

The Corolla Wild Horse Fund

A Registered 501 (c) (3) Not-for-Profit Charity

WILD AND FREE



Winter
2017/2018

P.O. Box 361
Corolla, NC 27927

corollawildhorses.org

The Mission of the Corolla Wild Horse Fund is to protect, conserve, and responsibly manage the herd of wild Colonial Spanish Mustangs roaming freely on the northernmost Currituck Outer Banks, and to promote the continued preservation of this land as a permanent sanctuary for horses designated as the State Horse and defined as a cultural treasure by the state of North Carolina.

BANKER HORSES ON THE MOVE

For the past twenty years there's been a small but mighty group of Banker horses living on Dews Island, a strip of land situated just off the mainland and adjacent to the Wright family's Cotton Gin and Sanctuary Vineyards in Jarvisburg. Early on in the Fund's history there was no rehab farm, so horses that had to be removed from the wild were placed on the island and allowed to continue living a wild, but solitary and relatively confined life. The island is also home to a historic hunting lodge, and is a destination for waterfowl hunters visiting northeastern North Carolina.



Last spring CWHF was approached by the landowners and asked to consider removing the eight remaining horses due to a variety of reasons. We knew we had our work cut out for us, but we were excited to welcome the mares to the farm and embark on a new – and challenging! – adventure. Our herd manager and trainer spent some time with the horses on the island, getting to know them and talking with the caretakers about their personalities, lineage, and history. They learned which ones were more personable, which ones were most likely to be a little cranky or flighty, who was related to whom, and who might give us a run for our money.

One of the challenges we faced is that there is only one way on and off the island – a foot bridge. Our truck and trailer would not fit across the bridge so we had to figure out a way to move the horses over the water while still keeping them contained. A week before the big move we set up a corral at the bottom of the bridge on the mainland side and their long-time caretaker Billy walked them over every day and fed them hay inside the corral. The last thing we wanted to do was stress the horses out, and this helped acclimate them to going into the corral so that the day of the move it wouldn't be a shock to their routine.



With the help of some wonderful volunteers (including the same super cowboys who helped round up Roamer) the move went pretty flawlessly. Six of the eight horses quietly followed Billy over the bridge that Saturday morning and Mike, Steve, and Wayne easily herded them onto the trailer. The trip over to the farm was quick, and the horses unloaded just as easily as they loaded. We were so relieved. There were two stragglers that we had to go back for, and who gave us a bit of a chase but in the end they were pretty cooperative and quickly reunited with their friends.

The girls have settled into life on the farm. They are all in great shape and they're getting used to having us humans around (they are very food driven, which helps!). We've gotten halters on everyone except Bella and Betty, which didn't surprise us given their antics on the day of the roundup. But that's ok! We've got all the time in the world to work on gaining their trust and cooperation.



Staff

Jo Langone
Chief Operating Officer

Meg Puckett
Herd Manager

Tommy French
Finance Manager

Dan Lane
Operations Coordinator

Rose Nuzzi
Farm Caretaker

Nora Tarpley
Trainer

Raymond's Pedicure

About twenty years ago some burros were released into the Corolla herd by a local farmer. Their breeding with the horses produced several mules over the years, the last of which is one of everyone's favorites—Raymond.

Raymond, now in his late teens, has been a fixture in Swan Beach his entire life. He maintained a harem of mares even though he's unable to reproduce and was well-known for his aggressive protection of them.

Unfortunately, Raymond has always had chronically bad feet. Our vet has often examined them (from a distance!) but always recommended we not intervene due to Raymond's personality and age. His toes usually grow long and then break off during the dry summer, but that did not happen this year.

In November our vet, farrier, Herd Manager, and a few volunteers tranquilized Raymond and trimmed his feet. The vet remarked that he was one of the top three worst cases she'd ever seen, and both she and our farrier spent nearly an hour cutting and re-shaping his hooves, and cleaning out several abscesses.

Raymond recovered from the procedure and the sedation just fine and we are monitoring him very closely (when we can find him) for signs that his mobility is improving.

Helping Raymond was an honor for the entire team, and we all learned a lot from him. Hopefully the old guy will be back to his normal self very soon.

The holidays are right around the corner!



Visit our web store for t-shirts, gifts, donations, sponsorships and more.

www.corollawildhorses.org

Fast Facts: Winter 2017/2018

4123	Our membership has grown by about 1k people since this time last year. Wow! Memberships make great holiday, birthday, anniversary, or "just because" gifts, and your support directly benefits the horses.
80%	A horse's hoof is flexible enough to absorb 70-80% of the impact during weight bearing. A Corolla horse generally weighs between 600-800 lbs so imagine how important healthy feet are. Incredible!
12	The number of horses currently living at our rescue farm. Roamer, Amadeo, Felix, Buster, Betty, Bella, Cupcake, Brownie, Little Star, Moxie, Jasmine, and Luna.
4	Over the summer the Tidewater Broncos, a 4-wheel drive club, came to Carova and picked up FOUR trailer loads of trash! While we hate to think there's all that garbage on the beach we are so thankful for the Broncos' work and their generous donation.
\$1058	At the time of publication we were still receiving and tallying donations from Giving Tuesday but so far we know we raised at least \$1058. This will buy LOTS of hay and supplies for the rescue horses!
76k	Join 76000 other people and follow us on Facebook! Stay up to date on the latest news from the field with stories, photos, and lots of fun facts.

