustang Makeover events and horses purchased at the auctions that follow have sold for as much as \$12,500.

For top trainers the financial awards can be high: in addition to earning \$1,000 per horse to get them ready for adoption, a new program offers \$50,000 in prize money. Trainer Craig Cameron's Extreme also introduced a new competition in 2018: the \$10,000 Extreme Mustang Race.

Mustangs are now performing in dressage, jumping, trail events and roping events in addition to working as family mounts.

"Ghost" did well in Albany last year and Dawn's parents, Larry and Norma Sherratt of Imnaha, bought the animal to keep her in the family.

Dawn recently trained and placed another mare and now she's working with "Jabalina," a new mare from the Black Mountain herd,

which is well-known for the Quarterhorse and Thoroughbred bloodlines introduced into the wild. "Jaba" is very wild, a six-year-old who had never been touched, but she's coming around quickly. She is available for adoption.

Dawn is thrilled with the mustangs. She says they are so used to being bonded in a herd that they bond quickly with a human when they are in a new situation. They're hardy and easy keepers. Their hooves are like iron. And, they're very surefooted — dainty even, she said.

The Medley-Fowlers are building more stalls this winter so that Dawn can take in more horses for training. They've also both taken jobs in the canyon, and Dawn is also the 4-H leader for the new Imnaha Canyon Tomahawks.

Like their mustangs, the Medley-Fowler family is fitting into their new environment.

"I'm not from Imnaha, but I'm really proud to be here," Dawn said.

Now, she said, she hopes the mustangs can fit into the county as well.

"If we can place these animals in loving homes, that's the goal," she said.

Fire: Local donations aid victims of conflagration

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"He found a two day window when the weather let him fly to Joseph, pick up the load, and take it back to Chico," she said. The first load of supplies went to the North Valley Animal Disaster Group, which distributed needed items to families and shelters.

That was just the beginning. Turner wanted to continue providing supplies for animals in shelters and animals owned by the thousands of families who lost their homes. 14,000 homes were destroyed in the Camp Fire. She contacted Humane Society President Carol Vencill to ask if the Humane Society had anything she could include in her trailer on her next trip to Chico.

"I put out a call on our Facebook," Vencill said. "Things just poured in."

They included halters, lead ropes, feed buckets, collars, leashes, pet dishes, dog crates, cat carriers, grooming tools and pet food.

Humane Society Vice President Denise Clevenger arranged for the Wallowa Memorial Hospital to donate linens and flannel sheets (for people or animals). Humane Society board member Rhonda McLaughlin convinced a motel in La Grande to provide more than two dozen comforters. There was no lack of generosity and good will.

Although the Camp Fire occurred more than a month ago, the need for care — and funding for care — of animals and people remain.

Many of the animals rescued from fire-ravaged communities suffered burns and other injuries. The University of California Davis Veterinary School took some in and treated them, and some still remain there in recovery. The costs of this care have been borne by the university.

Efforts to find domestic animals and to coordinate reunification of owners is now coordinated by the North Valley Animal Disaster Group in Chico, California.

"We have an abundance of food, supplies, crates, carriers, and most everything that people need, thanks to the generosity of so many people," said



Ellen Morris Bishop for the Chieftain

Carol Vencill and Denise Clevenger go over a list of for animals rescued from California's devastating Camp Fire at the Humane Society in Enterprise. The first of the donations were flown to California by Trudy Turner's friend Mike Thibideau.

'WE ARE A VERY GIVING COMMUNITY. WHEN CATASTROPHES HAPPEN, WHEN THERE IS ANY KIND OF NEED, IT BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN SO VERY MANY OF US WHO LIVE HERE.'

Carol Vencill, Humane Society president

NVADG volunteer Christine Slater. "We are in the reunification phase for Camp Fire animals. For the health and emotional well-being of the animals, they need to be in longterm solutions. Our temporary emergency facilities to house Camp Fire animals will be closing on or about

January 4."

With so many animals still unclaimed by their owners, the need for foster homes is great.

"Of course the dogs and other animals can't be actually adopted, because they still belong to someone. But the shelters are trying to find places that will foster dogs and cats, as well as the livestock — horses, goats, and other animals,"

Vencill said. Possibly, Vencill thought, the Humane Society and Trudy Turner could arrange to trailer animals that need to be fostered to Wallowa County, if there were places for them.

"We are a very giving community," Vencill said. "When catastrophes happen, when there is any kind of need, it brings out the best in so very many of us who live here."

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