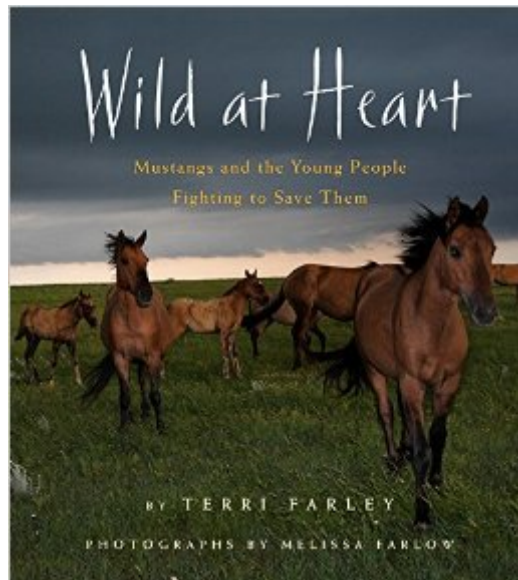


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# Wild At Heart: Mustangs And The Young People Fighting To Save Them



## Synopsis

Mustangs have thrived for thousands of generations. But now they are under attack from people who see them as pests. The lucky ones are adopted. Some are sent to long-term holding pens; more and more are sold for slaughter. But courageous young people are trying to stop the round-ups and the senseless killings. They are standing up to the government and big business to save these American icons. With eye witness accounts, cutting-edge science, and full-color photographs, Terri Farley and Melissa Farlow invite readers into the world of mustangs in all its beauty, and profile the young people leading the charge to keep horses wild and free. Includes notes and sources, index, and glossary.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (36 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #748,841 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #260 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Government](#) #501 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans](#) #650 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Zoology](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

[View larger](#) [A Conversation with Terri Farley](#) The author of *Wild at Heart* chats about the beauty of wild mustangs, her work to further their cause, and a little about horse poop.

How did you first become motivated to write about the plight of the wild mustangs? Growing up on the outskirts of Los Angeles, I lived a protected childhood far from horses "even tame ones. I saw horses on television and occasionally went to a riding stable, but when I imagined wild horses

roaming free with the wind in their manes, they captured my heart. When I heard they were being killed for pet food, the injustice and greed shocked me. I became part of Wild Horse Annie (Velma Johnston)'s children's campaign to save the West's wild horses. Mustangs already had my heart. Wild Horse Annie educated my head so that I knew why they had to be protected. What are the biggest takeaways you want readers to take from the book? From the start I had three goals: 1) Open the door so readers worldwide see beyond wild horses' beauty to their value. 2) Show readers what happens before, during and after wild horse round-ups. Even devoted horse folks may not know their history, science and natural lifestyle. 3) I want people to see they're not alone. Millions of individuals with nothing to gain financially want wild horses to survive.

Are there any particular mustangs you've encountered in your research that inspired you? I was on the range in January 2010 when an ivory and adobe-colored Medicine Hat mare was taken from her home in the Calico Mountains of Nevada. I saw her transferred to a government facility ironically called Broken Arrow where she was accidentally penned with young stallions. She was eventually rescued and corralled with females, but not before she suffered facial lacerations and other injuries. Eventually the Medicine Hat mare was put up for sale. She was not eligible for adoption because she was over 10 years old. This meant she could be sold without limitation. A big, long-bodied mare, she could have gone to a kill-buyer, but I was fortunate enough to outbid everyone in an online auction. The Medicine Hat mare was captured not far from the lands of the prophet Wovoka. Inspired by the Ghost Dance religion and poem "Ghost Dance" by Sara Littlecrow-Russell, I named this resilient mare Ghost Dancer and freed her in a 5,000 sanctuary with a young sorrel horse captured on the same day, in the same place. The Medicine Hat mare wasn't mine to name really, but we have a bond. From my first sight of her, I haven't stopped envisioning her life from her early coltish days in the Calico Mountains to the day the helicopters came for her and took her freedom. That story is not in WILD AT HEART, but I am writing it, through her eyes, now. If you had to describe your average wild mustang in five words, what would those words be? Intelligent, strong, self-sufficient, playful and brave.

What is one interesting fact you learned about wild mustangs that the average person might not know? It's about horse poop! Wild horses' digestive systems don't process seeds. They just pass through the horse and fall to the ground in a little ball of fertilizer. So,

wild horses are inadvertent farmers of their own food. (Sorry, horse owners, fertile seed is pretty much processed out of the food for domestic horses). What are some ways the average person could get involved in joining the wild mustang movement? Easiest of all is to construct a Google alert for wild horses. You can't take a stand unless you know what's happening. Once you know, you can tell legislators speaking on your behalf to stand up for the legal rights of wild horses. Through reading articles that pop-up on these alerts, you'll learn who is currently helping or hurting wild horses, and you can pay attention and learn where your voice is needed. Then, continue to educate yourself. Compare sources in what you read or hear to the citations in *Wild at Heart*'s bibliography and end notes. Although it's not totally comprehensive, I've included lots of information. In addition, consult trusted authorities such as American Wild Horse Preservation and The Cloud Foundation.

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