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AUSTRALIAN BRUMBY CHALLENGE BIDDER INFORMATION

We are delighted that you're thinking of bidding on one of the Brumbies from the Australian Brumby Challenge and have developed this information sheet to help you to better understand both the process that the Brumbies have been through, the bidding and auction process and to outline the considerations and the joys of Brumby ownership!

About the Brumbies: The Brumbies that are taking place in the Australian Brumby Challenge were all born in the wild in either the Kosciuszko National Park in New South Wales or the Bago State Forest in New South Wales. The Brumbies in both these forests are being managed by the relevant government and parks authorities as part of an ongoing Park management program. The VBA has been heavily involved in both programs since 2008, sitting on committees that work to develop and improve best practice management in terms of capture methods, how Brumbies are 'disposed of' after they're caught and the management of the Brumbies that remain wild. Unfortunately, there are just not enough homes for the Brumbies that are caught and many of them are slaughtered for pet food. The Brumbies who come to us are certainly the lucky ones! Our Brumbies do vary a little in size, shape and colour according to where they have been caught – we are very happy to answer any questions you might have about them and you can also read more about the different regions Brumbies on the Information tab of our website (www.victorianbrumbyassociation.org). The important thing to note is that our Brumbies are a combination of old style breeds and they grow and mature until they are six or seven. This can be very different to our modern domestic horses.

The capture process used to capture our Brumbies is referred to as 'Passive trapping'. This is where the rangers who capture the Brumbies set up portable yards, much like a round yard. The trap yards are left open for the Brumbies to get used to them and then the rangers begin baiting them with mineral licks, salt and occasionally also molasses and lucerne. Once the Brumbies are comfortably going in and out of the yards, an automatic trigger is set up that closes the gate once the family mobs are in. This generally results in all or most of a family group being caught together. The benefits of this are huge and we keep them in their family groups throughout their settling in process at our sanctuary (except the Stallions who must all be gelded prior to being turned out).

After their capture, the Brumbies are trucked out of the National Park to a nearby holding property, from which they are picked up by us. We are lucky enough to be able to take all the Bogong (Alpine National Park, Vic) Brumbies, but in the case of the Kosciuszko National

Park, so many are caught that this would be impossible. We do however, whenever possible, take family or bachelor groups, rather than 'cherry picking' for assorted individuals or a certain colour or type.

The Brumbies for the Australian Brumby Challenge were caught at different locations at different times. Almost all the mares were in foal at capture and so have been given time to foal down in peace at our sanctuary prior to being prepared for the Challenge. The stallions were caught around 12 months prior to the Challenge. They were gelded after their arrival with us and have been turned out to get used to being a gelding in a mixed sex social group. The Yearlings in the Australian Brumby Challenge were conceived in the wild and born at our Sanctuary. They have grown up in wild, mixed age and sex herds in huge paddocks with the ability to move freely and learn great social skills from the older herd members. They were weaned at almost one year of age, to give them the opportunity to learn as much as they can, of being a sociable wild horse.

Part of our preparation for the Australian Brumby Challenge was teaching our Brumbies to move through our yard system, including the race. In addition to assisting with their fence training, this also allows us to undertake basic veterinary and health assessments and complete de lousing, de worming, microchipping, vaccination and gelding treatments. The Brumbies were also taught to drink from artificial water sources (troughs etc) and acclimated to hay as well as being given free access to mineral licks.

About the Challenge: On Saturday the 23rd of June 2018, the Australian Brumby Challenge Brumbies were picked up by our approved trainers to commence their 150 days of training. All the Brumbies were free loaded onto safe transportation and travelled well to their temporary homes.

Please take the time to look through our website (www.australianbrumbychallenge.com.au). On the Trainers page, you can click on each different trainer, read their own personal biography and that of the Brumby they are training and then follow the journey that they have taken as the Brumby they are training goes from Wild to Wonderful! Almost all trainers will have an Open afternoon in the month prior to EQUITANA to give people a chance to visit them and see the Brumby they have trained. If you are interested in a particular Brumby, we would strongly encourage you to touch base with their trainer and arrange to go to their Open afternoon to meet them and the Brumby in person.

