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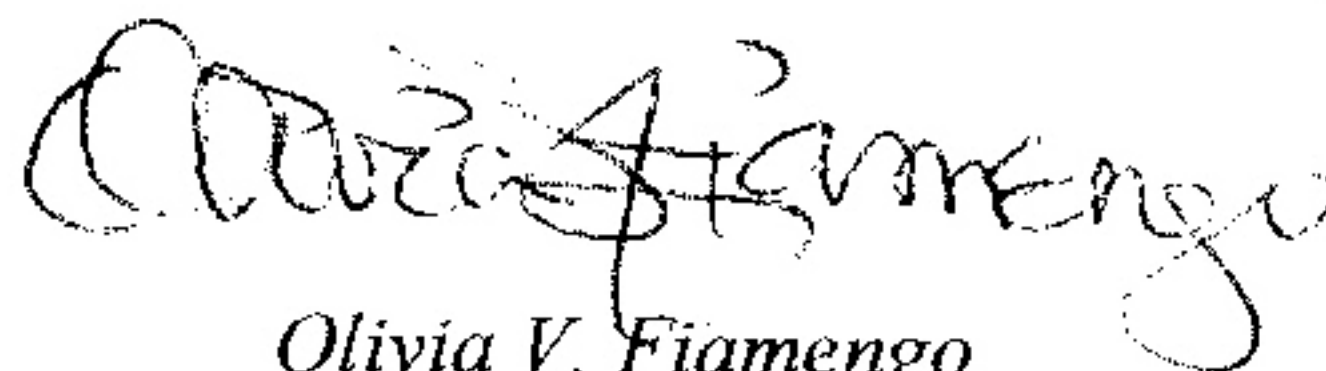
Estray Inspection Reports for Each Horse Accounted For

Includes Animals Seen, Scheduled to be Seen, and Deceased

Photographs of the Horses Seen During the Site Inspections

Please Note: The enclosed report reflects my personal observations from a two day visit, February 2nd and 3rd, 2005. The intention of my trip was to check on the welfare of the State of Nevada, Virginia Range estray horses transferred to the Wild Horse Foundation in Texas. My purpose was to verify that the horses were accounted for, that the ones placed for adoption were in fact at adopters facilities, and that they are being kept in good care. Although not every horse the State delivered to the Foundation was accounted for by me, I feel that a reasonable number were seen. I am left with the impression that, at this time, the organization is trying hard to establish themselves as a viable adoption agent for the State of Nevada Estray Adoption Program.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of February 2005.



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WILD HORSE FOUNDATION INSPECTION REPORT

Activities for Day One (02/02/05)

6:00 a.m. Dark - Left hotel

6:30 a.m. Dawn - Arrived at Wild Horse Foundation

Briefing with Ray Field and his wife, Susan Calhoun-Field, Wild Horse Foundation representatives, Mile Holmes, of the Nevada State Department of Agriculture, and myself lasted approximately half an hour. Discussion included reason for and purpose of trip, duties of parties involved, method and procedure for inspection activities, goals and outcome anticipated.

Ray had prepared an itinerary the night before. He had prepared a stack of individual files of their adopters and a map where upon he said he had marked all of the locations of adopters within a radius of approximately 100 miles. It was anticipated that we would make 15 stops representing 32 adopted horses the first day.

7:00 a.m. Day Light - Truck tour to see adopted horses and facilities.

Ray Field drove his truck accompanied by Susan, Mike, and myself. As a passenger I was able to view the terrain and get a feeling for the area, observe the general locations of the adopters and the overall facilities of each. We made haste traveling from location to location in order to see the most horses in a day that we could. When I questioned how the list of horses to be seen was developed, I was told by Ray that all of the adoption sites were included within the approximate 100-mile radius. The only sites left out of the tour were locations outside of the reasonable travel area.

Prior to arrival at the adopter site, I recorded the estray number for each horse as provided by Susan on my paper with a general color and sex description. The adopters were almost always present and anticipating our arrival. Introductions were made. Ray and Susan discussed how it was going with their new charges while Mike and I made observations of the animals and the facilities. I identified the estrays, made notes of their markings, observed the holding facilities looking for water and feed supplies, cleanliness and overall safety. Photos were taken.

