

The Corolla Wild Horse Fund

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

Spring 2018

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corollawildhorses.org
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WILD AND FREE

THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER



The fence that separates Virginia and North Carolina was installed by volunteers in the early 2000s, and has held up remarkably well. However, it stops short of the sound because of the difficult, marshy terrain. For an intrepid horse, getting into Virginia is certainly possible, but over the past 15-20 years there have only been a few instances of this happening.

In January CWHF began receiving calls about a group of horses that were making their way around (or up, over, or through) the northern barrier fence and into False Cape

State Park in Virginia. There are many reasons why this was unsafe for both horses and humans, and while we hoped that maybe it was just a one-time exploration, we were pretty sure that the horses were establishing patterns and territory up in Virginia.

The horses—four mares, a stallion, and a yearling colt, were moved back to Carova several times, and once even trailered to the southernmost part of the refuge and released, but they continuously made their way back up into Virginia. The stallion is young, and this group includes what we believe is his first foal and the first mares he was ever able to keep, so he is very protective and territorial. We believe that he was moving away from the competition and pressure of other stallions. Of course, the fact that there was lots of green grass in the state park seemed to influence his behavior, too.

CWHF worked with the folks at False Cape and Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge to return the horses to North Carolina and figure out solutions to the fence problem. It was decided that the fence needed to be extended by about 1600 feet, which would require hiring a contractor with equipment that could be operated in the swampy marsh. Our mission is, first and foremost, to keep the horses wild, in their natural habitat, and we were hoping that this would be the case for the six that were starting to call Virginia their home. Unfortunately, the timing just didn't work out.

There was big concern from the officials in Virginia that the horses would make their way into the populated areas of Virginia Beach. It would be several weeks before construction on the fence could start and in the meantime, the horses were deemed a nuisance by the Department of the Interior and we had no choice but to allow them to be removed and brought to our rescue farm. While they are no longer wild, at least they are now safe and in the Fund's care.

The yearling colt is Mateo, who was born in April of last year. We named his father Lucky Duck (Ducky for short) after he got caught up in the cattle guard but luckily survived the incident. His mother is Virginia Dare, and the other three mares are Ocean Pearl, Bonita, and Kitty Hawk. They are sweet, personable horses and we really enjoy working with them. Some may eventually go up for adoption, and Ducky is showing signs that he would be a great Ambassador Horse for the Fund's outreach program.

So, join us in welcoming the Renegade Six to the herd at the farm! We are sad and disappointed that they were removed from their home in the wild, but at the same time, we are grateful to have the chance to care for and love them. Updates to follow!



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

Jo Langone
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Meg Puckett
Herd Manager

Tommy French
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Operations Coordinator

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Welcome Castano II

It's a boy! The first foal of the season, a colt, was born on Mother's Day.

We named the colt Castano II. In Spanish, castano means "brown, chestnut, auburn." There was once a beautiful Corolla stallion named

Castano, hence the "II." We know that this colt will carry on his strong legacy.

There was also another reason for choosing this name. Two weeks before Castano was born, we lost our sweet Brownie to a devastating case of colic. We had been struggling to come up with the right words to express our grief, but the loss remained so raw. We considered posting something about her death on Mother's Day, since Brownie was the matriarch of the Dews Island herd. But the words still weren't there. Then this little guy was born, and with death came new life.

So, hopefully, with the gift of this name, Castano II will grow up to be strong, graceful, kind, and a survivor - just like his ancestors.



By the Numbers: Spring 2018



90: The number of posts it took to fence in our new pasture. The Dews Island mares are loving all the grass!

500: Roamer went to the Museum of the Albemarle in May to celebrate the 350th signing of the Carolina Charter and met 500 local students!



50: This spring our community came together and made it possible for the Fund to distribute at least 50 of these educational signs to Swan Beach and Carova property owners. Keep 'em wild and free!



We moved!

Visit our new location - 520B Old Stoney Road, behind the Visitor's Center. The gift shop is up and running, and the brand new education center will be opening later this summer. Keep an eye on Facebook for information about upcoming events like Meet a Mustang!