



The History Of Brumbies

The Brumbies that we see in Victoria and NSW today are thought to have originated from some horses left behind when Sergeant James Brumby was transferred from Botany Bay to Van Diemens land in 1806. The horses proved impossible to catch (in the days before every property was fenced) and became known as Brumby's horses – eventually shortened to Brumbies.

During World War I, many of the remounts sent over for the Australian Light Horse troops came from the Snowy Mountains region. After the war, with increasing industrialisation, the remaining horses were valueless. The gates were left open and they were allowed to 'join the wild bush horses'.....

Brumbies are truly wild horses, living in the way that all horses would, given the choice. They are very social animals and live together in family groups called mobs (or herds), which can vary in size from two horses, to the norm of about 10 or 11. The lead mare is the most dominant female and she will lead the mob to food and water. She also watches over the herd, attuned to any potential danger or attack and will give the signal, and take the lead when the mob needs to flee.

Brumbies at Dinner Plains, Alpine National Park, Victoria



Brumbies have their foals at a similar time of year to the domestic horse. In the Alps, this is between September and November. Mares generally wander a small distance from the main mob to foal and return after up to a couple of days with their new foals. When young colts are old enough to start showing interest in the mobs mares, the stallion drives them away. The colts then form 'Bachelor 'mobs',

keeping an eye out for any mares that they can steal from other stallions. The fillies, in turn, tend to peel away from the family mob as they reach sexual maturity, seeking out one of the bachelor stallions to mate with. In fact, DNA testing in NSW has shown that the Brumbies in the Guy Fawkes Park are less than 5% inbred, in comparison with Thoroughbreds, who are around 20% inbred!

Brumbies tend to live in a particular area which is known as their home range. The size of this area can vary from 5 to 20 square kilometres and is influenced by the availability of food and water and the prevalence of other Brumby mobs in the area. Seasonal factors are also important with many Brumby mobs grazing the higher areas of the Alps in summer and moving to lower and warmer home ranges in winter.

Brumbies in South Eastern Australia tend to mature between 13.2 and 15hh. Colours range from the standard blacks, bays, chestnuts to roans, paints and occasionally even buckskin and palominos.

213 Lexton Rd, Beaufort Vic 3373

info@victorianbrumbyassociation.org

ABN: 11010805927

03 5309 2310 0408 201 107

www.victorianbrumbyassociation.org

Inc #: A0050188J

