

CHAPTER 14

Wild Horses



Preview Questions

- **Do you have wild horses in your country?**
- **Some states in the U.S. have many wild horses. Can you think of problems that wild horses might cause?**
- **Can you think of reasons why it is good for horses to remain wild?**

Western Plains Journal

At a public information meeting last night, government officials and wild horse supporters strongly disagreed about the future of wild horses.

Currently, wild horses live and run free on public land in ten western states. The government says **that there are 38,000 wild horses and that the land cannot support this number of horses**. It wants to round up 12,000 horses this year.

“If the wild horse population isn’t controlled, everyone suffers,” one official told a crowd of nearly 200 people.

“These horses damage the land,” the official continued. “This means cows and other wildlife suffer. As a result, ranchers and hunters also suffer.”

But wild horse supporters say **that the number of wild horses is much less than 38,000, and that the government’s roundups are unnecessary and dangerous.**

“The horses have lived here for centuries,” said the director of a program that protects wild horses. “They have a strong social structure that will be destroyed if you separate them. The cows do just as much damage. But cows are big business. That’s why the government is siding with the ranchers,” she said.

She and other supporters are also unhappy with **how the government rounds up the horses**. “More than 100 horses died during one roundup last year,” she said. “They use helicopters and make the horses run for hundreds of miles. That’s not acceptable.”

After rounding up the horses, the government puts them up for adoption. “Anyone with land and \$125 can adopt a wild horse,” said the director of the adoption program. Currently, there are about 40,000 horses ready for adoption. The government has been rounding up and adopting out horses since the 1970s.

“We take good care of these animals,” the director said. “I just hope **that we can find them all homes.**”

Reading Comprehension

Choose the correct completion.

1. The meeting was mainly about
 - a. public land.
 - ☒ b. taking care of wild horses.
 - c. adopting wild animals.

2. The government believes that
 - ☒ a. there are too many wild horses.
 - b. wild horses suffer because of cows and other wildlife.
 - c. there are fewer than 35,000 wild horses.

Reading Comprehension

Choose the correct completion.

3. The wild horse supporters believe that
- a. the roundups help the horses.
 - b. the roundups damage the land.
 - ☒ c. the roundups are not safe for the horses.
4. The people at the adoption program believe that
- ☒ a. adoption helps the wild horses.
 - b. there aren't enough wild horses.
 - c. it is easy to find home for the wild horses.

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

*The following comments are quoted speech.
Add the correct punctuation and capitalization.*

1. "The government cares about the wild horses,"
the official said.
2. "How can we allow this to continue?" an animal
rights supporter asked.

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

*The following comments are quoted speech.
Add the correct punctuation and capitalization.*

3. "Has anyone tried to understand outside?" asked a rancher, "Our cows need food too."
4. "It's true that we have thousands of horses waiting for adoption," the director said. "The program is not perfect."

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