How to apply: You may be wondering why we have an approval process to be allowed to bid on our Brumbies? We always keep the welfare of our Brumbies as our primary concern. Getting to know you, as a potential new home for a Brumby will help us to ensure that we are able to make lasting placements and have happy Brumbies and happy owners.

Once we receive your application to bid, we will call you to briefly chat about your application and answer any questions you might have. This is also a great opportunity for us to get to know you a little if we haven't already met and we may be able to suggest Brumbies that could suit you that you were not aware of yet.

Applications close at 5.30pm on Friday the 16th of November – you can submit them via email or in person at our stand at EQUITANA.

The finals: Over the four days of EQUITANA, all Brumbies will take part in four classes, the Roundpen, Pattern, Obstacle and Freestyle. You won't want to miss the opportunity to see these amazing newly trained Brumbies strutting their stuff in the huge atmosphere of EQUITANA. We are always blown away, both by how well the Brumbies take the event and by the feedback we get from people who can't believe what they are seeing! The stables are also open to the public (except during the classes), so you have the further opportunity to talk in depth with the Trainers about their Brumbies learning style, aptitudes and temperament. You can never do too much research!

The Auction: After your application is approved, a Bidding number will be prepared for you, which you can pick up from our VBA stand at the EQUITANA from 8.30am on Sunday the 18th of November. Bidder numbers will be colour coded to show which Brumbies people can bid on. The reason for this is that some families may have the experience to take on yearlings but not ridden Brumbies and vice versa. We may also limit some bidders in situations where they are more suited to a softer, 'easier' Brumby than a more sensitive one. We are also likely to reject some applications. Please don't take this to heart! We have not only the Brumbies best interests, but yours also at heart. It may be that you are not quite ready for a Brumby yet or that we feel you are not suited to any of the Brumbies in the Auction. Either way, we will discuss your application and any questions or concerns we might have in full with you prior to the Auction.

The Auction will take place after the prize giving ceremony at about 2pm on Sunday the 18th of November 2018. It is a competitive auction and we hope that there will be a great deal of interest in our Brumbies, which will help us to find the very best homes that we can!

We will have Eftpos and credit card facilities present throughout EQUITANA to make it unnecessary for people to take the risk of carrying cash with them.

Going home: After the Auction, all the Brumbies must leave EQUITANA with the trainers who brought them. This allows the trainer, who knows them well, to take them home to a place they know well and let them unwind after EQUITANA – something that any horse would need, let alone a newly trained Brumby! All successful bidders will receive a lesson with either the trainer of the Brumby they have purchased or a VBA trainer. You can make arrangements for this at EQUITANA or contact the trainers afterwards. We would expect that all Brumbies would be picked up from the Trainers properties no later than 14 days after EQUITANA, Sunday the 2nd of December 2018. Transport arrangements and cost are the responsibility of the new owners.

The next step: The important thing to remember is that these Brumbies have developed great relationships with their trainers and the trainers have also gone about the very important process of socialising them with other people etc. If you should bid on one of these Brumbies and take them home, the critical thing you need to succeed is a bond with your new Brumby. Please keep in mind that they are not motor bikes and climbing on and going for a ride the very first day home would be extremely unfair on your Brumby and detrimental to your relationship with them. Brumbies are not a breed of horse that requires daily work to keep them tractable – the key to this is your relationship with them. If you take them home and give them love and patience as they settle in, this will pay off for many years to come. Take your time, go over the steps that the trainers will have shown you and please don't ever hesitate to call either the trainer or us at the VBA if you have any questions at any

point. Follow this formula and you will have a long and wonderful relationship with your wonderful new Brumby!

If you have any questions at all about the application or bidding process or the Brumbies, please don't hesitate to call or email us at the above details.

....and incredibly proud to support:

