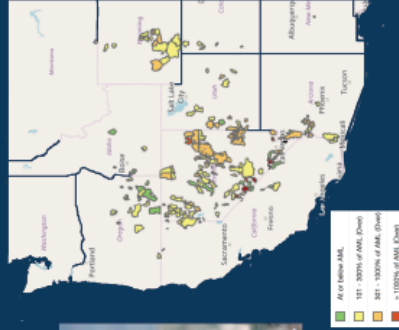


MAKING THE JOURNEY FROM WILD TO TAME: WHAT MAKES SOME WILD HORSES MORE ADOPTABLE

AUBREY SPECHT (4TH YEAR BIOCHEMISTRY MAJOR)

MENTOR: DR. ALLEN RUTBERG, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR ANIMALS AND PUBLIC POLICY AT CUMMINGS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

INTRODUCTION



**AMERICAN WILD HORSES ARE
“FERAL,” PREVIOUSLY DOMESTIC
HORSES RELEASED TO UNITED STATES
PUBLIC LAND OVER CENTURIES**

PROBLEMS:

- OVERPOPULATED AND GROWING:
 - 81,950 EQUIDS
 - AML IS 26,690
- DESTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT
- COMPETITION FOR RESOURCES:
 - NATIVE SPECIES
 - COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK
- COSTLY TO MANAGE:
 - \$62 MILL/YEAR
- LOW DEMAND FOR ADOPTION

SOLUTIONS:

- AGGRESSIVE GATHERS
- LONG TERM HOLDING:
 - 35,710 IN LONG TERM
 - 8,955 IN SHORT TERM
- “SALE WITHOUT LIMITATION”
- PERMANENT STERILIZATION
- CONTRACEPTIVE FERTILITY CONTROL:
 - PZP-22
- ADOPTION INCENTIVES



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

ARE SOME WILD HORSES EASIER TO TRAIN AND MORE ACCEPTING OF DOMESTICITY?

IS THEIR EASE OF INTEGRATION DICTATED BY EXTERNAL FACTORS SUCH AS:

- HERD MANAGEMENT AREA CHARACTERISTICS?
- AGE OF CAPTURE?
- LENGTH OF TIME IN FEDERAL HOLDING?



METHODS

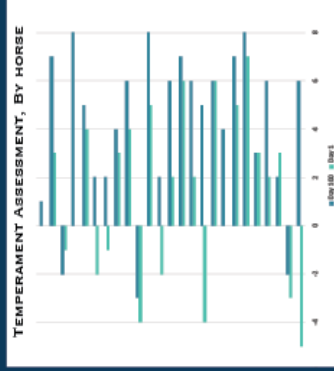
DESIGNED A SURVEY QUESTIONING PAST EXTREME MUSTANG MAKEOVER TRAINERS IN THE NORTHEAST ABOUT THE EASE OF THEIR COMPETITION HORSE'S TRAINING

HOW WAS EASE OF DOMESTICATION EVALUATED?

- LIKERT SCALE EVALUATING HORSE TEMPERON ON DAY 1 & DAY 100:
- AGGRESSION, SHYNESS, CURIOSITY, CALMNESS
- LENGTH OF TIME TO ACCOMPLISH MILESTONES:
 - TOUCH, HALTER, SADDLE, PICK FEET, RIDER, STRANGERS, TRAILER

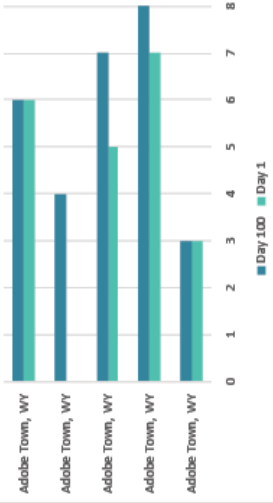
RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

LIKERT SCALE EVALUATING HORSE ON DAY 1 AND DAY 100
= (CALMNESS+CURIOSITY) - (AGGRESSION+SHYNESS)



ADOBE TOWN HORSES

TEMPERAMENT ASSESSMENT, ADOBE TOWN HMA



SIGNIFICANTLY MORE CALM AND CURIOUS (AS OPPOSED TO AGGRESSIVE AND SHY) ON DAY 1 THAN THE AVERAGE HORSE