



International
Society for the
Protection of
Mustangs and
Burros



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2012

WWW.ISPMB.ORG

VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL GIVE A GIFT OF SPONSORSHIP Help us feed our Special Needs Horses!

Again this year, ISPMB will help you give that special person in your life a unique gift for Valentine's day. For any gift of \$100 or more, your Valentine will receive a custom sponsorship certificate for one of ISPMB's horses — supplying senior feed, carrots, and milk pellets for our elderly or sick horses that need that extra love, care, and recognition that Valentine's Day brings.

Call our office (605)-964-6866 or donate through our website, and ISPMB will send your loved one a card including your special verse to your loved one. Order by 2/10/12 and we will have your gift of sponsorship out before Valentine's Day!

Our special needs horses will really appreciate your help!

Our "Special Needs" horses will really appreciate your help!

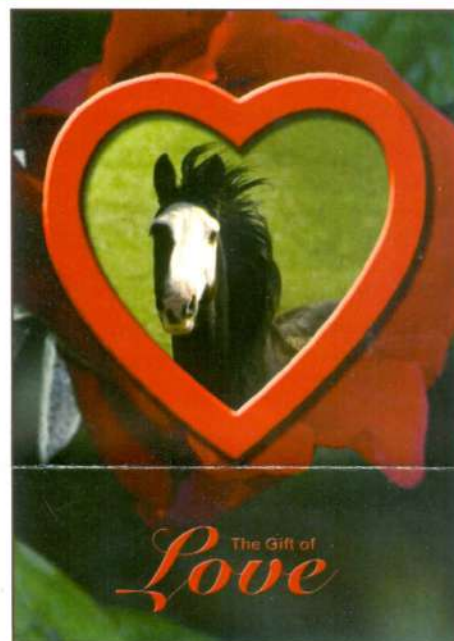


Photo by Joe Miranda

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY COMES TO ISPMB

If you have tuned in to the TV shows that make over a house, transforming it into a model home; this is what Philip Morris USA did for ISPMB's ranch through one of their adult consumer engagement programs. We were so pleased that ISPMB was one of ten projects chosen within the United States for this special opportunity.

On June 19, a team of eleven people from one of Philip Morris USA's consumer engagement programs began to arrive in Rapid City from all over the country to help restore and renovate the ranch. These team members worked tirelessly for 3 days from

morning to night. There was not a building on the ranch that didn't receive a fresh coat of paint along with white trim of all the windows, barn doors etc. The team worked on all the fencing and completed their tasks with building a brand new fence so our rescued mares had a bigger place to run. All the horse drawn equipment from the previous ranch owner was strategically placed throughout the landscape to create a historical visual effect. The results of these works were beyond our expectation!

Hats off to this Team!



International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burras

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SLAUGHTER PLANTS COULD OPEN AGAIN IN THE UNITED STATES

The Agricultural Appropriations bill H-2112 passed in Congress on November 14th paving the way to open slaughter houses in our country. It was signed into law by President Obama on November 18th, 2011. Since 2006, the Ag bill withheld funding for USDA federal inspectors which ended slaughter of equines in our country. The provision to stop funding inspectors was removed from the Appropriations bill by a few politicians while in the Congressional Conference committee which reconciles differences between the House and Senate paving the way to reopening slaughter plants in our country.

For the past year, ex-Congressman, Charlie Stenholm (TX) lobbied Congress to activate slaughter. ISPMB's president, Karen Sussman, attended the pro-slaughter convention in Las Vegas last January where speakers talked about opening markets in China to sell horse meat with the full expectation that breeding more horses could fill this market. Each speaker spoke with such vehemence about activating slaughter again in our country and sadly there were NO speakers who even addressed other means of helping unwanted horses.

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- There are 9 million horses in our country.
- Approximately 1% of our horses die annually (900,000).
- Only 100,000 of the 900,000 are slaughtered.
- Approximately 92% of the horses slaughtered are healthy animals.
- Slaughter is NOT humane.

Surely, as a compassionate society, we can find an avenue to end the suffering of the 100,000 animals.

HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please write your Congress people and ask that they sign on to the American Horse

Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011. This Act will end slaughter permanently and will stop the transportation of our horses to Canada and Mexico for the purposes of slaughter.

Senate bill number is S. 1176; House of Representatives bill number is H.R. 2966;

(Censored reading)

The most important aspect of slaughter is to understand is that it is not humane and it never will be. United States does no better job than Canada. Worst of all the kill plants cannot be monitored daily. Sadly, there are many films showing the gruesome captive bolt hitting horses in the head up to seven or more times before they are knocked down. Some are conscious when they are dropped to the floor below where they are hoisted up by their hind legs, hanging and then their throats slit until they bleed to death. Workers can be seen laughing as the nearly unconscious horse struggles.

