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RULES & REGULATIONS

PURPOSE:

The Australian Brumby Challenge is designed to promote Brumbies and showcase their trainability in a variety of different disciplines at the same time as showcasing great, gentle training methods!

The Australian Brumby Challenge is produced by the Victorian Brumby Association with the support of EQUITANA Melbourne 2018 and McDowells Herbals.

TRAINER APPLICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

- 1.1 Interested trainers must complete and submit the Trainer Application on or before the appropriate application deadline. The trainer application and application deadlines can be found online at www.australianbrumbychallenge.com.au.
- 1.2 Selected trainers must attend the compulsory Trainer induction day on the 5th of May or 22nd June, 2018. They must also make arrangements to either pick up or have picked up, the Brumby they are allocated on the 23rd of June, 2018. Further information on pick-up dates and locations can be found online at www.australianbrumbychallenge.com.au.
- 1.3 Trainers for the ridden component must be 16 years of age or older as of date of the finals event, younger trainers will be accepted at the discretion of the organising committee.
- 1.4 The Yearling event is aimed specifically at Youth competitors and will be open to Trainers aged 17 years or less at the date of the finals event.
- 1.5 No substitution or replacement of approved trainer will be allowed.
- 1.6 Trainer selection will be made based on experience, references and facility approval. Alternate trainers will also be notified should one of the selected trainers be unable to pick up their Brumby.
- 1.7 Victorian Brumby Association committee members are not eligible to compete.
- 1.8 Any applicant or selected trainer 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. Applicants must meet all Victorian Brumby Association prospective owner requirements. Removal of any trainer from the application process or competitions is at the discretion of the Victorian Brumby Association committee.
- 1.9 Brumby training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance/ Natural" techniques are encouraged. At all times, the humane care and best interest of the horse are paramount. For the Australian Brumby Challenge, the trainer is responsible for the well-being and humane treatment of any Brumby entrusted to their care. Contact Victorian Brumby Association staff or management to report any health issues with your horse so that proper veterinarian care can be administered. Any suspected inhumane treatment of horses should be reported to management immediately with potential consequences as outlined in our Humane Treatment Policy.

- 1.10 Trainers are required to submit a signed release with their application so that all photos and filming may be used to promote the event and will be the property of the Australian Brumby Challenge.
- 1.11 Trainers are required to provide a digital head shot photo of themselves and short bio with their applications – *applications received without photos or bios will not be considered.*
- 1.12 Trainers are responsible for all care-related costs from the day the Brumbies are picked up through the competition.
- 1.13 **Trailer requirements:** Trainers must provide transportation for your Brumby from the Victorian Brumby Association facility to your facility. While someone else may transport the animal, all trailers must meet these minimum standards: covered top, sturdy walls/floors, and a smooth interior free from any sharp protrusions; ample head room; removable partitions or compartments to separate animals by size and sex, if necessary; floor covered with a non-skid material; and, adequate ventilation. Adult Brumbies will only be loaded into trailers with swing or slide doors. Standard horsefloats with ramps as the rear door are not acceptable. Yearlings can be loaded onto standard, fully enclosed horse floats. If you are unsure as to whether your vehicle is appropriate, please contact the Victorian Brumby Association for advice. We can assist you with making a standard float safe to transport an unhandled Brumby.
- 1.14 **Facility requirements:** Facility can consist of a corral/paddock/stall/round pen. Facility must be a minimum of 6 metres x 6 metres and have fences at least 1.6 metres high for yearlings and 1.8m high for ridden Brumbies. Facility must be sturdy and constructed of materials such as poles, pipes or planks (minimum 3.75cm thickness) without dangerous protrusions. Barbed wire, large-mesh woven, stranded and electric materials are unacceptable for fencing. You should not release the Brumby into a large open area, such as a pasture, since you may not be able to recapture the animal for training or to provide veterinary care. However, once the animal is gentled, you may release it into a pasture or similar area. You must be able to provide shelter from inclement weather and temperature extremes for your Brumby.

THE BRUMBIES:

- 2.1 The Brumbies will be as uniform in size and age as possible. They originate from the Kosciuszko National Park and the Bago State Forest in New South Wales and will be wormed, deloused, microchipped, vaccinated and all colts and stallions will be gelded. For the ridden section, the Brumbies will be four years of age or older. The Yearling (non-ridden) section will contain youngsters aged between seven and twelve months approximately.
- 2.2 Brumbies will be assigned to the trainer randomly via a ballot system prior to the commencement of the Australian Brumby Challenge in order to allow for smooth loading and departure (those with further to go will be loaded first).
- 2.3 Throughout the timeframe of the Australian Brumby Challenge, Brumbies will be known by and must be referred to by trainers, the name that they have been previously given and which appears on their Brumby Identification Sheet. This sheet will be given to all trainers on Brumby pick up day. No other names, prefixes or suffixes may be used when publicly referring to Brumbies.

