



Wild Horse Sanctuary

P.O. Box 30 • Shingletown, CA 96088

Phone/Fax (530) 335-2241

November 2006

An Exciting Project!

Dear Friend,

It's hard to believe a whole year has passed since I last wrote you – what a busy year it's been!

Life here at the Sanctuary has been full of accomplishment and our wild horses have never looked better, thanks to you.

As more folks learn about viewing opportunities here we have been able to share the beauty of the wild horses with them and tell their story. This year we've had visiting schools, a vintage car club, senior organizations, families and almost a thousand visitors at Open House. Everyone is thrilled when they see the wild horses in family bands enjoying a natural life at the Sanctuary.

Because of increased awareness, more people have joined us on our trail rides – we actually doubled our ride season by having two rides per week. That translates into twice the work but also increases our revenue so we can continue to purchase much-needed hay and supplements for our resident herds.

With ever-rising prices affecting us all, we're grateful for your financial help as well as our ability to raise needed funds through our ride program.

I have something very exciting to tell you – it's about our involvement in field trials for a more humane method of controlling wild horse populations!

For the past 30 years the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has used roundup and adoption as the only method of controlling wild horse population on public land. 200,000 wild horses have been taken from their home. That means total disruption of family units, the fear and trauma of the capture process and sometimes injury and death to both young and old. Horses that are too old for adoption are sent to long term holding facilities by the tens of thousands. They live there, being fed at taxpayer expense, until they die.

If a better way to manage populations can be implemented, more wild horses could live out their natural lives on the ranges they were born on – the range that is their rightful home. And, fewer horses would be subjected to the trauma and dangers of capture.

There is a better way – reversible immuno-contraception, a vaccine using porcine zona pellucida (PZP). PZP has been used worldwide for over 20 years on a variety of wildlife species with no negative side effects. The very first use on equines was right here at the Wild Horse Sanctuary in the 1980s when the University of California at Davis conducted a pilot project on some of our mares.

The BLM has used PZP experimentally on a few herd management areas in Nevada and Montana and has conclusive proof that it is effective in preventing pregnancy. But, BLM refuses to consider PZP for management of wild horses because they say the two-year application to prevent pregnancy, all that is currently available, is not a viable management procedure.

Late last year here at Wild Horse Sanctuary, with the help of University of California at Davis and TerraMar Environmental Research of Canada, field trials of a new long-lasting, single-dose PZP vaccine (SpayVac) began on our mares. We injected some with the new PZP vaccine, which prevents pregnancy by producing an antigen in the mare that coats the ovum and prevents sperm penetration.

Our hope is to produce a PZP vaccine that will prevent pregnancy in mares for 3 to 5 years, providing a superior method of controlling populations cost effectively and humanely. An added benefit for older mares is that their quality of health will improve by not carrying foals each year.

Since the Sanctuary rescued its first wild horses almost 30 years ago, we have been a voice for the horses. Our efforts have benefited them in many different ways. We hope our pioneering the use of PZP will allow a healthier, safer means of controlling populations in the future.

Our goal remains the same – to protect and preserve the horses for the benefit of themselves and for future generations to enjoy.

I hope I've explained this new project adequately. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know. I am proud of the benefits that have resulted because of your help! Please come and visit – the wild horses continue to inspire and awe us with their beauty and heartiness!

Thank you again for helping us to help the horses –



P.S. Our 2007 Calendars are in! We hope the beauty of our wild horses captured by Katey Barretts' incredible photos will inspire you thru out the year to come – may it be filled with peace and happiness for us all.

Warm regards,

Dianne Nelson



Wild Horse Sanctuary Contribution & Order Form

Yes, I want to help!

Enclosed is my check for:

\$38 to feed one unsponsored horse for one month.

\$50 to become a member of the Sanctuary

\$114 to care for an unsponsored horse for 3 months.

\$456 to sponsor a horse for one year.

___ Calendars, \$12.00 each plus \$3 shipping.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**MAIL TO: Wild Horse Sanctuary
P.O. Box 30
Shingletown, CA 96088-0030:**

Make checks payable to the Wild Horse Sanctuary. Contributions are tax deductible.