



Photo credit: Wally Jarrett

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs & Burros



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012

WWW.ISPMB.ORG

ISPMB Welcomes International Volunteers to our Summer Program



Gina loving Thunder Heart.

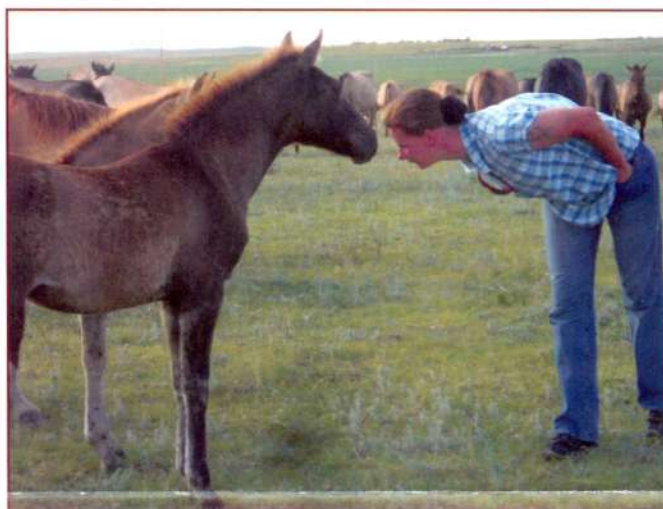
Living out on the scenic plains of South Dakota, there are many opportunities that just don't exist elsewhere on earth. ISPMB was so pleased to have Regina Webhofer from Vienna, Austria and Kirsten Sandberg from Achim, Germany volunteer for nearly two months here. Each brought their own skills which complimented the necessary skills here in caring for wild horses and hosting visitors.

The day's work began at sunrise cleaning stalls, picking endless baling twine, clearing broken limbs and brush from our shelter belt, preparation for tours and distinguished guests. The horses were eager to see those smiling faces everyday too! All eyes were on our new foals that seemed to be popping up in spite of fertility control (contraception which is only 94% effective).

It wasn't long after Gina's and Kirsten's arrival that little Thunder Heart was born. (See A Star is Born). Our days of cataloguing behaviors and herd statistics, which is what we were going to be devoted to, took a back seat for the rest of the visit with caring for Thunder Heart. Kirsten was on night shift and Gina, the day shift! The question was; would this little foal survive? We all congregated at dinner where we enjoyed at least an hour or two of sharing and learning as much as we could about wild horses. The table was filled with laughter as Karen swatted the proverbial uninvited fly who took refuge at Gina's plate. They seemed to know they were safe in Gina's care!

The temperatures were almost consistently in the low 100's. And as we sweltered in the heat, there was literally no rain in site and no hay to be had. So every waking moment, Karen and her staff searched for local hay. All working together as a team produced results!

Yet, there was time to enjoy the Lakota culture at a Pow Wow and partake in the Sun Dance and a Sweat Ceremony. The



Kirsten making friends with a Gila foal

riches of the reservation are many. Then there was the night of star watching where we all stayed up past 12 a.m. to witness the constellations so prevalent in the night skies.

The weeks went by so quickly that before we knew it August arrived and sadly, we all had to say our goodbyes as Gina departed for Australia and the Brumbies and Kirsten went to Tucson to assist Michael Blake.



Kirsten (left) and Gina (right), visiting the Gila Herd



Spirit of The Ancients

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros

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New Mexico Adoption Cancelled

After making all the necessary arrangements to bring our White Sands horses to New Mexico this summer, we were advised by the State Vet that we must seek permission from the Livestock Board to enter NM to sell horses.

Since we were scheduled to leave the last week in September, the Board would not meet in time to okay our trip. We were also advised that if any horses remained in NM un-adopted that we would not be allowed to take them back to South Dakota due to an outbreak of Vesticular Stomatitis.

With that in mind, we were disappointed that we could not fulfill our pledge to the citizens of New Mexico. We encourage our New Mexico adopters to consider coming to SD to pick their horse up!

We were pleased to have one of our two year olds make it to northern NM where he is doing extremely well.

Update on Bait Trapping of Wild Horses

After speaking with BLM's Lilly Thomas, there are now 6 zones where they will begin bait trapping of wild horses. Six contracts have been fulfilled. It is ISPMB's mission to end helicopter roundups that have a devastating effect on family bands. Bait trapping will end the disruptions of family bands and will keep fertility rates down for the horses and keep the harems healthy.

Our goal is to present our data at the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board in April. We'll keep you informed.