PLEASE BE ASSURED:

ISPMB is working tirelessly to end the slaughter of horses. At risk are 36,000 wild horses in holding pastures in the Midwest that have been removed unnecessarily from their protected ranges on public lands. With your help, we can save these horses.



Joe Miranda's www.Mirandaimages.com
joe@mirandaimages.com

YOUR NAME WILL BE PROTECTED

In the past, with permission, we have always listed our generous donors in our magazine. We recently have learned that new high tech programs scan names from websites and sell these names to interested groups. As a safety measure to insure the privacy of our members and contributors, we no longer

will list names in our magazine. We hope you will understand and know how grateful we are for your continuing support.

(ISPMB does not share or sell our membership list with other organizations or partners.)

UPDATE ON OUR GREAT STALLION, IAN and MORE (BLINDED BY A DRUNKEN SNOWMOBILER)

Photos by Tiffany Kehrl

In our last newsletter, we reported on Ian, one of our most famous and beautiful stallions from the Spanish Gila herd. Following a blizzard in February, with helicopters a buzz and search teams in full swing surrounding our ranch, we found Ian outside his pasture. A contractor, from MN employed by the builders of the new Indian Health Hospital, decided to go for a joy ride after a terrible blizzard here with white out conditions. He was on our 500 acre pasture and terrorized our horses. With snow three feet deep and conditions barely visible, the horses flew in all directions. Ian was run through a fence with barbed wire hitting his eyes. The tragedy did not end there as we found another younger stallion, named Tristan in early May. He too was partially blinded by this dangerous snowmobiler as his healed scars across his face told the story. He survived the winter by pawing the snow and staying near a stream. He is another amazing horse.

The good news is that Ian was reunited with his mare, Brianna, whom we took out off the herd a year before along with their daughter Alana. Brianna and Alana have become Ian's eyes now and they have lived happily behind our ranch house in a small pasture.

Tristan remained by himself until winter set in when we put him in the barn with Ian. They are getting along very well in a large pen. Brianna and Alana are visiting them going in and out of their barn. The "girls" are with our rescued mares who reside in that corral.

Update on the snowmobiler – he left the next day for MN after spending a freezing night in an igloo he built in the snow. He is fortunate that he survived. He never said thank you to the search team and he has no idea how he destroyed the lives of two wonderful stallions.

Ian, Brianna, and daughter Alana,



Left to right, Brianna, Alana and Ian



BIG BEND WILD BURROS STILL THREATENED AT STATE PARK

Among the remote beauty of one of America's least traveled state parks located along 23 miles of the Rio Grande River and covering over 300,000 acres in Presidio and Brewster counties, wild burros are at risk of eradication again.

Big Bend, the largest state park in Texas, shares the Chihuahuan Desert with the bordering National Park which has the largest protected area of Chihuahuan Desert in our country.

It is also home to 300 wild burros who have been threatened with extermination by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. More than 120 wild burros were shot to death by Parks employees in 2007.

A moratorium on killing the burros was lifted in December after attempts to capture the remaining burros by advocates were unsuccessful. Now 100 burros face removal by lethal means.

Added to the equation is the introduction of Big Horn Sheep into the park for hunting purposes. Although the parks department avows that their decision to eliminate burros is not based on the transplantation of sheep into the park, burro advocates believe otherwise.

The park claims that wild burros are non-native which is not only the mantra of other state game and fish agencies but also the Big Horn organizations.

While working on saving the Black Mountain wild burros in Arizona, ISPMB's president, Karen Sussman, was told by the then national president of the Big Horn organization that if the burros had horns, they would be worth something.

Often the last tag to hunt Big Horns is auctioned off bringing in as much as \$300,000 to kill a Big Horn. Reintroduction of Big Horns has little to do with preservation but more to do with an industry that can make a lot of money hunting the animals.

We appreciate the efforts of Marjorie Farabee and her group who delivered 100,000 letters to the governor asking that the burros' lives be spared.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP: *Please send letters!*

"Stop the slaughter –promote tourism. Allow burros to be a park attraction."

Please write to:

Governor Perry
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we begin our 2012 year, I am certain that our voice will be heard by the BLM and the National Academy of Science as we complete another year of data on our four wild herds. I want all of our wonderful donors to know how much we appreciate your tremendous support. Managing four wild herds is exciting and we hope that all of our members will come to our ranch and enjoy interacting with our wild horses. Our program is one of a kind and we are so proud to have the opportunity to not only save four rare

and unique wild herds but to have these herds providing us with such important information. Your support is vital to our mission! Your horses and I thank you!

