

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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**Comments:**

Regarding the ordinance banning of feeding of wild horses :

In my opinion, this proposal is rushed and extreme and will not solve any problems. It punishes the legally wild horses for merely existing here and it punishes the people who actually care about the well being of the horses. This proposal also states that it is punishable to help a stray dog who comes onto the property. This is outrageous. This proposal lumps all sorts of animals together; predators, non-predators and docile wildlife. It was obviously written by someone who doesn't like or understand animals and has no idea what kind of negative impact this proposal would create. The legally wild horses need to be protected, not punished. A stray dog needs help in finding it's owner and needs protection until the owner is found. To propose 90 days in jail and/or a \$300.00 fine for helping an animal in need, is sickening. Also, in my opinion, the Sandoval County site that was recently set up for people to report the addresses where horses are sighted, is an attempt to get neighbors to turn in neighbors. These are Third Reich tactics. I went to the site and it says it was created for peoples' safety to know where the horses are. Really? In Colorado there are sites like this set up for reporting mountain lion and bear activity to alert people to safety issues. Horses are not included because they aren't considered a safety issue. In stating that it will be illegal to feed all wildlife except for birds doesn't make sense either, because horses, as well as lots of other animals, also eat bird food!

The horses do their best to survive the harsh conditions, but they do need help, especially in the dry months when grass is unavailable and water is scarce. I do agree that there should be efforts to prevent people from feeding horses along the roadsides. At the same time, people who have fruit trees along roadsides should be required to pick up the fruit that falls on the ground, so that the horses don't gather there. There could be a lot more noticeable signage along the roads warning drivers and visitors to watch for horses and slow down for horses. There should be more monitoring for speeders, which is a really bad problem in Placitas. From my perspective, the recent crashes involving horses have been caused by people speeding, or people just wanting to hurt the horses intentionally; like the woman on Hwy.165 near the new Events Center who hit a horse with her car repeatedly. There should be fines and jail times for people who injure and kill horses by their disregard for speed limits. These people seem to face little or no consequences.

I don't think the problem has anything to do with people feeding horses in a safe and responsible manner. If food is suddenly withheld, it will only create a desperate situation for the horses; because they have been conditioned to survive in this way. The horses are here legally. I am aware that there are special interest groups who want the horses gone from Placitas because they want to put a highway through. It seems that some people with special interests are driven by a greed for money, and have resorted to intentionally hitting horses on the roads in order to sabotage the horses' continued existence. It is an effort to create a scenario to convince the public that the horses are a danger.

In conclusion, I urge our legislatures to do the right thing and pass laws that will support and protect the wild horses and other wildlife in Placitas and not punish the people of Placitas for caring about the horses. I urge our legislatures to act with integrity and be truthful about what is really behind this proposal. To criminalize good Samaritans for helping the horses is so outrageous.

I believe that those who should be punished are the people who abandon their animals and people who speed and run horses down on purpose .

Sincerely,  
Sharon Jogerst