

## **The North American Curly Horse, a horse like no other...**

The original foundation curly horse in this country is the "Wild Mustang Curly". One only has to check with the ICHO (International Curly Horse Organization) and the ABCR (American Bashkir Curly Horse registry) to find that nearly every horse registered with these registries traces back to the "Damele" and wild/feral bloodlines. All of the original Damele curly bloodlines came from wild/feral curly horses that came off the Nevada rangelands

The Wild Mustang Curly Horse is a strain of horse that is extremely rare. This wild free ranging horse carries a special specific gene that causes the horse's coat, mane and tail to curl, along with other unique traits, thus the name 'Curly Horse'.

When the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) was approached to help set up a Conservation program to protect the disappearing Wild Curly Horses, they didn't have the funding for such a project.

Wild Curlies are only found roaming free on certain ranges in just a few states of the United States. Sadly, due to massive round-ups in the past decade, this rare and unique horse will soon disappear from America's wild herds.

The correct name for the curly horse in this country is the North American Curly Horse. Genetic research has shown that the North American Curly horses are not the same as the Bashkir Curlies. Bashkir horses originated in Russia and are not found in North America.

Although the Bashkir horse in Russia is a true breed, the North American Curly Horse is not a breed as of yet. Since they originated from wild horses, it is difficult to determine just exactly what the perfect prototype should be, aside for their curly coats and traits. On extremely rare occasions, breeds like Arabians, some draft breeds, the Canadian horse and even the Kiger mustangs have been found to have a curly mane or coat. Some Fox Trotters have been found to carry a recessive gene that produces curly coats, however this gene is believed to be different than the gene the wild curlies carry.

You can find straight coated curlies within the North American Curly Horse herds as well as; minimal curlies, very curly curlies, micro-curlies and extreme curlies (extremes have little to no manes and sparse to no hair on their tails). Straight coated curlies can produce curly coated offspring and curly coated curlies can produce both curly and straights. The only time one is guaranteed a curly coat is when you have a homozygous stud or mare and then it's curls every time. As long as the horse has the curly gene, when bred, it can produce any of the curly types described above.

The ICHO recognizes the import role that the Wild Mustang Curly Horse played in the development of the domestic curly horse population that is present in North American today. This registry welcomes and values the Wild Curly and encourages the few wild curly owners and breeders to join their registry.

The ABCR closed it's registry to any and all outside curly horses. This closure includes all Wild free roaming Curlies that weren't registered before the closure date and any new ones that are adopted from the BLM today. The ABCR believes that closure of their registry will strengthen and improve the curly bloodlines thus they will produce better curly horses.

Wild horse enthusiasts feel that with this closure, the very curly horse that started their registry is no longer welcomed.

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