

October 16, 2010

During normal operations of the wild horse gather in the Purdy Mesa area, an approximately 7 month old foal was euthanized due to a severely displaced fracture of the distal right humerus. The operation was a helicopter assisted roping of the horses that were outside the Horse Management Area on Purdy Mesa. The helicopter found a group of horses and was hazing them to the cowboys. There was a group of 3, 2 adults and 1 foal that went into a wash and when they came back out the 2 adults continued to run, but the foal stopped and didn't want to move away from the cowboys. The cowboys roped the foal and tied him down right where they roped him. They saw that the foal was very lame so they didn't want to try to move him at all before consulting with the COR and myself. It was a dark gray approx. 7 month old (based on his lower incisors), stud colt. The colt struggled briefly when he heard us approach but then lay still. When I observed his Right shoulder I saw significant edema proximal to the humero-radial joint (elbow). I palpated the area and felt an obvious fracture with displacement of the distal humerus. I recommended that the foal be humanely euthanized due to the severe and untreatable nature of the injury. The foal was euthanized via gunshot. I incised the area over the distal humerus, humero-radial joint, and proximal radius. I found significant trauma to the musculature of the shoulder over the fracture with severe maceration of multiple muscle bodies indicating that the fracture probably occurred during the gather, but prior to the foal's being roped. I believe that the extent of damage to the muscles was greater than what could have happened in the limited movements that the foal performed during and after roping.

I believe that euthanizing this foal at the time of injury was the most humane method of handling the situation.

Sincerely,



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