

~~10/03~~ 10/7/03

Cathy Barcomb

To: Bob_Abbey@nv.blm.gov
Cc: amhrseprot@aol.com
Subject: carter horses

Bob and Robin,

Thank you both for working and listening to me last week re: the Carter horses and the gross misspending of monies in the horse program. Other issues have included humane care and handling.

The only reason the Carter horses were not shipped to Woodside, CA, was because last week they came down with strep. Also the burros and other horses have gotten sick at PVC and are dying. As of today, 20 burros have died and don't have an accurate number on horses that have died.

As of today, I was informed that the "loads" that were supposed to go to Woodside are now being re-directed to southern CA in a town just outside of San Diego. They were very ill a week ago, are still recovering, BUT, we (BLM) MUST have those horses in So. CA. for this special adoption. They are to be shipped on Oct. 16th! Glade and John are just doing as ordered.

My question to both of you is "why". How much money is being spent on these already stressed horses than had to be processed, shots, and gelded on a fast track so they could have them in 5 weeks from trap to adoption? And now, shipping them to So.CA when Ridgecrest has 363 horses and 48 burros!

Robin, could you please inquire with one of your associates with the USDA, APHIS Vet, what is appropriate for handling (shots, gelding, etc), turn-around and especially shipment after infectious disease outbreaks have been present. Also, the potential for spreading these diseases on such a "fast tracking" for unnecessary adoption demand when there are 411 animals at Ridgecrest? What is the potential harm to these already sick horses? These animals should be allowed to safely re-coup without being advanced.

Bob, you noted that you understood the financial mismanagement and irresponsibility of these actions when funding is so desperately needed for public lands and the adoption program. What possible advantage is there to the adoption of horses if horses of one particular liking are advanced above those that have been currently awaiting adoption for over a year? In particular, in addition to the 411 at Ridgecrest, you currently house 650 horses at the prison in Carson City and also house 1,875 horses in Fallon. These animals have been in the system for over year, some more than that and are being warehoused when others in questionable health and stress are being forced into the system jeopardizing their health.

There still are not answers and accountability for the initial shipment of these horses into PVC, putting stallions, mares, and foals all into the same compartments with each other. Your assistance with this investigation could possibly avert a potential disaster for BLM. Should animals arrive sick or infect other animals after adoption down there, there would be an immediate investigation by humane groups.

I would appreciate your assistance for the sake of these horses and BLM's reputation. Thank you, I will be in the office all day tomorrow until around 1:30 my time.

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From: Cathy Barcomb
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2003 6:03 PM
To: 'Bob_abbey@nv.blm.gov'
Cc: 'amhrseprot@aol.com'
Subject: carter horses

Forgot one more important note.....

Up until a week ago when all the PVC animals got sick, there was a scheduled "special" adoption at PVC to include 30 Carter weanlings for Oct. 25th. All BLM media and press releases had already been done, BLM mailed out 1,500 flyers to previous adopters, etc.

Because of the sick horses and BLM vet not wanting to take the chance of people adopting sick animals (and also for the animals sake), the decision was made to POSTPONE the special adoption, after all this advertising and expense! For the horses sake and that of disease control, the special adoption was put off until Nov. 15th.

So, why are we not following the advice we have taken here by not putting the horses up for adoption but on the other hand allowing these horses to be shipped to So. CA for an adoption on the same date, Oct 25th. Why is BLM not following their own advise and direction for having the horses here locally NOT available for adoption for three weeks after the scheduled date and are saying its okay to ship these horses and have this adoption. Shipping adds extra stress, certainly much more than just having them in the corrals here!

Cathy