FINALS EVENT:

- 3.1 Trainers will have from the day they pick up their Brumby until the day they arrive at the event to train and work with their Brumby (approximately 150 days).
- 3.2 At the conclusion of the Australian Brumby Challenge, finals classes will be held at EQUITANA Melbourne, where the event Brumbies and trainers will be assessed by a panel of accomplished horsemen and women. Class outlines for each event can be found online at www.australianbrumbychallenge.com.au . Trainers are expected to arrive at EQUITANA with their Brumby during 'bump in' on Wednesday the 14th of November, 2018.
- 3.3 All trainers must be ready to present their Brumby to the Veterinary team and the Victorian Brumby Association committee at 4pm on Wednesday the 14th of November. This compulsory vet and welfare check will determine whether Brumbies will be permitted to

remain at the event. If you have any concerns prior to this time, please contact VBA committee who can discuss any issues with you. The overriding factor is welfare of the Brumbies.

- 3.4 For insurance and horse welfare reasons, Trainers will also take the Brumby they have trained home from EQUITANA, leaving the grounds no later than 4pm, Monday 19th of November. Those Brumbies who have been purchased at the Auction will be picked up from the trainers properties in the following week. Exceptions will be made for trainers from interstate etc, in which case, the Victorian Brumby Association will take the Brumbies home to the sanctuary for pick up by new owners.
- 3.5 In the highly unlikely event that the Brumby be deemed untrainable, the trainer must notify the Victorian Brumby Association no later than 14 days after the Brumby is picked up by the trainer.
- 3.6 For any and all reasons, the trainer is responsible for returning the Brumby to the Victorian Brumby Association facility if the trainer is unable to complete the training and participate in the competition.
- 3.7 The purpose of this event is to showcase the talent and trainability of Brumbies and to provide an opportunity for trainers and horses to engage in safe competition for prize money and awards. Therefore, all horses entered into the competition should be gentle and safe to manoeuvre through the show grounds. Upon entry onto the show grounds, should a Brumby be deemed unsafe by Victorian Brumby Association committee, that horse may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition and adoption. The goal is for all trainers and horses to participate in the event as long as the horse is safe to do so.
- 3.8 Upon entry onto the show grounds, competing Brumbies will be examined by a veterinarian and Victoria Brumby Association committee member to determine the health and condition of the horse. Should a Brumby be deemed in poor condition by a veterinarian or committee member that Brumby may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition.
- 3.9 At least one bag of shavings and one stable per competing Brumby will be provided free of charge. Additional shavings will be available if required.
- 3.10 Exhibitors are responsible for bringing all tack, feed and supplies needed during the competition.
- 3.11 An arena will be available for warm up and scheduled practices.
- 3.12 Competition schedule to be announced around 1 week prior to the finals event
- 3.13 Winners will be announced following the competition, prior to the auction.
- 3.14 **Conduct:** Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and **humane in the treatment of Brumbies**, such as to promote the implementation of the event and fair competition. This includes, but is not limited to: conduct while trainers have Brumbies in their possession; conduct on the show grounds; conduct while trainers are wearing Australian Brumby Challenge logo wear off the show grounds; and includes the conduct of individuals traveling with trainers, spectators or event managers and all other person being present on show grounds. Any alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct or any form of misconduct, such as illegal, indecent or profane, and **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.
- 3.15 **STEWARDS:** The Victorian Brumby Association may (at any event) designate one or more individuals as a Steward to support the efforts of show officials and the Victorian Brumby Associations committee. The Steward's responsibilities may include but are not limited to: 1) Monitor show grounds for inhumane treatment of horses and unsportsmanlike conduct; 2) Investigate complaints and issue warnings; and 3) Assist show officials and trustees in any capacity.
- 3.16 Brumbies may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine styles and equipment. Exhibitors are asked to wear appropriate attire and head gear, which reflects the style of their riding.

