

WILD AND FREE



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.

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF RAMBLER

Summer has come and gone, and Fall's busy shoulder season has said goodbye. Now, the horses have the most room to roam. It's as if they know that it's the off-season.

Rambler is a middle-aged stallion and has one of the largest harems on the beach, siring many offspring.

We often observe Rambler's harem waking up and starting their morning on the beach. Horses have a unique sleep cycle. They can doze and enter light sleep while standing, an adaptation from life as a prey animal. Horses can sleep standing up because of a "stay apparatus" in their legs, a special system of tendons and ligaments that enables them to lock the major joints in their legs and allows them to relax their muscles and doze without collapsing. Babies lay down more than adult horses. Rambler's foal, Alma, lays down often while her mother, Orlanda, and aunties stand guard.



As the sun rises, melting the frost on the ground and brush, Rambler's lead mare will move the harem to freshwater, abundant all year round but especially now since a nor'easter came through and additional fresh pools are plentiful. Along their trek, they will graze and forage for food for up to 20 hours a day. They eat what they can find, sometimes grass, and sometimes a variety of weeds and shrubs.

Depending on the weather, the harem may come down to the beach or head to the meadow, which at this time of year, is still an excellent food source for the wild herd. Along the way, Rambler's harem will most likely come in contact with another harem or a band of bachelor stallions. Rambler will keep his harem close and act as the rear guard between his herd and potential danger.

Rambler is a seasoned protector and will display postures to ward off potential intruders. Occasionally, situations may escalate into a contest between stallions. These can be quick skirmishes, but sometimes all-out brawls can occur.

The day is spent with the harem covering roughly 5 miles of terrain and ingesting up to 40K calories of food.

As night falls, the harem retreats back to the marsh, a favored spot, continuing to graze and sleep in rotation, taking turns standing guard, while the harem dozes and lays down, necessary for REM sleep, ending another satisfying and pleasing day on the Outer Banks.



HERD WATCHER PLEDGE!

Several homeowners in the 4x4, concerned about the wild herd, have ordered the new CWHF Herd Watch house sign.

These signs help set the tone for guests staying in the 4x4 area and designates that the house respects the herd and follows the wild horse rules and local ordinances.

These metal signs are available for purchase on the CWHF website in our "Community Toolkit" area.

**YOU TOO CAN BE A
HERD WATCHER
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: Winter 2021

1428	Active members of the Corolla Wild Horse Fund
25,796	Population of Currituck County 2.17% one-year growth
1	The Corolla Wild Horse Fund is one of only two non-profits in the country that manages a herd of wild horses. All other herds are managed by government agencies, or not at all.
127,470	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!
\$4,236	Funds raised for our Carova Park Education project through Giving Tuesday efforts. Thanks to you, this project will now happen!
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 Banker Mustang as critical— a Conservation Priority Equine Breed. The Conservancy considers a breed "critical" if there are fewer than 200 annual registrations in the United States and an estimated global population of less than 2000.

EVERY KIND GESTURE MAKES A DIFFERENCE



We want to thank our supporters who generously give to us. And we want to remind you that there are so many ways to support the Corolla Wild Horse Fund in addition to traditional memberships, donations, and sponsorships.

iGive offers a way to give when you are shopping your favorite store's online site and Amazon Smile allows you to set up the Corolla Wild Horse Fund as your charity of choice when shopping on Amazon. And then there is Amazon Wish List in which we identify goods that we can really use and our supporters purchase them on our behalf. All of these links are on the CWHF website under the "Support the Horses" tab.

Recently, we posted a link to our Amazon Wish List on Facebook and the response was immediate and deeply appreciated. So many of the items on our list were truly a wish. We often go without to stretch our dollars, but thanks to your generosity we can do our work with new, improved, and much needed resources.

Speaking of Facebook, it's amazing how many caring people designate the Corolla Wild Horse Fund for their Birthday Fundraiser. Nearly every single day we see kind mustang lovers generously asking for donations to CWHF to celebrate their birthday.



These efforts make our hearts sing and truly make a difference. We thank you for your partnership in taking care of these horses. We simply could not do this without you and your heartfelt efforts.—Thank you.