

Animal lovers adopt 407 wild horses which faced death on Nevada range

SPARKS, Nev. (AP) Hundreds of horse lovers descended on a remote government ranch over the weekend and adopted a record 407 wild horses that had faced death because of drought and overgrazing on a desert bombing range.

The animals were among about 2,000 horses rounded up on the Nellis Air Force Bombing and Gunnery Range,

north of Las Vegas, in recent weeks in an effort to thin the nation's largest wild horse herd.

The animals adopted over the weekend included about 80 colts, among some 200 young horses taken off the Nellis range. An additional 75 colts are scheduled for adoption Saturday in Las Vegas.

Many of the colts were near death from lack of food and water on the 880,000-hectare range. Most had been kicked away by mares that were unable to fend for themselves, much less care for their offspring.

"In some areas of the range, the food and water are 15 miles (24 km) apart," said

Mike Rockingham, a Bureau of Land Management employee at the Palomino Valley Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Center 30 km north of Sparks.

"The babies just can't do it; they can't get from one place to the other. So the little ones are just abandoned," Rockingham said.

Congress passed legislation in 1971 to protect, manage and control wild horses and burros on public land, declaring them "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the west." In the first 15 years after the declaration, the Bureau of Land Management adopted out more than 91,000 horses and burros.

Namibian animal lovers want cull of 25,000 seals halted

WINDHOEK (Reuter-Kyodo) Namibian animal lovers Tuesday begged the Namibian government to reverse its decision to club to death more than 25,000 seals, most of them pups, along its south Atlantic coast.

Namibia has launched a major cull at Cape Cross, which boasts the world's largest population of Cape fur seals, and hunters will have clubbed and stabbed to death 23,400 pups and 2,000 bulls by

mid-September if the quota is filled.

But the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of southern Africa said the cull should be stopped until a survey of the seal population is carried out.

"We fail to understand how the Namibian authorities could possibly claim to have any sound scientific basis for their decision to go ahead with this killing," the SPCA said.

The society accused the cullers of cashing in on the lucrative market for seals' genitals, which currently sell for \$2,000 a kilogram in Asia because of their alleged aphrodisiac properties.

"Dubious statements were made by cullers that the aphrodisiac market is merely the by-product . . . this seems hard to accept," the SPCA said.

An international outcry pre-

vented neighboring South Africa from clubbing 25,000 seal pups to death last year and the Pretoria government later suspended culling for up to two years while scientific research is carried out on stocks.

Namibian campaigners point out that South Africa and Namibia share the same seal populations along their western seaboard and Windhoek should similarly call a

gap. Times 8-15-91