

Michael D. Kirk DVM

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Susie Stokke
Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead
Bureau of Land Management
Nevada State Office
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Dear Susie,

Thank you for asking for my professional opinion regarding the gelding project on the NWHR. Enclosed please find my comments.

- Surgery should be performed by a Nevada Licensed equine veterinarian in good standing and of known ability.
- Anesthesia will exclude the use of succinylcholine chloride (ie) Sucostrin and keep within the welfare guidelines for the horses with regards to analgesia and adequate ventilation.
- Performing the surgery in the field with a 7-10 day observation period is probably the least traumatic and stressful on the horses. Conflicts and confrontations between post-surgical individuals may be kept to a minimum using a large holding facility.

Depending on age, testosterone levels appear to be negligible by 30 days post-surgery.

This may influence post-operative monitoring times.

- Post-operative antibiotics is controversial with long acting penicillin being one drug of choice. This item could be discussed further.
- The procedure is best performed in the spring or early summer prior to fly season.

Thank you for allowing me to comment. If I can be of further service please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Kirk DVM