## Corolla Wild Horse Fund

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# WILD AND FREE

1130E Corolla Village Rd P.O. Box 361 Corolla, NC 27927 corollawildhorses.org 252-453-8002



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.

#### Staff

Jo Langone Chief Operating Officer

Dan Gillogly Chief Financial Officer

> Meg Puckett Herd Manager

Nora Tarpley Trainer and Registry Manager

> Fran Hamilton Jeff Chedister Martha Chedister Bill Crone Marianne Gradeless Roy Hamilton

### AS WE HEAD INTO WINTER

Many things have changed this year but one thing that we can count on is the ability of the wild herd to sense the change of seasons. Temperatures are cooler and the sun sets earlier. The horses intuitively know it is time to prepare for winter.

At this time of year, they start to grow their fuzzy, denser, and longer winter coats — a process triggered by less daylight hours.

Their metabolic rate shifts and they spend most of their time bulking up for the colder months ahead through additional grazing. Per-



Additional changes in their thyroid puts them in an energy-saving mode to reserve calories for winter. Their heart rate and digestive systems shift into low gear. This process known as forage fermentation acts like a internal heating system for the horses in the colder months ahead. As less food is ingested, the passage through the tract slows down leading to greater fermentation creating internal heat production. These natural reactions to seasonal changes are time-worn and demonstrate just how well the Corolla horses can withstand the harsh elements of wintertime on the Outer Banks .

## **CASTANO FALL FUNDRAISER UPDATE**

As with many non-profits, this has been a challenging year financially at CWHF. The Fund

was lucky to be given an amazing song from musician, Janet Martin. *Castano* was written about the Corolla wild horses and specifically features the two-year-old colt, Castano. The song touched us so much we decided to use it as the basis for our fall fundraiser. Time and time again, our members and supporters help us though the tough times. It is nice to be able to offer them something as memorable and touching as *Castano* during this fundraiser.

Our goal is \$20,000 and we are happy to report that we have raised \$17,218 at the time of this printing.

We are grateful and cannot thank you enough for your support. The *Castano* song, video and lyrics can be downloaded on the CWHF website for just \$5. A donation of any size will help us reach our goal to offset the impact of not being able to hold events due to Covid-19.

We would also like to thank our community partners <u>Dixie 105.7</u>, <u>96.7 The Coast</u>, and Wild Horse Adventure Tours for their support and help in getting the word out.





## **Education is the Key**

Through your generous support, we placed almost 200 yard signs in the 4x4 area in mid-July that help to educate visitors and remind locals of the wild horse laws and the dangers of approaching or feeding. Over time, we have lost some to the weather, but most are still up.

We truly appreciate those who call in to report infractions or concerns. As they say, it takes a village.

#### WILD HORSE

Public Service Announcement WATCH - RECORD - REPORT

#### Watch

- For anyone closer than 50 feet to the horses.
- Anyone feeding (by hand or tossing) food of any kind.
- Anyone chasing, pursuing, throwing objects at or harassing the horses.

#### Record

- Use your cell phone to photograph or film infractions.
- When possible photograph license plate numbers.
- Retain descriptions of individuals (clothes, caps, tattoos, etc.).

#### Report

- Please contact the Currituck Sheriff's Department at 252-232-2216. You can even do this without giving your name if you chose to do so.
- Or contact us, the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, at 252-453-8002 and we will follow-up.

# By the Numbers: Fall 2020

3,150	There are 3,150 platted lots north of Corolla.
1272	Active members
6	Foals born in 2020
127,343	Number of followers on Facebook! CWHF posts updates regularly to keep everyone informed. Like us on Facebook — it's a great way to stay in touch!
5	Rescued mustangs are available for sponsorship. Visit our website for more information.
110-130	The Wild Horse Management Agreement, a living document to establishes a common vision and goals that guide the Wild Horse Advisory Board in managing the wild horse population, supports a target population range of 120 to 130 horses with no less than 110.
2000	Critical — The Livestock Conservancy has defined the Colonial Spanish Mustang as a critically endangered priority equine breed. The Conservancy considers a breed "critical" if there are fewer than 200 annual registrations in the United States with an estimated global population of less than 2000.

#### RIPTIDE UPDATE

Riptide is doing great. His wounds are healing and he no longer needs bandages. During his stay at NC State he lost weight and muscle mass fighting off his infection. He is now spending plenty of time grazing, gaining weight, socializing and adapting nicely to his new environment on the rescue farm. Soon he will be turned out to share space with Ducky and Vivo, two mature horses who will school him. Riptide is just a baby, just over a year old, and will benefit from some surrogate parenting.



Riptide is kind, affectionate, bright and curious. With more time, patience and training, we are sure that Riptide will become a fantastic educational outreach horse.