It had been raining for several days before our arrival and continued intermittently the first day. All of the ground was saturated and standing water was in abundance. The estrays' feet were muddy and markings were hard to identify. Unfortunately, many manes of the estrays fall on the left side, which obstructs the area where the State of Nevada "N" brand is placed. However, the Virginia Range horses have a distinct look to their conformation, head shape and size. I feel confident that the horses we saw were from the Virginia Range.

After independent evaluation, Mike and I would compare our observations and make an opinion upon the general condition of the estray and site. If it was noted that an improvement was needed, Mike discussed the condition with Ray and Susan. They would make recommendation to the adopter. If a correction could be made immediately, it was done. If more time was needed, Ray and Susan agreed to follow up again at a later date.

7:00 p.m. Dark - Cloud cover made visibility poor.

We still had three sites to inspect. Because we had seen so many and it appeared obvious that no attempt had been made to "cover up" anything we had seen, it was decided that we would go see ones under lights and reschedule the other two for the next day, if possible.

8:00 p.m. Stopped for dinner.

9:00 p.m. Returned to Wild Horse Foundation. Mike and I drove back to hotel.

Observations

I observed a willingness by Ray and Susan to cooperate fully to help facilitate the inspection process. Their offer to drive helped tremendously, as the terrain of Texas is mostly flat with pastures and meadows surrounded by tall woods and streams. The main roads are paved two lanes with the connecting farm roads single gravel or dirt and sometimes unmarked.

They provided an "open door policy" to their adopter file folders showing us the completed applications and other substantiating information within. They volunteered information regarding their facility, programs, training and background. Copies of the Wild Horse Foundation mission statement, adoption requirements, adoption agreement, adoption contract, newspaper articles were provided.

I observed that most of the adopters were genuinely happy to be a part of the adoption program. They indicated that they felt good about helping these horses find a good home. They expressed concern for the animal's welfare and conveyed a true desire to help save them. Several horses were already haltered and in training. Others were free to roam from 1 to 100+ acres of lush pasture bordered by woods, lakes and ponds.

Upon arrival at one location, we were greeted by the adopter and her newspaper writer friend. She invited him to do a story about our visit. It appears that the local public is very interested in the history of and the plight of the Virginia Range horses and is optimistic that their community can contribute to the welfare of these animals.

WILD HORSE FOUNDATION INSPECTION REPORT

Activities for Day Two (02/03/05)

6:00 a.m. Dark - Left hotel

6:30 a.m. Dawn - Arrived at Wild Horse Foundation

We reviewed the plan for the day. Ray provided Mike copies of their map and an estray checklist. Susan showed me the book she is using to apply for grants for their educational outreach programs (Vision Quest, Internships, Campfire Programs). Also, she showed us fundraising items for the weekend at Walmart and an upcoming raffle.

Ray prepared the map the night before for the proposed site visits. He pulled the files of adopters. It was anticipated that we would make 14 stops.

7:00 a.m. Daybreak - On site tour of the Wild Horse Foundation facility.

Ray took Mike and Susan took me on a tour of the "Horse Dome" and holding facility. From the top of the viewing area one can see all of the facilities and most of the grounds. Five horses (only 4 are Virginia Range horses) currently under training were located in the Dome. A site inspection was done for them at that time. The Dome has stalls for six horses with turn out areas off a round pen all connected to another working area and alleys to the main holding corral and adjacent to the stud pens. A high ramp leads to the holding area to facilitate deliveries from transport trucks.

Across from the holding pens is another round wooden working pen, barn, and bunk house and campfire area with ponds. Several horses free roam within the property's perimeter fencing. Rounds of hay are stacked inside the front gate and the facilities are secured by another interior gate. Beyond the house is another holding area named the Burro Pen, which houses several horses and burros. The Virginia Range horses were inspected at that time.

