

8th Annual

Blaze's Ride to the Rescue Trainer Challenge

Presented by: **Blaze's Tribute Equine Rescue, Inc**

COMPETITION NOTES/RULES

- *For the entirety of this event, All Trainers must submit progress updates at least every 15 to 30 days. These can be in the form of video, photos or text. Please email updates to: blazesequineresc@aol.com. We will post your updates on the Ride to the Rescue trainers challenge website and facebook. Potential Adopters and followers will be watching for updates and information.*
- *Please remember all horses entered into the competition are owned by Blaze's Tribute Equine Rescue. Please treat those horses accordingly and report to the owners for any problems, etc., We do appreciate all your time and efforts that you are applying to our rescued horses, however, you must remember you are the trainer and these horses do have an owner. All horses have been named and have been seen multiple times by our Veterinarian.*
- *Any Trainer may be removed from the competition at any time if found to have any alleged history of cruelty to animals or humans.*
- *Every Horse shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion. Any Trainer using abusive or excessive training techniques or being inhumane to a horse in his/her care (determined excessive or abusive by a Blaze's Board member or Blaze's Equine Veterinarian or a respected horse industry professional) may be removed from the competition and/or all future competitions and training programs. If a Trainers horse enters the contest or if the Trainer at any time presents a horse with questionable training/care related injuries the Trainer may be removed from the competition and/or all future competitions or training programs. The following list, while in no way exhaustive, includes examples of unacceptable behavior 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, hands or knees, excessive spurring and/or excessive jerking of reins.*

- *Any inhumane treatment which results in wounds*
- *All horses will be eligible for adoption throughout the day in a silent auction to pre-approved adoption applicants. All adoption fee's will start at \$800.00, no less and only available for \$800.00 on the day of competition. Trainers interested in adopting their training horse will have to bid against other applicants and must be pre-approved.*
- *All trainers are responsible for collecting \$100 in sponsorship money. These monies will be used for the first place prize. All sponsorship funds must be paid in full to Blaze's at the time of competition pick up day.*
- *If during anytime your horse comes up injured, please notify Shawn or Natalee Cross to make arrangements for that horse to be seen by a Veterinarian. Unless, it is an emergency. **You must gain permission to proceed with any veterinary examinations, etc.,** If permission is denied and you still pursue that veterinary examination, you will be immediately disqualified from the competition. In case of an emergency, please contact your veterinarian immediately, and then immediately contact Shawn or Natalee Cross at 405-399-3084, 405-615-5267, or 405-819-2496.*
- *All horses have been seen by our Veterinarian prior to being selected to compete in the trainers challenge. Every horse has received a current negative coggins, West Nile, Eastern/Western, Tetanus, Rhino, Influenza and Rabies Vaccinations, teeth floating, and hoof maintenance. All horses have been cleared to compete by our Veterinarian.*
- *Blaze's Tribute Equine Rescue's Board Members and Volunteers have the right to visit during any time to check up on the welfare and progress of B.T.E.R.'s horse.*
- *This is a competition, please be mindful/respective of other participants. Information/progress of your training should be shared only with Blaze's Tribute Equine Rescue's board members/volunteers.*
- *All Trainers must participate in our Spring Fling Trail Ride. We have many potential adopters that will follow the progress of the horses. This is a great way for people to have an opportunity to see the horses prior to competition, as well as, allow the trainer to showcase the horses abilities on the trail, etc., This will be a day to meet/greet potential adopters, etc., You must be available and your selected B.T.E.R horse must be in attendance and ridden on the trails. **Our Spring Fling Trail Ride will be held on April 13, 2018 at Bell Cow Lake in Chandler, Oklahoma.** **Please Note: Mandatory attendance required. If you do not attend, you will automatically have a deduction of points on competition day.*

- *If you choose to back out prior to competition day. You must pay a drop out fee of \$250.00, and you will be responsible for return transportation of your competition horse.*

