

Nevada Department of Agriculture News Release



**For Immediate Release
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12/27/2011- Following the successful sale of eight collected estray horses to a horse advocacy group four weeks ago, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) once again offered 8 more estray horses for sale today in Carson City.

This sale was conceived to give horse advocacy groups first chance at buying estray horses collected by NDA before, per Nevada Revised Statute, they are taken to auction.

The last sale, held at the Stewart Conservation Camp, went extremely smooth with the "Let Em' Run" Foundation purchasing all eight horses. "Today's sale went quite differently," said Ed Foster, NDA spokesperson. "We had at least one advocacy group present at the predetermined time but when asked if they wanted to buy the horses the response was no...they were there to watch."

NDA had received a phone call about an hour before the sale. The call was from the advocacy group Horsepower. A Horsepower spokesperson said that if no one showed up to buy these eight horses, they would bring a check and a trailer down and pick them up. NDA's sales agent phoned Horsepower and notified them that, although there were representatives present from another advocacy group, they refused to buy the horses. Horsepower responded that they would pay for the estray horses if the group present would take legal ownership. NDA made the estray horse advocacy group present at the sale aware of this offer. The spokesperson from the advocacy group present responded, "we will just buy the horses at auction in Fallon tomorrow."

When contacted, NDA Director Jim Barbee responded by saying, "we have bent over backwards to give the local advocacy groups the first chance to acquire these collected estray horses." "Not taking advantage of this sale, and then refusal to take legal ownership after Horsepower offered to pay for the horses, leaves us very few options for the future of these estrays," he added.

Mr. Barbee has created a streamlined, less stringent policy to replace the agreements. The policy enabled advocacy groups to buy the estray horses for less money (cost to feed), and gave them ownership immediately rather than the previous one-year waiting period amongst other details.

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