Ray brought a round of hay for us to see inside and then placed it into the burro pen. He had indicated that they are contracted to receive donated hay on an annual basis (along with several other non-profits) from a local fertilizer firm. Although he indicated the hay is grown with recycled water, it is considered safe for animal consumption. Upon inspection of the hay round, it appeared that only the outer couple of inches had been affected by the weather and that the inside looked unaffected.

I did not have the opportunity to observe Ray or Susan working with any horses, so I cannot speak as to their equine skills or "gentling" ability. They did supply certificates of participation from Texas A & M Cooperative Extension courses in equine education workshops from February 2004. They indicated these classes are offered annually and that they intend to participate again this year.

They also, provided certificates of completion by the Bureau of Land Managements' Wild Horse and Burro Compliance Course from April 2004. A copy of a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Park Service and the BLM in California was provided. Although it is not a signed copy, Mr. Dave Sjaastad, BLM Ridgecrest Field Office, confirmed a 5 year contract is in place that was executed last year. This agreement allows the Wild Horse Foundation the ability to take up to 100 burros per year.

Texas A & M is located nearby and the Foundation encourages adopters to participate in the extension classes as well as the gentling workshops they offer on site. Ray and Susan said that once a month the foundation offers a mentoring workshop to help people with their gentling skills. Two people currently work daily on the site, feeding, watering and caring for the horses at the foundation facility. They also assist in the training of the horses located there.

Again, I observed that most of the adopters were happy to be a part of the adoption program. They indicated that they enjoyed the company of their charges. They expressed concern for the animals and want to help save them. Several horses were haltered and in training. Others were free to roam on acres of lush pasture bordered by woods, lakes and ponds.

Over the two days, several adopters inquired as to when Ray would be getting more horses. They indicated that they had friends whom, also, wanted to adopt. Susan says they have a waiting list for more horses.

Recommendations

Due to the local public interest in the program and the Foundation's ability to rally the press, I feel that the Wild Horse Foundation can probably place more horses for adoption soon. The facilities on site appear to be tight for 44 horses. Stallions could have to be doubled up to remain separated from the mares. Since the Foundation rescues other horses and burros from time to time, caution is suggested to coordinate the numbers of animals already at the facility. I recommend sending no more than one load at a time and to confirm that those have been adopted prior to sending any others.

7:45 a.m. Truck tour to see adopted horses and facilities.

Ray drove his truck accompanied by Susan, Mike, and myself. We started with stop #1 on the map and followed the numbers. We used the same procedure as the day before. A couple of the locations on both days were new to Ray and Susan indicating "presite" inspections had not been performed. When I questioned their procedure for that, they indicated that the facility information is required on their forms and that sometimes they rely on the adopters' affidavit for immediate placement and check on them later.

7:30 p.m. Very dark - too dark to see stop #13. Decided to forgo the last site.

8:30 p.m. Stopped for dinner.

10:00 p.m. Returned to Wild Horse Foundation. Mike and I drove back to Houston.

Observations

I observed cooperation by Ray and Susan to again help facilitate the inspection process. They continued the "open door policy" to their adopter file folders showing us the completed applications and other substantiating information within.

In the two days we were present, 63 horses were accounted for. We physically saw 56 of them. Only 4 of the 56 appeared to be in need of some attention. 3 are underweight and 1 has a nasal discharge. Any suggested facility corrections were performed at the time we visited and Ray and Susan agreed to follow up as needed.

Dr. Wagner, a local veterinarian, confirmed her participation in working with the Wild Horse Foundation and the Virginia Range stray horses. Although reimbursed for supplies and medicines, she donates most of her time and services and is available "on call." She is the doctor who performed the ankle surgery on Estray #854 to release her retracted tendons. She also, confirmed Ray's information regarding the fact that once hay is cut, the protein value stays the same even if it is no longer green and that if stored properly can last for several years without decline.

From what I observed the horses seem to be in good general care. The trip from Nevada to Texas seems to take its toll on them, however. Horses from the first load in October appear more physically rounded out and settled in than the horses that arrived December 1st. If it were possible to put extra weight on them before they go, they would have an easier start on the other end.