*** Please Note: The horse is never wrong! If you are having difficulties with training your horse, please remember not all training techniques work for every horse. We ask that you please seek out a mentor for advice on how to proceed with your training. Please check with Blaze's Staff for recommendations on which trainers are available to assist.*
- *On competition day, each Trainer will be given free admission for his/herself and no more than two (2) additional people. This includes admission to the banquet following the competition as well. Should you require more admissions, they can be purchased from Blaze's Tribute Equine Rescue's website.*
- *On competition day, ALL TRAINERS must sign in at the sign-in table no later than 9:00 AM. You will be given a competition packet, participant T-shirt, etc., at that time.*
- *On competition day, YOU, as the TRAINER, must be the one competing on your horse. You will be disqualified, if you choose to have an apprentice, etc., compete for you.*
- *If you are using any type of prop for your Freestyle Competition, a list of those props must be submitted to Blaze's no later than 15 days prior to competition day and must be provided by yourself.*
- *If you choose to use calves for your Freestyle run, NO TIE-DOWN OR DALLY ROPING ALLOWED!! Only breakaway roping will be allowed.*
- *If you choose to use music for your Freestyle run, you must have your music compiled on one (1) CD, prior to competition day. You can also notify us of what music you want and we will compile it on disk. Music with profanity or offensive content will not be allowed. All music must be submitted to Blaze's no later than 15 days prior to competition day!*
- *Event staff/volunteers will be on hand to load in/load out all props.*
- *Blaze's Tribute Equine Rescue, Inc., understands the time that you are giving to our rescued horses for this event. Blaze's will host an awards ceremony the evening of the competition and it is important to us, that every trainer, be awarded for their participation and time. We will do everything that we can to keep you happy. Please reflect upon last year's competition and see the wonderful prizes, etc., that was provided to all trainers. Please join us for a fun filled day and take pride in your participation!*

Class descriptions:

How you have come to know the Trainers Challenge is a thing of the past. We have made many changes to this event and one that we hope you, as the trainer, will be equally excited about. We know that any situation can be stressful for your horse. We don't want to highlight the negative responses of our rescued horses, only the positive training that they have received. No one knows or understands that horse better than the Trainer. So, we want to give you that one opportunity to prove you and your horse's skills. You will now have one large Freestyle exhibit, which should include the following.

Grooming/ Body Score class: *This class will be very similar to a Showmanship Class. Judging will be based on how well the horse is groomed, it's physical condition, how well it is presented and the ease/calmness during the pattern and while awaiting judging. Conformation will NOT be a factor in judging. However, we do believe these horses should look considerably better than the day they left for training. Judges will be looking for weight/muscle gain. Remember, how the horse appears during the competition is a direct reflection on your training and care being provided during that training. We want the horses and you to look your best. We want your training abilities to be highlighted. You can visit with past participants to learn about the added business they received from the competition. This will make up 100 points of your score on competition day.*

Horsemanship Skills: *You should be able to demonstrate ground manners in your performance. We will leave this up to you as the trainer to take a small portion of your time to demonstrate that your rescued horse has and can exhibit ground manners. Under saddle, We want to see the horse in all gaits, a stop, and back up. Trainers will be allowed up to 3 obstacles of your choice. Judging will be based on the horse's ability and attitude while performing all portions of the class.*

Freestyle Class: The Freestyle competition will be your chance to show your personality, and impress the judges with what your horse can do. Since this is the most fun part of the day, it is now all that will be displayed while including the above. You will have 8 to 10 minutes in the arena, with very few restrictions. Each Freestyle run must show a horse at the following gaits: walk, trot, canter/lope. You can choose to use “props” or not. You can pick as many songs as you like, as long as it fits in your 8 to 10 minutes. Judging will be based on creativity, originality, level of difficulty and how well your horse is prepared.

Here is how the judging for each class will affect your total score:

Grooming/ body score: 35%

Horsemanship: 30%

Freestyle: 35%

Blaze’s Tribute Equine Rescue reserves the right to change any details of the competition day. We will go over all details of the competition day, when you come to pick up day. All trainers will be notified in writing of all changes, and NO changes will be made less than 10 days prior to competition day.

I _____ have read the above information and agree to all terms listed above. I understand that if I should violate any of the above rules, I may be immediately disqualified from the competition.

Signature of Blaze’s Ride to the Rescue Trainers Challenge participant

Witness – Blaze’s Tribute Equine Rescue Staff, Volunteer, or Board Member

Date _____