

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
SANDOVAL COUNTY**



FREE ROAMING HORSE ADVISORY COUNCIL BY LAWS

ARTICLE I – MISSION AND PURPOSE

- A. The Sandoval County Free Roaming Horse Advisory Council shall develop, oversee, and recommend legal, long-term, humane, sustainable solutions for the Free Roaming Horses in the Placitas area that effectively address the issue to the best extent possible. These solutions may be multifaceted in nature and occur over time commensurate with available resources and in full compliance with relevant legal provisions.
- B. The Council shall present its recommendations to The County Commission on an as needed basis.
- C. The Council shall prepare a written published report on their activities at least once annually.
- D. The Council shall keep current its County-sponsored page of the County website with relevant information for public access.

ARTICLE II – ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

- A. The Sandoval County Free Roaming Horse Advisory Council:
 - 1. Consists of up to nine (9) members in accordance with Article III.
 - 2. Develops, oversees, recommends, and implements legal, long-term, humane, sustainable solutions for the Free Roaming Horses in the Placitas area that effectively address the issue to the best extent possible.
 - 3. Establishes Council Committees.
- B. The Planning Committee:
 - 1. Is comprised of two annually elected members of the Council, one of whom shall include the Chair.
 - 2. Meets as needed between Council meetings.
 - 3. Develops potential action items based upon recommendations of the Council.
 - 4. Represents the Sandoval County Free Roaming Horse Advisory Council as authorized by the Council.
- C. Ad Hoc Committees:

1. Are established by the Council.
2. May consist of both Council members and other individuals important to the work of the committee.
3. Report back to the Council at regularly scheduled meetings.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- A. The Free Roaming Horse Advisory Council shall consist of up to nine (9) members selected to represent a broad spectrum of subject-expertise and may include Tribal, State, Federal, County, and/or Municipal Officials, in addition to relevant professionals and citizen representatives.
- B. One (1) member shall be a representative from the Federal Bureau of Land Management; one (1) member shall be a representative from the New Mexico Livestock Board; one (1) member must be the Sandoval County Commissioner for District One or Designee; one (1) member must be a representative from the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office; one (1) member must be a representative from the Sandoval County Community Services Department; and the remaining four (4) members may be citizens selected based upon relevant credentials and/or subject expertise.
- C. With the exception of the Sandoval County Commissioner for District One or Designee, the other Government Members shall be representatives selected and determined at the discretion of their respective local Office or Department. There are no term limits for Government Members.
- D. The four (4) Citizen Members shall be selected by the three (3) Sandoval County Government Members through mutual agreement and based upon relevant subject expertise and experience.
 1. The Citizen Members shall serve terms of up to two (2) years beginning in January of the year for which each Citizen Member is appointed.
 2. No Citizen Member may serve more than a total of eight (8) years.
 3. Citizen Members may be removed for cause by the three (3) Sandoval County Government Members stated in writing, including but not limited to unexcused absences.
 4. Citizen Membership positions vacated before the end of an appointed term may be filled by agreement of the three (3) Sandoval County Government Members at their discretion.
- E. The Council shall annually elect a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, and a Secretary by majority vote of all members. Terms will begin in January of the year for which each officer is elected.
 1. The Chairperson shall be a Sandoval County Government Member and is responsible for calling Council Meetings, setting and approving Agendas, among other duties.

- F. Members shall abide by the Sandoval County Ethics Ordinance.
- G. There shall be no compensation, per diem, or expenses paid for any Council member.
- H. It is the responsibility of each person to disclose to The County any conflict of interest that is present or that may arise.
 - 1. No Citizen Member may serve whom possess any infraction of animal cruelty.
 - 2. No Citizen Member may serve who has involvement with any litigation against the government entities related to animal issues;
 - 3. No member of the Council may take part in any deliberation, testimony, or vote on any matter in which such a member has a fiduciary interest, either direct or indirect.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

- A. The Sandoval County Free Roaming Horse Advisory Council shall meet at least four (4) times per year.
- B. All Council meetings shall be open to the public, and provide opportunity for public comment of up to three (3) minutes by prior request.
- C. The Chairperson of the Council may call Council meetings electronically and Members may approve by telephone at the discretion of the Chairperson.

ARTICLE VI – QUORUM, DECISION MAKING, AND VOTING

- A. At any Sandoval County Free Roaming Horse Council meeting, a quorum shall consist of greater than 50% of the total membership of the Council.
- B. Proxy voting is prohibited.
- C. A winning vote shall constitute a simple majority of the quorum of sitting members.

ARTICLE VII – ADVOCACY

- A. Political Activity or Advocacy presented on behalf of or in the name of the Sandoval County Free Roaming Horse Advisory Council shall have the documented prior support and written approval of greater than 50% of voting Council members.
 - 1. Examples of such activities includes but is not limited to written letters/position papers supporting/opposing law or proposed legislation, testifying or speaking publicly in support/opposition to law or proposed legislation granting interviews to media or distributing press releases or statements in regard to law or proposed legislation, among other activities.