ISPMB in Cavallo - October Issue

If your German is good, please catch up with the above issue at www.cavallo.de. We are pleased that wild horses are such a hot topic throughout Europe. We thank Cavallo for bringing attention to the plight of America's wild horses.

PRESIDENTS LETTER ~ Karen Sussman

This Holiday Season is a wonderful time to thank each and every one of you for your support of your beautiful four wild horse herds. This year completes our twelve full years of studying the social behaviors of our herds. We are excited with the information that these herds provide.

We must protect these herds at all costs. To our knowledge there are no herds whose social behaviors have been studied for this length of time without disruption to the herds. And these herds are behavioral healthy. They may be the only healthy herds left in our country!

We realize that with escalating hay prices, we must find an alternative solution to feeding 500 bales per month costing over \$100/bale! With hay prices quadrupling, we must find land where we do not have to feed except in the worst months of winter. Our goal is to become financially independent through tourism by acquiring land in an ideal tourism location. We have identified the land but first we must get through a very long winter. The cost of the land is \$3 million dollars...but then we'll be financially self-sufficient.

We will keep you apprised as we continue our quest. In the meantime, your help is needed and much appreciated to keep your herds in hay!

Wanted Horse Trainer

In an attempt to find good homes for our horses we have removed from our herds, ISPMB is searching for a horse trainer to live at our ranch. Room and board provided. For more information contact our office at 605-964-6866.

★ Scandal Brews ★

BLM sold over 1700 Wild Horses & Cannot Prove Their Wear Abouts

An article recently written by David Phillips and published in ProPublica.org uncovered the sale of 1700 wild horses to a Colorado livestock hauler, Tom Davis. According to Phillips, Davis is a longtime advocate of horse slaughter and since 2010 has been seeking investors for a slaughterhouse of his own.

Horses were sold to Davis beginning in 2008 when he adopted 36 horses. However, according to Phillips, in 2009 two weeks after Ken Salazar became Secretary of the Interior, BLM began to send Davis truckloads of horses. Davis is a neighbor of Salazar and the families have done business for years.

The horses Davis is adopting are the "Burns horses" that lost their protection when a rider was clandestinely inserted in the appropriation bill prior to the Thanksgiving holiday in 2004. The rider shocked supporters of wild horses. The 1971 Wild Horses and Burros Act which Wild Horse Annie and ISPMB worked so hard to get passed in Congress was gutted by Senator Burns from MT, along with Senator Reid of NV and Bryon Dorgan of ND. To date, the rider has not been reversed thereby allowing any wild horse over the age of ten to be sold for pennies on the dollar that it cost for them to be removed from their rightful place on public lands by the BLM. Worst of all, they can easily be sold for slaughter because there is no one year waiting period to gain title.

For the past twenty years, the BLM supported sale authority for wild horses and was unsuccessful in its bid to get Congress to pass legislation. The secret rider was the only way that legislation could pass. As Congress people rushed home for the Thanksgiving holiday, they gave carte blanche to the 4,000 page appropriation bill which obviously they did not read prior to their vote.

Had it not been for ISPMB's National Spokesperson, Stefanie Powers who enlisted the support of Ford Motor Company on behalf of ISPMB and America's wild horses in 2005, we are sure the first 14,000 wild horses in holding corrals would have been sold to the highest bidder – for slaughter.

Today more than 36,000 wild horses are in holding pastures awaiting the fate of such adopters like Tom Davis. Davis's 1700 wild horses account for 70% of all the horses sold under the Burns amendment.

(In 2007, ISPMB adopted 8 stallions and 1 mare under the Burns amendment. An additional 3 younger stallions were adopted to prevent BLM from castrating these stallions. ISPMB has focused on the West Douglas herd and is willing to intervene on their behalf should the Colorado Coalition lose their appeals. Right now, Valerie Stanley, attorney, has done an outstanding job in protecting these horses.)

BLM has conducted two investigations on the Davis case and found no violations.

Currently, there is an outside investigation with the Office of the Inspector General. The intent of adopting or selling horses still remains that they should not go to slaughter.

According to Phillip's article, Davis paid \$17,630 for the horses. On the open market the same number of horses for slaughter can bring as much \$600,000.

On November 12th, Phillips interviewed Secretary Salazar and asked him about the investigation of Davis. After the interview, Salazar told Phillips that if he ever set him up like this again, he would punch him out.

It is a known fact that the Salazar family does not support the right of wild horses and burros to live on public lands. John Salazar, the Secretary's brother, voted against Rahall's bill to reverse the Burns amendment in Congress.

We must write to President Obama and demand that his Secretary of Interior should support all uses of public lands, especially the rights of wild horses who represent the "last living symbols of the old West." We support Congressman Raul Grijalva from Tucson as the next Secretary of the Interior.

