

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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**Comments:**

LOVE THEM TO DEATH. This is what is happening, people who mean well are loving the Placitas horses to death.

It isn't responsible management. While it is coming from their hearts - it is counterproductive. It domesticates the horses, increasing the incidents of horses being in close contact with people, increasing the chances for accidents and incidents.

It negatively impacts the land where they are being fed, essentially creating a feedlot situation: piercing the top crust of soil and removing all vegetation which results in no protection in winds. It also creates an area of feces which, in warmer months, causes odors and attracts flies. When the horses graze naturally, their impact does not create a localized nuisance. This ordinance doesn't ban all feeding, but creates a buffer between feeding locations and residents. I don't mind wild horses roaming free, I do mind domesticated, tame horses, living next door where nobody is responsible for dust and feces management.

The City of Ruidoso had a similar problem. Not a wildlife problem, but a PEOPLE PROBLEM. People were feeding wildlife, and it was creating a nuisance. While they first tried to educate people that semi-domesticated wildlife was a nuisance, they found education without enforcement was ineffective. People continued to indiscriminately feed wildlife. So in 2019, they adopted an ordinance prohibiting it. So this isn't a problem unique to Sandoval County. From my research, I found that Nevada has a state-wide ban on feeding wild horses. They do, however, allow an organization to responsibly feed the horses at: "approved diversionary feeding sites used to divert horses from roadways and neighborhoods." (Wild Horse Connection Range Management)

Further, I commend the County for its efforts to responsibly manage the Placitas horses with the contraception program, and now, with this ordinance. People should be responsible for their actions. I agree that too many drivers are reckless. But feeding wildlife indiscriminately is reckless, too. It creates hazards. Let's be responsible neighbors and stewards of the land, including our wildlife.

I SUPPORT the wildlife feeding ban.

Thank you,

Linda Sheldon