

Corolla Wild Horse Fund

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Summer 2022

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

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.

Staff

Jo Langone
Chief Operating Officer

Dan Gillogly
Chief Financial Officer

Meg Puckett
Herd Manager

Nora Tarpley
Trainer and Registry Manager

Marley Crawford
Donor Programs

Kara Hosler
Operations Coordinator

Tom Burton	Bill Crone
Jeff Chedister	Fran Hamilton
Martha Chedister	Roy Hamilton
Dolly Chesnut	Lyn Losty
Doug Chesnut	Jay Marryott
Julie Cherry	Linda Rygielski

FOALS OF 2022



CADIZ

So far in 2022, the wild Banker herd has welcomed seven new foals, with six surviving. In light of their arrival, we thought we would share some facts about foals, as well as information regarding how visitors

to the area may help keep them safe and healthy.

Mares only have one foal at a time, 11 months apart. While mares can have twins, it rarely goes well. A wild mare would likely not survive the birth, and neither would both foals.

It is critical that foals get colostrum from nursing within several hours of birth. Colostrum contains essential nutrients, vitamins, protein, and strengthens a foal's immune system.



CERES

Foals shed their coats at around 3-4 months of age, and often change colors at that point. That's why sometimes the foals that are going to be black look really splotchy around this age - their foal coat is just a lighter color than what their adult coat will look like once it comes in.



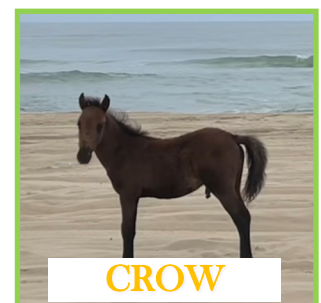
CRICKET

Everything a horse does is a direct response to environmental stimuli. Their main goal in life is to survive, and their behavior is based on instinct. Food. Water. Safety. Reproduction. But they also form close emotional bonds with each other, have distinct personalities, are intuitive, and have social structures that are incredibly complex.

By staying in vehicles and keeping 50 feet from the horses, visitors stay safe and allow foals and mothers the space they need to bond and grow. While mares are in season, herd dynamics are unstable, and stallions are only thinking of one thing. The Banker horses are wild, unpredictable, and can be very dangerous.



CYCLONE



CROW

Projects

In the Works:

A perimeter fence is nearly complete at our 31-acre rescue farm on the mainland.

We are working on a book based on our museum exhibit panels to educate visitors and those unable to come see us.

Completed:

The Fund has purchased two four-wheel drive vehicles for use on the 4x4 by our sanctuary observers and herd manager.

The farm's main barn received replacements of eight split stall doors.

We re-designed the yard sign available through our Community Toolkit:



Available for purchase on our online gift store at corollawildhorses.org.

Or stop by our Museum and Gift Shop and browse an array of unique gifts perfect for horse-lovers of all ages. We also have 22 educational panels detailing the history and characteristics of the Bankers.

1130E Corolla Village Rd in the Historic Village

Mustang Mornings at the Farm



Pictured: Buttercup

Every Wednesday, 10am to 2pm until August 31.

Join us at the Betsy Dowdy Equine Center and meet rescued Corolla horses and staff responsible for their care and the management of the wild herd.

More info at corollawildhorses.org/events

By the Numbers: Summer 2022

6	As of August 2022, Currituck's herd of Banker horses has six foals!
1	Brio, rescued and brought to the farm in March 2022, celebrated his first birthday on July 19th.
10+	A horse can drink up to 10 gallons of water or more on a hot summer day. The Banker horses source their water from the sound, canals, and rain puddles.
2000	Approximately 2,000 years ago, the Currituck coast was a maritime forest. Every winter, and sometimes after severe storms, stumps of the ancient trees are uncovered from the sand on the beach where the horses roam.
22	The number of Corolla Bankers that currently reside at the CWHF rescue farm, including one good-looking mule!
105	The number of wild horses currently living on the northern beaches of Corolla. Foaling season can last through fall.
17 & 18	In the 17th and 18th centuries, a port city in Spain called Cadiz began trading with the Americas. This port city is where many of the original Spanish horses may have come through, and is why one of this year's foals is named Cadiz!

Nor'easters, hurricanes, and horses, oh my!



A common question the Fund receives from visitors is, "What do you do with the horses during storms like hurricanes?" The answer is, not much!

Hurricane season here on the Outer Banks begins in June and lasts through November. Evacuation of residents and visitors *can* happen, but the wild horses are not among those that leave the beach.

The Banker horses have survived though five-hundred years of hurricanes, nor'easters, severe thunderstorms, and more. Their survival tactic is to head away from the ocean to a high and dry area, huddle together, and face away from the wind. The natural landscape along the sound side offers excellent protection against the elements.

Surprisingly, nor'easters often have a more damaging impact on the Outer Banks landscape than some hurricanes. In May 2022, a three-day nor'easter with persistent wind gusts of over 60 miles per hour kept the horses hunkered down in the live oaks and off of the beach. The destruction to the beach was significant and driving up on the 4x4 was difficult. Fortunately, one of our Sanctuary Observers is a resident in the 4x4 and was able to go out and check on the horses. Despite the extensive weather event, all of the horses remained safe and sound.

Riding out storms at our rescue farm on the mainland, however, is a different story. During such severe and unpredictable storms, there is usually a staff member that stays at the farm with the horses. Preparations are made according to the event, such as securing a generator, filling extra water troughs, and sometimes braiding emergency identification into each horse's mane.