- 3.17 Any bit or equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed. Brumbies must be competed in a snaffle bit or bitless bridle/ hackamore only. JUDGES/ STEWARDS MAY CHECK EQUIPMENT.
- 3.18 Training aides (whips, sticks, martingales, etc.) will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown with the use of training aides will be scored lower than those that do not use training aides.
- 3.19 Trainers will be given specific competition courses. Trainers will have an opportunity to “walk through” the course with the judges, without their Brumby, prior to the competition.
- 3.20 Drugs: No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a Brumby, either before or during the Australian Brumby Challenge competition or auction. Any medication, drug, mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of such character as, could affect or enhance the Mustang’s performance or appearance at the event is prohibited. If a Brumby is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the Australian Brumby Challenge event manager as to the reason for the medication and the prescribed amount. THE AUSTRALIAN BRUMBY CHALLENGE MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY BRUMBY IN THE COMPETITION. Positive tests may result in removal from the event, removal of reimbursement and prize money, refund of purchase costs paid by a purchaser and return of a Brumby to the Victorian Brumby Association should the adopter wish to return the adopted Brumby. In regard to herbal/natural supplements, trainers are cautioned against the use of medicinal preparations, tonics, pastes and products of any kind, the ingredients and quantitative analysis of which are not specifically known, as many of them may contain a forbidden substance.
- 3.21 Preliminary Classes: Trainers and Brumbies will be judged in preliminary classes. The Class Rules and Outline for each event can be found online at www.australianbrumbychallenge.com.au
- 3.22 Freestyle: The details of the Freestyle competition can be found in the Class Rules and Outline posted online at www.australianbrumbychallenge.com.au

VICTORIAN BRUMBY ASSOCIATION HUMANE TREATMENT POLICY

- 4.1 Every Brumby and all animals shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion. Any participant using abusive or excessive training techniques or being inhumane to a Brumby in his/her care (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Victorian Brumby Association and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. If a participant’s horse enters the contest or if the trainer/participant at any time presents a horse with questionable training/care related injuries (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Victorian Brumby Association and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) the participant may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. **This policy is in addition to our event rules which are stated above. All trainers must agree to, sign and return the Humane Treatment Policy included in the Trainer Application.** The following list, while in no way exhaustive, includes examples of unacceptable behaviour and training techniques:
- No horse which appears to be emaciated, drawn or injured may be exhibited.
 - Use of inhumane training techniques or methods such as striking horse with objects, excessive spurring and/or excessive jerking of reins.
 - Any inhumane treatment.

SPONSORSHIPS

- 4.1 The Victorian Brumby Association has entered into corporate sponsorship agreements with a variety of companies. The Association asks that trainers honour those sponsorships.

- 4.2 The Victorian Brumby Association will supply shirts with sponsor logos for trainers to wear during the event. Trainers will be required to wear Australian Brumby Challenge shirts during the competition with the exception of the freestyle event as well as during promotional and auction events.
- 4.3 Trainers will be restricted from wearing apparel or equine products during the competition that have logos that are larger than 10 x 5cm.
- 4.4 Trainers may have small banners and brochures or small printed materials in their stable area ONLY to promote their training business and their sponsors during the event. Exhibitors may not hang banners of any size in the common event areas promoting sponsors.

AUCTION:

- 5.1 All competing Brumbies will be available for adoption through a live bid process at the conclusion of the event. Bidders must register and be approved in order to be issues bidding approval. The committee will meet with all trainers at EQUITANA to discuss potential bidders and their suitability.
- 5.2 If trainers wish to purchase the Brumby that they have trained, they must notify the Australian Brumby Challenge committee and pay the reserve price in full, no less than 28 days prior to the finals. They must also agree to keep said Brumby for a minimum period of 12 months. We do not wish to see Brumbies being on sold for profit.
- 5.3 Brumbies must compete at some level (competing in the Handling & Conditioning Class and in-hand in the trail/obstacle class is acceptable) in order to participate in the auction. Brumbies cannot attend the event for the adoption only.
- 5.4 Trainers are REQUIRED to make contact with the purchasers of the Brumby they have trained after the Auction to ensure a smooth handover of the Brumby from the Trainer to the new home.
- 5.5 Trainers will receive 50% or the purchase price, over the reserve,
- 5.6 Trainers are encouraged to meet the purchaser of their horse and are asked to leave food and water in the horse's stall prior to departing.
- 5.7 Trainers wishing to purchase their Brumby must advise the Victorian Brumby Association in writing no later than 28 days prior to the finals event and make full payment, also 28 days prior to the finals event.

PRIZES:

- 6.1 Prizes for the Australian Brumby Challenge can be found online at www.australianbrumbychallenge.com.au This will be dependent on sponsor support.
- 6.2 Incentive Awards will also be presented to the trainer with the highest combined preliminary scores in the following categories: Novice trainer and Highest scoring bitless trainer.
- 6.3 In addition to prize money, trainers competing in the event will receive 50% of the sale price (over and above the reserve price) of the Brumby they train when it is auctioned.

Participation in this event is by invitation only; therefore the Victorian Brumby Association committee has the unqualified right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove an applicant or contestant from the Australian Brumby Challenge program and/or competition for any reason or for no reason.