GREAT NEWS! Our 4:1 match was successful thanks to all of you and our donor who matched. We are ever so grateful as that helped us purchase our winter hay!

Karen Sussman, President

SUMMER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM GOES INTERNATIONAL



Petr and Barбора Tobola



Tiffany with her baby
Cante Tanka



Photos by Tiffany Kehrl

We appreciate all of our donors who helped to make our volunteer program so successful this year. Volunteers are such a vital part of ISPMB's program, keeping the majority of our funding going directly for the horses.

We were especially thrilled to have Petr and Barбора Tobola from the Czech Republic who spent several weeks here. What a magnificent couple, both university professors, who had a magic touch with our wild horses. Barбора treated a great stallion named Geronimo who had a foot injury. This stallion, from the White Sands herd, received his name in 1999 when he arrived in South Dakota as did all of our horses. He was a ferocious fighter as there didn't seem to be a patch of hair left on his hide after fighting all the stallions upon arrival. Being in Lakota territory, all the horses were aptly named after famous Lakota (Sioux) chiefs or given a Lakota Indian name. That is with the exception of Geronimo who was named after the great Navajo Chief because he acted as if he didn't fit into this (herd) tribe. We captured Geronimo in 2010 because he began to lose a lot of weight which happens when they age. Their teeth disintegrate with age and they can't chew hay or grass any more. While in his new pen, he became cast and injured his front leg. Another wonderful volunteer, Gary McDowell, saved the day and with help, they were able to get the stallion free. Geronimo allowed Barбора to soak his foot and then wrap it in bandages. What an amazing horse and an amazing volunteer. Wild horses know when they are in trouble and they have an amazing trusting character allowing us to administer to their needs. We have often witnessed injured wild horses loading easily into a horse trailer sometimes even without stock panels. Thanks to Barбора, Geronimo's foot injury has healed beautifully and he is enjoying his barn and turnout with our orphan, Two Socks.

Petr on the other hand who had little horse knowledge worked his charm on one of our Gila mares that we captured. She was unable to walk on her front leg. With temperatures in July soaring in the high 90's, we felt she would not make the trek to water. We captured her with the help of Petr and Barбора and transported her to the front yard of our ranch house where she stayed for the next several weeks. Petr worked with her every day and supplied hay and water. She allowed Petr to touch her but no one else could come near her! There was no visible injury to her foot and over the next few weeks she began to walk normally. We returned her to the herd where she assimilated right back into her band.

We are happy to announce that Barбора and Petr were happily married in October – on horseback! We wish them a life of happiness and lots of horses.

Coming all the way from near Berne, Switzerland was Tiffany Kehrl, who celebrated her 19th birthday here. Tiffany fell in love with one of our Virginia Range foals that we named Cante Tanka meaning "Great Heart" in Lakota. The foal was mesmerized by Tiffany and they were pals for the six weeks that Tiffany stayed here. Tiffany was a great help in recognizing any horse that needed help. She was up at the crack of dawn and back to the ranch house at dusk for dinner. A more dedicated worker one could not ask for. We anticipate that she will be back next summer to enjoy the horses and the Lakota culture.

We hope to have more international visitors next year! For sure, Germany will be represented next summer.

We welcome volunteers from all over.



ANIMAL RIGHTS TERRORISM LAW CHALLENGED IN COURT



Photo by Joe Miranda

According to Constitutional Rights (CCR) staff attorney, Rachel Meeropol, "The AETA turns the kind of activity and advocacy we celebrate from the Civil Rights movement into a terrorist offense.

On December 15, 2011 a lawsuit was filed in court by the Center for Constitutional Rights asking to strike down the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) as unconstitutional alleging that animal rights activists' freedom of speech has been violated.

In 2006, groups such as the Fur Commission USA, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and several pharmaceutical companies lobbied for this law.

This law takes direct aim at the proud tradition of dissent in the United States. It creates the potential for prosecuting almost any activist as a terrorist if their protests result in economic damage to a company that is somehow connected to animal enterprise."

CCR further states that critics argue the law is so broad that it punishes peaceful protests that cause businesses to lose profit or increase their security costs and turns non-violent civil disobedience into "terrorism." Non-violent violators can face up to twenty years in prison.

Rania Khalek writes, "When Upton Sinclair published his scathing condemnation of the unsanitary and atrocious labor practices of the meatpacking industry in 1906, the purchase of American meat both nationally and internationally took a 50 percent nosedive. Meanwhile, in less than a year, the public outcry garnered by Sinclair's invaluable investigative work led to the passage of the Meat Inspection Act and Pure Food and Drug Act, which provided the base structure of the Food and Drug Administration. However, if Sinclair had published *The Jungle* today, he might just be facing prosecution for terrorism."

