

Buck and Bald Wild Horse Gather – Veterinary Report

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Date of Observations: July 22, 2011 at Long Valley gather site

Approximately 105 horses (adults and foals) were gathered today. All horses appeared very healthy with good body conditioning (most Henneke 4-5). Two foals required examination and treatment, and final disposition as follows:

- 1- A 2-3 weeks old palomino foal was brought in with a pre-existing deformity on the right front fetlock joint. The foal was showing some signs of lameness and could not stand straight on that leg. Exercise associated with the gather activity likely aggravated the condition and the foal was standing and walking with difficulty. With the heat and activity of the gather the foal also showed signs of respiratory distress.

She was treated with injectable procaine penicillin and flunixin and sorted into a smaller pen with the mare. The flunixin injection to be repeated once daily for 3 days. The signs of respiratory distress subsided substantially over time, however the right leg was still exhibiting the same symptoms causing lameness. This deformity would most likely affect the animal's survival in the wilderness, and reduce the animal's quality of life for the foreseeable future. The deformity has a poor prognosis for recovery. The decision was to monitor the condition for a few days and consider euthanasia if no improvement is noted.

Final disposition, on July 25, 2011 this foal was re-examined:

The foal was not improving in condition. She had been treated daily with anti-inflammatory injections for 3 days to relieve pain and showed no improvement. The foal was euthanized based on no improvement in her condition, the limb deformity and a poor prognosis for recovery from the lameness.

- 2- A 2-3 months old mustang colt, red in color, exhibiting difficulty in walking after arrival in the temporary holding corral. Examination revealed many bite marks and scars all over the body. Additionally, the right leg pronates causing strain on the limb and lameness when the colt walks or runs. This colt did not appear well developed for his age. While in the pen with the mare, the colt was only getting minimal

attention and nursing by the mare. The mare was seen rejecting the foal on some occasions, nursing the foal on others.

Treatment: 2 cc Flunixin each day for three days to help relieve pain. The foal and mare were penned together in a smaller pen with the mare and foal described above. No significant progress was observed over night. If no significant progress is observed in the next day or two, a decision regarding shipment to a facility, early weaning and raising the colt as an orphan or euthanasia if the colt is not expected to survive will need to be made at that time.

Final disposition, on July 25, 2011 this foal was re-examined:

The foal had a right front limb deformity which was causing an abnormal strain on the limb and lameness when walked or ran. In addition, the colt was not well developed for his age and was declining in condition. The foal had been treated daily with an anti-inflammatory medication for three days to help relieve the pain with no sign of improvement. Based on the lack of improvement and a poor prognosis for recovery from the limb deformity and lameness, the colt was euthanized.