

From: Susan Harrelson <suehar222@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:52 AM

Subject: proposed horse ordinance

Hello, Mr. Galizio

I expect you are aware of the proposed ordinance, since it would affect you. I'm glad the County is taking the initiative to try to do something about the horse problem in Placitas. The horses are a hazard on the road, and they are destroying the environment over 10,000+ acres around the village. There is not nearly enough grass growing naturally to support 168 horses.

So, people feed them hay, and keep them fat, healthy enough to reproduce. The ordinance seems aimed at stopping people from feeding, which may be helpful, initially.

My question is, how do you decide who to grant a permit to? What are the criteria? Will the neighbors be consulted? Will water troughs require a permit, too? Water is as much of an attractant as feed.

And, we need to think about the consequences - if the horses aren't fed, they will get thinner and thinner. People won't stand for having horses starve on their patios - there will be an outcry. My best idea is to remove the horses to a refuge or sanctuary. If there is no room in the sanctuaries for 168 horses, they may eventually have to be euthanized. See Senate Bill 271, currently proposed in the state legislature. Maybe the county ordinance could tie in to that bill, if it is passed.

You have a difficult job; I don't envy you! But I will help however I can, in terms of getting the horses removed from Placitas.

Susan Harrelson