

# The Corolla Wild Horse Fund

A Registered 501 (c) (3) Not-for-Profit Charity

Winter  
2016

P.O. Box 361  
Corolla, NC 27927

## 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

**Karen McCalpin**  
Executive Director

**Jo Langone**  
Director of Operations

**Julie Horan**  
Herd Manager

**Dave Horan**  
Barn Manager

**Shevawn Lozupone**  
Finance Manager

**Samantha Reed**  
Administrative Assistant

## RESPONSIBLE WILD HORSE POPULATION CONTROL



*Before PZP  
(Taka's photo taken in 2007)*



*After PZP  
(Taka's photo taken last year)*

The wild colonial Spanish Mustangs of Corolla, NC live among more than 800 houses and thousands of cars on a barrier island that attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists annually. Their habitat continues to shrink with each passing year. Although CWHF is working with land owners to acquire some available parcels, we know that we could never bring development to a halt. And because of this, we cannot let our herd continue to grow unchecked and stand by while their sources of food and water decline as their herd size grows.

It was noted in 2006 by both our Executive Director, Karen McCalpin, and our then herd manager that the body condition of the wild mares was very low. The winters here are harsh and vegetation becomes sparse. After giving birth year after year and often still having last year's foal nursing in addition to their current foal, mares approached the winter months with less than optimum condition. And even when vegetation became lush and plentiful, the majority of mares rarely rebounded to ideal body condition. Our oldest mares rarely lived past their teens.

Clearly, humans have changed the natural equation for wild horses by killing off their natural predators and negatively impacting their habitat with development. Because the ideal world for wild horses is long gone and never coming back, we must responsibly manage and conserve those that remain.

In order to responsibly manage, we looked to peer-reviewed science that has a proven, safe and successful 20 year history to help wild horses live longer and healthier lives. That is why we use PZP, a non-hormonal contraception administered remotely and completely reversible if not delivered more than 5 consecutive years. There are no debilitating side effects and it does not enter the environment. It is the most humane, safe, and least invasive method of population control.

And best of all, we have seen that our mares now have optimum body condition even having gone thru some of the harshest winters in a century. Horses that have optimum body condition and feel good, exhibit more natural behaviors and live longer.

Find out more about equine body conditions and how they are assessed, as well as what PZP really is and how it works on the next page.

**CALL TO ACTION!** Will this be the year for the Corolla Wild Horses in Washington, DC? The CWHF has been working on having a bill passed that will provide these horses with the same protections that the herd on Shackleford Banks has had since 1998. The bill asks for no funding, just that we can maintain the herd at a genetically sustainable size. It is important to have federal protection because some of the land that the horses inhabit is managed by federal agencies. Without it, their thoughts and actions on management can change as different people assume these positions of authority. Please ask your federal legislators to support the Tillis Burr Amendment #3227 to S2012.

*Please help us have The Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act passed.*

*The survival of the wild horses of Corolla depends on it.*



Proceeds benefit the  
Corolla Wild Horse Fund and  
Mustang Outreach Program

\*\*\*And coming this fall\*\*\*

The Mustang Music Festival  
October 7th and 8th

[www.mustangmusicfestival.com](http://www.mustangmusicfestival.com)

**How to Assess the Body Condition of a Horse**

The Henneke Body Condition Scoring System is a universal scale used to assess body condition in horses. This tool yields an accurate assessment of condition regardless of breed, body type, sex or age. Each body area (neck, withers, shoulder, ribs, loin, tailhead) is assessed and scored on a scale of 1 to 9, where 1 is poor (extremely emaciated) and 9 is obese. The numbers are then totaled, divided by 6, and rounded to the nearest 1/4 point. For horses in the wild, visual inspection is the only way to assess these areas, whereas assessors actually press on the horse's body to obtain accurate info for a domestic horse. Any given horse's ideal score varies with breeding role and workload. For our Corolla wild horses, a score of 5 to 6 is optimum.

**What is PZP and How Does It Work?**

PZP stands for porcine zona pellucida. A non-cellular membrane known as the zona pellucida (ZP) surrounds all mammalian eggs. The ZP consists of several glycoproteins (proteins with some carbohydrate attached), one of which, ZP3, is thought to be the sperm receptor (the molecule which permits attachment of the sperm to the egg during the process of fertilization). The PZP vaccine is derived from pig ovaries. When this vaccine is injected into the muscle of a mare, it stimulates her immune system to produce antibodies against the vaccine. These antibodies also attach to the sperm receptors on the ZP of the mare's eggs and distort their shape, thereby blocking fertilization. This vaccine can be delivered remotely by dart gun and does not affect the family dynamics of a harem. Since the inception of our PZP program, we've seen that PZP has substantially given our mares healthier and longer lives and has reduced foal mortality.



Visit our online store for gifts and clothing that will please every horse lover in your life!

[www.corollawildhorses.org](http://www.corollawildhorses.org)  
All proceeds benefit the CWHF.

**Fast Facts: Winter 2016**

81	OFFICIAL HERD COUNT: Once every year, the CWHF Executive Director and the CWHF Herd Manager fly by helicopter over the wild horse territory to establish the official herd count. This year that count was taken on September 28, 2015. The count will then be adjusted when foals are born, when horses are removed for veterinary care, and when deaths occur.
7	Number of horses at our rehabilitation facility. These horses are in training and are either in our sponsorship and/or adoption program. We currently have Amadeo, Buster, Felix, Noel and William available for sponsorship. You can learn more about how you can symbolically adopt one of them and help CWHF at the same time at <a href="http://www.corollawildhorses.org">www.corollawildhorses.org</a> . While there, read about our successful nation-wide adoption program, too!
110-130	The Corolla Wild Horse Fund supports a target population range of 110-130 horses. Population is managed by darting mares with an effective and reversible annual contraceptive called PZP (Porcine Zona Pellucida).
7544	The wild horses that once called the entire 175 miles of this barrier island their home, are now confined to an 11 mile stretch that amounts to about 7,544 acres of the north beach. Almost 70% of the land they roam is privately owned and therefore subject to development.
2000	Critical – The Livestock Conservancy has defined the Colonial Spanish Mustang as a critically endangered priority equine breed. The Conservancy considers a breed “critical” if there are fewer than 200 annual registrations in the United States and an estimated global population of less than 2000.
500 Years	The Colonial Spanish Mustangs of Corolla have lived here for nearly 500 years! In the 1520's, the Spaniard Lucas Vasques de Ayllon, sent three expeditions to the coast of what is now the Carolinas. The expeditions brought with them men, women, slaves, Franciscan friars, and horses. Genetic testing of Corolla's horses confirms their Spanish lineage.
3	The number of times that the <i>Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act</i> has come before Congress for passage. The Act has passed the U.S. House of Representatives twice (in 2012 and 2013). To become law, however, it also needs to pass the U.S. Senate. The Act requests no federal funding. This act was again brought before Congress with the help of Congressman Walter Jones at the start of 2015. Please urge your U.S. Congress Representatives and Senators to support the Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act.
59,686	Number of followers on Facebook! CWHF posts updates regularly to keep everyone informed. Like us on Facebook – it's a great way to stay in touch!
2788	<p><i>Thank you to all of our current members! Please remember to renew!</i></p> <p>Number of current CWHF members! If you are a member, <u>thank you for your support!</u> Our membership programs provide vital support to the CWHF mission. It has never been easier to join online, and the CWHF now offers <i>sustainer memberships</i>, which divide membership donations into automated monthly gifts. Membership levels start at \$10 per year. Please visit our website for more information. Join today!</p>