For more information on this article, please go to propublic.org and write "wild horses" in the search section.

NEWS BREAK: JUST IN

We understand that Ken Salazar will not continue in his position as Secretary of the Interior.

Hay is in Critical Shortage throughout the United States Your Horses Need Your Continued Help!

South Dakota remains in the drought stricken category ranging from severe to moderately severe. There is no moisture in the land now for crops to take hold unless we get snow this winter. From all climatic reports, we are still in for a dry winter and the continuation of our drought.

We have accomplished miracle after miracle in finding hay. We have bought all the hay that there is to be had in SD. No one wants to sell hay unless they are selling off their cattle too. If there is any hay for sale, it is for speculation as prices will escalate to more than \$300/ton.

We are now importing our hay from Saskatchewan, Canada which is just about a ten hour trip to our facility. Apparently Canada still has moisture and a good hay crop.

As we face the next several months, your horses will need your help more than ever!

Our GOAL is \$250,000



We are so close to having enough hay! The drought is still keeping hay prices high and difficult to find!

Please Help Us Reach our next Goal of \$250,000 to feed your horses through April 2013

Your contributions are tax deductible. Your horses Thank You!

A Star is Born - The Struggle to Survive The Great Thunder Heart

One thing very apparent with wild horses is their will to survive against all odds. So it was on the hot summer day that our "star" was born to a younger mother of five years of age. He appeared to be doing well like the other few foals romping in the corral. Although our volunteers and staff were busy with so many projects needing done in the summer, they kept an eagle eye on these foals.

Soon we noticed that the little foal was having difficulty standing. It was his hind leg and we thought maybe he had been stepped on. We watched each day to see if there would be improvement but to no avail. Each day, he was having difficulty standing to nurse.

So after discussing the possibilities with this little foal, we captured him and his mother followed up to the two stall barn in his corral. There he was exhausted and almost lifeless. His mother was very wild and we had to assure her that we were not going to hurt her foal. It was a bit tense in the beginning as mother's can and will hurt you if they believe their foal is in danger. The little foal could no longer stand up.

Each day as we administered to the foal, his mother became calmer allowing us to give antibiotics to him without having to come to his rescue. We had all the amenities in the barn as if both mother and foal were domestic animals! The fan was running and blowing on the foal as temps soared in the 100's.

Not being able to stand to nurse from his mother meant that we had to supplement the foal with milk. He is a great foal and learned how to drink out of his milk pan on the first go around which is highly unusual. We could see that he didn't want to give up so that put our efforts at full steam ahead.

The prognosis was grim according to our Vet, Dr. Toppin. The foal's temperature was 104 and we had to cool him down with ice soaks. Getting through the first week was the biggest challenge but we did it. We hate naming a foal until we are sure that he is going to make it. However, in this case, it was evident that this foal had heart. We imagined his hooves thundering across the plains and soon he became known as Thunder Heart!

Now we couldn't imagine having a foal who loved his milk and was growing like a weed that couldn't stand. As the first weeks went by, we practiced standing this little guy every day. It took two of us to keep him standing even for thirty seconds and down he crashed. Still not standing by week four, he took a turn for the worse again. Gina and Kirsten had spent hours and hours tending to Thunder Heart. When they called me to see the foal, his temp was almost 105. We had stopped the antibiotics earlier that week. He was so tired of his shots in his little behind. So after consulting with our vet, we started him on two antibiotics again. It was agreed upon that if he did not recover from this that we would just let him go.

His big brown eyes begged to differ with us! He was just beginning to stand now for a minute or so and then back down. He was trying so hard. His mother stayed with him but was dry now because he couldn't nurse from her.

One night Kirsten came running to the house announcing at our dinner table that Thunder Heart took steps on his own. He hated his shots so much that he tried to get away from them and jumped up and bounded across the stall. He definitely was going to be a two person endeavor to maintain his antibiotics. We were thrilled to see progress at last. Each day he tried a bit harder. Soon he was actually wobbling around the pen. We would find him outside in the morning with his mother who did not like being in the barn.

There was jubilation amongst us women as we watched his progress each day. He had already grown quite significantly as he was drinking his milk and eating his hay that was stacked around his little body. Mother was his best example as she came into the barn after we all left him and they both munched on hay together.

Our next big decision was whether we should release his mother since she would no longer be nursing him. Her eyes were always with her herd wanting to be there with them. That day came and we opened the gates and she ran out. We felt so sad for Thunder



Gina, Kirsten and Thunder Heart



We are looking for the perfect home for Thunder Heart! We hope you will consider adopting this great foal.

