

Untitled

Commission Meeting

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Comments:

Thank you for writing this ordinance, and trying to address the horse problem. i appreciate your work. I would like to provide a few suggestions

* it would be important to clarify : what are the criteria for granting a feeding permit? Or for revoking it? How will the Planning and Zoning Director decide when to issue a permit, or not? Will the permit be posted at the property where feeding occurs? Will neighbors be given a chance to comment and provide input on the permit?

* Definitions –

Calling horses ‘wildlife’ may be in conflict with the definition in State Law. Senate Bill 32, the Wildlife Conservation and Public Safety Act, of 2021 (Roxy’s Law), which is about banning trapping, defines wildlife:

Section 11-17-2 E. "domestic animal" means any animal that is bred for and is typically subject to human control;

G. "feral animal" means a domestic animal existing in an untamed state outside captivity or domestication and not under human control;

N. "wildlife" means a member of a vertebrate species that is native to or found in New Mexico that is not under the direct control of a human or in captivity, but does not include a feral or escaped domestic animal;

Since horses are typically bred for and subject to human control, and since horses are not native to NM, and they are feral or escaped, they do not meet the definition of wildlife. The Ordinance should be renamed.

* Section 14-42 should include “water” along with food, salt, and other nutrients Water is an attractant as much as food.

* Thinking ahead: What will we do when the horses get very thin? Or die of dehydration? There are no natural water sources, and there is not enough natural grass to support even 10 horses. Fences prevent them from moving away to other areas, even if there was grass in other areas. There should be a plan for removing the horses to a sanctuary, so they can be cared for. Senate Bill 301, currently proposed in the state Senate, may be somewhat helpful in addressing these issues, but we don’t know whether it will pass.