WILD HORSE ROUND UPS MUST END (Horses whipped and shocked in Nevada)

In 1959, our first president, Wild Horse Annie, was successful in ending the use of motorized vehicles in rounding up wild horses in the West. The Act, known as the Wild Horse Annie Act, was repealed in 1976 with the Federal Land Policy Management Act. Annie witnessed the terror of what horses experienced in these gruesome roundups.

Today, we realize that not only are horses and foals stressed in helicopter roundups but even more distressing is the destruction of family bands – never to be together again. Even if they are returned to their herd area, stallions often lose their mares to younger stallions.

During BLM's round up of the Triple B horses located between Elko and Ely, NV last July, wild horse advocates filmed incidents

of excessive and inappropriate use of electrical prods, wranglers kicking horses, slamming gates on horses.

Electrical prods should never be used on wild horses and burros and not even as a last resort. Rushing horses during sorting and loading causes panic and horses will crash into fences, gates etc. Because most BLM employees and contractors do not understand the true nature of wild horses, they are often mishandled and abused.

Let's remember that wild horse training programs for BLM employees are far and few in-between.

A review team has been assembled by BLM Director Bob Abbey to evaluate the handling of wild horses by contractors and BLM employees.

WYOMING COURT ALLOWS ISPMB TO INTERVENE IN LAWSUIT



Photo by Joe Miranda

Campaign and the Cloud Foundation in a lawsuit brought against the U.S. Department of Interior by Rock Springs Grazing Association (RSGA).

In the late 70's, ISPMB developed an agreement with RSGA to set numbers of wild horses in the checkerboard area including 500 horses on private lands. In July, the RSGA petitioned the court to

On November 2nd, US Magistrate Scott W. Skavdahl, of the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming granted intervenor status to three wild horse groups, ISPMB, American Wild Horse Preservation

enforce a 1981 court judgment against the BLM to remove wild horses from private lands spanning 40 miles wide and 80 miles long, covering approximately 2 million acres. This area includes Salt Wells Creek, Great Divide Basin, White Mountain and Little Colorado Herd Management Areas (HMAs). The lawsuit seeks to remove wild horses on both public and private lands.

The motion to intervene was filed by the highly regarded public interest law firm Meyer, Glitzenstein and Crystal. Intervenor status was granted on the basis that the wild horse groups' interest in "preserving the wild horses in their current habitat are directly threatened by this lawsuit."

"We are pleased that this court decision will allow us to be a voice for the future of Wyoming's mustangs," said Karen Sussman, president of the ISPMB. "As a party to the original agreement establishing population levels in this area, we will vigorously defend the Wyoming's wild horses and work toward an agreement that keeps them free where they belong on our public lands."



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF MUSTANGS AND BURROS

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Check out: our website for the
latest news and pictures:

www.ISPMB.org

or Visit us on Facebook!

PLEASE NOTE OUR CORRECT ADDRESS

Due to recent changes in our mailing program,
the Rapid City address is no longer valid.

Our only address is

ISPMB, PO Box 55, Lantry, SD 57636.

HISTORICAL TRIVIA

1971 Wild Horses and Burros Act was passed unanimously in Congress
because of the efforts of ISPMB and our first president, Wild Horse Annie.



Photo by Joe Miranda

Photo by Joe Miranda



ISPMB president, Karen Sussman gets a little
nudge from an admirer. Maybe he wants to use
the phone?

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Carrots for Juan, Jacque and Rita \$5.00 donation
- A bag of Oats for Santiago \$10.00 donation
- Senior feed for Geronimo,
Wamlee, and our Elders \$15.00 donation
- A bale of hay for one horse \$35.00 donation
- Feed two horses for a month \$70.00 donation
- Purchase a bag of milk for
our orphans, Cate and Nagi \$100.00 donation
- Sponsor your very own horse \$150.00 donation
- Sponsor an orphaned foal \$500.00 donation
- Sponsor a wild band (family) \$1,000.00 donation
- Sponsor your own herd \$5,000.00 donation
- Feed all of our horses for the winter \$105,000.00 donation

TRACTOR DECISIONS: As we are going to press, our wonderful tractor
that we have used to feed our horses broke down. After years of faithful
service, we are exploring the possibilities of purchasing a new tractor
since our repairs are over \$12,000. Our tractor people have told us
because of the age of our tractor (which we bought used nearly ten years
ago) we can expect more major repairs more frequently. We are making
major decisions now – do we repair or do we purchase a new tractor that
will last us another twenty years
without any perceived problems!
We have a great opportunity now
for major discounts on a 2011
tractor – total cost \$75,000 (this
would be a savings of \$24,000 if it
came straight from the factory).



You see we can put any size donation to work! Thank you for your generosity!