

## BUCK AND BOLD WILD HORSE GATHER—VETERINARY REPORT

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**Date prepared:** August 1, 2011

**Date of observation:** July 31, 2011

**Location:** Long Valley Gather Site

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A total of 105 horses (adults and foals) were gathered. All horses appeared healthy with good body condition scores of 4-5 (Henneke, scale 1-9), with one exception. A Sorrel filly needed closer examination as follow:

(a) Physical symptoms. A Sorrel filly, 3-4 weeks of age, had lameness in both hind legs, difficulty walking, a back bone (Sacro iliac) that sloped towards the tail, two deformed and swollen rear fetlock joints, and an overall body condition score of 2 (Henneke scale 1-9).

(b) Decision to euthanize. Due to these factors—the lameness, severe flexural deformities of both rear legs, abnormal sacro-iliac joint and body condition score of 2 with a poor prognosis for recovery for each condition —euthanasia was recommended as an act of mercy.

(c) Euthanasia and post mortem. The animal was euthanized on July 31, 2011, at 16:25. On post mortem examination of both joints the following observations were made: bruising was found on the connective tissue and on the posterior aspect of each fetlock. There was excessive growth of hard connective tissue on the lateral side of both fetlocks but more on the left than on the right, both joints were enlarged but there was no sign of acute trauma, hematoma, or infection. No anatomical abnormality was detected on the sacro-iliac joint area to explain the abnormal conformation there.

(d) Conclusion from post mortem. The flexural deformity of the fetlock joints, which is associated with laxity of the tendons, caused the fetlock joint to drop and cause the observed bruising on the posterior aspect of the joint. The sacro iliac deformity also caused the back bone to drop and tilt downward. Since no bruise or sign of trauma was detected in the area, I believe that this was a congenital deformity.