

The Mustang Messenger

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LET 'EM RUN FOUNDATION

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It is well into the season, the New Year is almost here.

It has, I know, been a long year of big changes for many of us. I've found it necessary to keep reminding myself that "change is our friend". Truthfully, as long as we remember to stay positive and try not to resist too much, it is!

On that note, the New Year will find me attempting to view the restoration of horse slaughter for human consumption in some sort of light that will keep my head from exploding. Our wonderful vet here said "at least they won't be going to Mexico as much, where slaughter methods are unspeakable". Small comfort, that.

Upon hearing that the slaughter bill had passed (by "stealth" rider on an appropriations bill), I immediately called the White House to express my anger and to state "This is NOT what I voted for." Please, PLEASE, call (202) 456-1414 or email (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments>) the White House and politely and firmly tell them how you feel about this issue.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSE & BURRO ACT

On December 15, 2011, about 30 of us horse advocates attended a candle-light vigil at the grave of Velma Johnston (Wild Horse Annie) in Reno, Nevada. The event was set up internationally by Carrol Abel, one of our local horse advocates with

the Hidden Valley Group. Similar events occurred worldwide in Canada, Sweden and 30 other cities in the US! Poems were read, stories were shared and the 40th Anniversary of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse & Burro Act was celebrated.

We lit 148 candles (one for each of the horses who died during the Calico Roundup, including animals who died later on from related problems and including aborted foals). On that cold and wintry hill above Reno, we prayed for the wild horses being rounded up now, and those 40-some thousand in long term holding.

Soon, there will be nearly 50,000 in these long term facilities. What do you suppose will happen to these innocents now that slaughter for human consumption is legal? Remember, my friends, we're in a recession which is likely to be a double-dip recession.

I was moved to write a song which we'll soon share with you on YouTube; for now, here are the lyrics:

"ODE TO SLAUGHTERHOUSE SUE AND THE BUTCHERIN' CREW"

What kind of cowgirl eats horses?
What kind of Rodeo Queen?
There's plenty of steak
So give me a break,
Eatin' a pony's just mean.

What kind of cowboy eats horses?
When he's spent his whole life raisin' beef,
With the ebb and the flow of the market,
Why butcher a horse to compete?



Photo by Ronni Hanniman

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How You Can Help

Become a member of LERF! Your membership dollars go directly towards helping the horses. We are a completely all-volunteer organization!

Donate Generously! All donations completely tax deductible!

Volunteer Your Time!

Donate Generously! All donations completely tax deductible!

Purchase a "Wild Horse Crossing" CD. All proceeds go directly to helping the Comstock horses!

Donate Generously! All donations completely tax deductible!

Tell Your Friends about Let 'em Run and these fabulous creatures!

Did we mention Donate Generously? All donations completely tax deductible!

CHORUS

And to those who believe in the Good Book,
I'll share the Lord's words in this song,
When it comes down to meat,
The split hoofs to eat,
But eatin' the single-hoofed critters like horses is wrong.

What kind of a Nation eats horses?
What kind of a Nation eats pets?
Will the feds pass a law to eat puppies?
Will Grandma and Grandpa be next?

CHORUS

And to those who believe in the Good Book,
I'll share the Lord's words in this song,
When it comes down to meat,
The split hoofs to eat,
But eatin' the single-hoofed critters like horses is wrong.
Boys, eatin' a horse is just wrong!

HORSE RESCUES CONTINUE

On a happier note, on December 6, 2011, 8 Virginia Range horses escaped auction, which is frequented by the killer buyers. A big thanks for a great deal of help to our allies, including Jean-Marie Webster of Wild Horses in Need (WIN), Willis & Sharon Lamm of Least Resistance Training Concepts (LRTC), Bob Retzer and Betty Retzer of our own Let 'em Run Foundation, Shirley & Bruce Allen of LRTC, Mikel Hettrick & Gayle Weatherman and Carrol Abel of Hidden Valley Wild Horse Protection Fund. Special thanks to Sheri Avis and the great crew at the Nevada B Mustang Sanctuary and many others of you who contributed time, talent and funds to the effort.

The eight horses slated for sale (which almost always means they go to the "kill buyers" for eventual slaughter) have been released onto a huge private ranch here, where many other wild bands are allowed to roam free. We are able to observe them there to make sure they are getting along well. The big pinto band stallion was a favorite because he put some size and color onto the range.

In light of the fact that the State gelded the stallion the day before the auction, we've had to engage a crew of volunteers to make sure the newly neutered pinto will not "bleed out" should he engage in a scrap over his mares with other stallions on the range.

We will now need to monitor him through spring time. If, and most probably, when his mares are taken by an "intact" stallion, we will be forced to take him off the

range to sanctuary where he will be gentled and adopted out to a loving home. It is likely that if he is left on the range, he will be ostracized by his own mares and other bands as well. Fortunately, he seems to like people as much as the locals like him. In the meantime, we wish him the best.



On January 4, 2012, Let 'em Run and our allies will fund an effort to rescue 8 more horses captured by the Department of Agriculture from Lockwood, near Interstate 80, east of Reno. This effort will not be undertaken alone. We will be assisted by our great friends at WIN, LRTC, Hidden Valley Wild Horse Protection Fund, Nevada B Mustang Sanctuary, Wild Horse Preservation League and others, including many private citizens who have and will continue to donate to the project. Thank you all, forever!!

The plan now is that the horses will be transported by LRTC to pastures next to Nevada B Horse Sanctuary. The Nevada B is the first real sanctuary of any size in our immediate area of Northern Nevada. It is a gorgeous place at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. There are wide and lovely pastures and a 24 stall barn with apartments for the crew. A zillion rescued dogs happily run about on the grounds and every horse is sleek and fat from the good care they receive. This is a project we fully endorse. Donations sent there result in great gentling, care and careful adoptions to good homes only. Should you wish to donate, feel free to visit the Nevada B Mustang Sanctuary's website, <http://www.nevadabmustangsanctuary.org>.

COMSTOCK WILD HORSE AND MINING MUSEUM

Sheri Avis at Nevada B is making preparations to take over the operation of the Comstock Wild Horse and Mining Museum in Virginia City, Nevada. They will continue the project in the future along with a fabulous high-end Western Boutique on Highway 395 in Minden, Nevada called "Silverheels Bootique". The Museum and Gift Store was started by Let 'em Run in 2003. That year, it received

the coveted Governor's Award for Tourism, while under the competent direction of Olivia Fiamengo. Olivia is the former President of the Virginia Range Wildlife Protection Association, which was, at that time, the foremost rescue operation in the area. The project was later run by Cathylee James.

We thank all our former directors and volunteers and all of you for a great run at the little Rail Car in Virginia City. Special thanks to Bill Sjovangen and the Storey County Commissioners and the gang at the Courthouse for their support all these years. Extra special thanks to Paula Thommen for the great job she's done wrapping up the project for us during the transition. We wish the Nevada B Mustang Sanctuary a wildly successful future at the Museum and encourage all of you to visit and enjoy the historic adventure that is Virginia City, Nevada! Should you wish to donate, feel free to visit the Nevada B Mustang Sanctuary's website, <http://www.nevadabmustangsanctuary.org>.

Thank you for 2011 and the very best wishes for the coming year! May God bless and keep you all! With warmest thoughts and great appreciation.

Lacy J Dalton, President

