

Hombre, trained to drive.



Hombre, the Mustang, training to pull.

This is Hombre. He is a mustang that we adopted from the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) a year ago. Hombre was born in the wild. He is now a three year old. Three is young to be working in harness but he is an exceptionally stocky and strong animal.

He is a strikingly beautiful palomino. I have many times told people not to pick a horse for its color. Color is totally unrelated to any positive equine trait. Nevertheless, color is the basis of many horse selections. In this case, I broke my own rule. I selected Hombre, in part, because he is a palomino. Gail's family had a palomino when she was young. He does have a superb physique as well as a fine Barb nose. Original mustangs, wild horses of the western states, are descended from Spanish Barb horses. I prefer mustangs that exhibit Barb characteristics.

Marissa is standing at Hombres head. Marissa, our neighbor and an excellent cowgirl, did the ground work and training for this horse.

A senior horse, John, is on the right side of the team. John too, is an exceptional horse trainer.

Animals learn from each other, of course. Often the training of one animal by another is more purposeful than we appreciate. I have used John to help start many young horses. John understands that role well. He works hard to teach the junior horse. For example, he holds whatever pace I ask and either drags the other horse along or holds him back as needed.

In turns, John will lead both right and left if necessary. When the junior horse is confused, John will even push him into the turn.

If the junior horse behaves badly, John will scold him, vocally and physically.

This was Hombre's second day out and it went exceedingly well. He had the good sense to watch John closely and follow his example.

Like most mustangs, Hombre has great poise and bearing. He is a willing worker, he learns quickly and he keeps calm in "spooky" situations.

Marissa will next train Hombre to saddle.

He will be an important part of the Snake River Farm ramuda for many years. Tom