

Mustangs Rescued from Nebraska Ranch Head to Wyoming & Texas Homes and Donations Urgently Needed

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alliance, NE – More than 70 neglected horses and burros found at a Morrill County ranch have found new homes through Habitat for Horses, a Texas-based equine protection organization. Placement efforts are continuing for the more than 50 mares (females), who will be moved to the Cheyenne Stockyards in Wyoming. The males, both geldings and stallions, will be moved to Black Beauty Ranch, a Texas-based sanctuary.

On April 22nd, 211 horses and burros were seized from Three Strikes Ranch, a private mustang facility just outside Alliance, Nebraska. An additional 74 animals were confirmed dead. Necropsy results on a number of these animals revealed significant fat and muscle atrophy, which is consistent with starvation. Jason Meduna, the ranch's owner, was arrested on one count of felony animal cruelty, but additional charges are expected.

Since the seizure, the animals have been gaining weight and strength at their temporary home at the Bridgeport Rodeo Grounds. Horses are being placed with private adopters as well as rescue organizations throughout the United States. James Webber, a Box Butte County rancher, has been volunteering every day since the rescue began. Webber proudly talks of the four horses he adopted, “#3815 was the colt I led from the hills. I believe his mother was the last horse to die on the ranch. I found him standing over the body, and the mare had dug a halo all the way around where she died.”

More than 20 animals have been reunited with their owners, including Dr. Richard Porter of Nebraska-based KV Vet Supply. In an email statement, Porter said “I'm thankful for all those who responded so quickly to the rescue effort. I estimate my horse is at least 150 to 200 pounds underweight and will take several months to gain that weight back. It's going to be a long road for all these animals. With 74 dead animals it's a tragic situation really. We're fortunate to have the opportunity to help save as many animals as we can." Porter's organization donated and shipped much needed supplies to assist in the recovery efforts.

Finch, who has been on site since April 18th, will travel with the mares to Cheyenne. While pleased with their efforts thus far, he remains focused on finishing the mission. Finch is particularly concerned about the mounting costs with the upcoming move, stating, “We could not have done this without the support and efforts of the local community, volunteers and partner organizations, but our work is far from done. We still must find suitable placement for nearly 80 mares, many pregnant. The need for financial support has never been so paramount.”

A dedicated website has been setup which includes photographs of the available animals, as well as forms and contact numbers. For more information, please visit: <http://nebraska200.horsereunions.com/>. Donations can be made online at <http://www.habitatforhorses.org> or mailed to: Habitat for Horses, P.O. Box 213, Hitchcock, TX 77563.

About Habitat for Horses:

Habitat for Horses (HfH) is the largest non-profit equine protection agency in North America, committed to the prevention, rescue and rehabilitation of neglected and abused horses. The organization has taken a leadership role in horse protection issues and has been instrumental in developing and promoting legislation to eliminate the slaughter of American horses. To learn more, visit www.habitatforhorses.org