Heart as now he was truly an orphan.

Thunder Heart was now walking around the barn and gaining strength every day. It also was time for Gina and Kirsten to leave soon. We moved Thunder Heart up to the ranch house where it would be convenient to feed him. His little barn is made just for a little foal.

We let Thunder Heart out of his pen and he was galloping down the road with no mind to us. Usually when foals are raised without their mothers, they will follow the person who feeds them and consider that person their mother! Not so with Thunder Heart. He was already independent and self-sufficient! With farm trucks roaring up and down the road next to the ranch, we opted to make his pen extremely large so he could gallop inside. Today, Thunder Heart has turned four months and he is hooked on his milk like all foals. Unlike other foals, he has survived when most others would have given up. He exhibits great courage and strength and he will make a lucky person an extraordinary horse.

CAN YOU GIVE THEM A HOME!

In our ongoing effort to place our gentled horses into loving homes, please check out our Website www.ispmb.org for available animals. Please help us give them a permanent home.



First Prize Winners Have Grand Weekend at ISPMB



Matt, Molly and baby Thunder Heart

In a writing contest sponsored by Yvonne Allen's *Voice for a Horse*, a young inspirational writer, Matt McCormick, won a trip to ISPMB for his essay on wild horses. Bringing his older sister, Molly, the young adults arrived on scene July 6th for a weekend submersion with wild horses.

We already had a project in mind for the Molly and Matt as our foal was struggling to survive and hours were spent with the foal as he clung to life. Although we had not named the foal, Matt and Molly came up with his show name, Hoof Prince Chance. Both Molly and Matt were resolute that regardless what the outcome would be for this foal, they wanted to be involved.

At dinner one night, Matt read his winning essay to all of us who held back tears as he recited it. The hours of research were evident as to the content of the speech. Matt has an affinity for animals as he worked at the local St. Louis zoo and volunteered for a local riding stable. Molly attends college. Little did we know that she is very allergic to cats, dogs, and horses! In spite of the allergies, Molly was a trooper as she watched over her younger brother.

We hope these young people will stay active and help America's wild horses in future years to come.

★ Pickens Sanctuary Could Pose Threat to Wild Herds ★

Recently the BLM asked for scoping documents related to the Pickens Sanctuary proposal. The site chosen by Madeleine Pickens (ex-wife of T. Boone Pickens) for a wild horse sanctuary in Elko, NV contains 508,000 acres of public land which house portions of three wild horse herds along with 14,000 acres of private land that she controls.

A request by Mrs. Pickens has been made to change livestock grazing AUMs (animal unit month) to wild horse grazing AUMs. This must meet approval in the Range Management Plan which goes out to the public for comment.

The ideal world according to ISPMB would be to change the grazing to wild horses giving those grazing units to the three herds (Goshute, Antelope Valley, and Spruce-Pequet) already inhabiting portions of her land. Giving the extra AUMs to the three herds would protect these herds and keep them running free. It would make Ms. Pickens a heroine!

However, here is what is actually going to happen. The AUMs will be given to wild horses which will allow Ms. Pickens to run approximately 600-900 wild horses on public lands which the taxpayers will pay her over \$400/horse per year. In doing so, the land must be fenced which will preclude movement to water by the Goshute horses. Worst of all, the three above mentioned herds will be decimated according to the BLM. **BLM will remove almost all of the horses from the three herd areas and castrate all the males giving them to Pickens to reside inside of the 508,000 acre boundary.**

What does this mean? BLM has no plans to take horses from the Midwest who are already in holding pastures. Simply put, the majority of horses in the three herd areas will nearly be eliminated and no longer will be free in order to fill a quota for Pickens. Families will be broken and once grand stallions will be castrated – the gene pool gone forever in order to give Ms. Pickens her horses for which the taxpayers will pay handsomely.

Is this actually saving wild horses or creating more devastation for wild horses at taxpayer's expense? Why destroy three herd areas that are home to nearly 1,000 horses.

ISPMB's president, Karen Sussman phoned Ms. Pickens October 26th to discuss possibilities in saving the three herd areas. Pickens said she was in the middle of a meeting and unable to talk. Sussman suggested that they find a time to talk and Pickens said she can't as she is traveling and "is very wiped out."

We expect that Pickens will follow through with her plans even if it will devastate three wild herds.

(The BLM received over 3,000 scoping documents from the public. The majority was written by interested people but the copy was the same. Those will be discarded by the BLM. If anyone would like ISPMB's response, please contact us.)



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,
Wamblee, 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!