

## The Corolla Wild Horse Fund

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

Fall 2018

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# WILD AND FREE

## WELCOME HOME!

We bought a farm! The Fund had been leasing the Betsy Dowdy Equine Center, a 31-acre facility in Grandy where our rescued mustangs live, since 2014. Over the summer, we were presented with the opportunity to purchase the property. Rescue and conservation are key components of our mission and we've recognized the need for a permanent "off-island" sanctuary for many years. Right now the farm houses 17 rescued horses in varying degrees of rehabilitation.



**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  
*Chief Operating Officer*

Meg Puckett  
*Herd Manager*

Tommy French  
*Finance Manager*

Teesa Kerns  
*Donor Programs*

Dan Lane  
*Operations Coordinator*

Nora Tarpley  
*Trainer*

Shelby Lanier  
*Assistant Trainer*

Every horse that has to be removed from the wild will now have a stable, permanent home on our farm. It is a peaceful, quiet place where injured, ill, or otherwise suffering rescued horses can decompress, heal, and be slowly domesticated. After that, they may enter into our adoption program or they may live with us forever if they require special care.

Since purchasing the farm, we've started on many improvements that need to be completed before the winter weather sets in. So far we've improved our water supply with new hydrants, a new well, and new lines and spigots. We've seeded our newly fenced 7 acres, we are planning on constructing a perimeter fence around the entire property, we have updated our electrical system and added new security lighting, and we've constructed one new shelter for the horses.

On Giving Tuesday (November 27) we set out to raise an additional \$5,000 to build a second shelter in the new pasture, and with the generous help of our supporters we surpassed our goal! So now we have even more space for the rescued horses to roam, and we're able to rotate horses so that the pastures have time to rest and the grass can grow.

In the coming months we hope to open the farm up to the public on a few special occasions so that everyone can see what their donations and our staff's hard work has built. And to meet all the new horses too, of course!





## Baby It's Cold Outside!

One of the things we get asked about often is how the horses make it through the winter without getting too cold or hungry. Fortunately, we don't see very harsh winters in this part of North Carolina so the horses don't have to contend with below freezing temperatures often. But even when it does get chilly here, the mustangs are well equipped to handle it.

Horses begin to grow their winter coats as soon as the light starts to change in the fall. Even if it's still warm out, the horses get fuzzy when the days start getting shorter. Then when the cold sets in, you'll notice the horses looking extra wooly. This is because the hair stands up on end and creates air pockets which act as insulation.

Extra calories help keep the horses warm too. In the wild, they will continue to forage on all kinds of browse during the winter. At the farm, the horses have access to hay 24/7.

We generally do not need to blanket the rescued horses in the winter, with one exception—Amadeo. Because he is completely blind, he cannot regulate his own coat growth. His body can't tell if it's light or dark, or if the days are longer or short, so he doesn't grow a winter coat. When the temperatures dip, we make sure he's snug in his waterproof blanket.

Stay warm!



## By the Numbers: Fall 2018



**130,000:** With our current roster of rescue horses at the farm, they will consume as much as 130,000 pounds of hay in one year. It's important to us that we replicate their natural behaviors—grazing for 20 hours a day—as best we can. Want to help? [www.corollawildhorses.com/hay-for-a-day/](http://www.corollawildhorses.com/hay-for-a-day/)

**13,000:** Sanctuary Vineyards donates a portion of the sales of their Wild Pony White to CWHF each year. In November we were presented with a check for over \$13,000 by John Wright. Thank you, John and Sanctuary Vineyards!



**312:** In the past couple of months we've spread 312 tons of sand around the farm. We fixed the driveway, filled in trenches for electrical and water lines, and built up the floor of all of the run-in sheds.

## The holidays are right around the corner!



Visit our web store for t-shirts, gifts, donations, sponsorships and more.

[www.corollawildhorses.org](http://www.corollawildhorses.org)

