

Arizona State Heritage Horse



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Colonial Spanish Horse, brought to the Americas by Spanish explorers has been a part of the history of Arizona starting in 1540 when Francisco Coronado explored the land now known as Arizona on these sturdy horses.

WHEREAS, called The World's Noblest Horse, the Colonial Spanish Horse is an extraordinary breed, with North African Berber origins. This agile desert breed was crossed with the Iberian horses of Spain and Spanish Jennet horses, resulting in a regal yet versatile breed. Famous by the Middle Ages and much sought after by the Royal Stud farms of Europe, a Royal Edict charged the Spanish Conquistadores with introducing the Colonial Spanish Horse to the New World through the Caribbean. The Colonial Spanish Horse became the horse of choice among early Spanish settlers, later the Mexican vaqueros and ultimately the cowboy.

WHEREAS, Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, "The Padre on Horseback", built 22 missions from Northern Mexico to Arizona and credited much of his success to the stamina of the Colonial Spanish Horse. Father Kino established a breeding program for the Colonial Spanish Horses and many of these horses were brought to Arizona for use by the ranchers, farmers, and Native Americans.

WHEREAS, today, the progeny of the Colonial Spanish Horses live on in Arizona on local ranches and the Native American Nations.

WHEREAS, the Colonial Spanish Horse only exists in North America and has been declared as in critical status by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.

WHEREAS, the Colonial Spanish Horse is the foundation breed for many of the North American Horse breeds such as the American Quarter Horse and the American Paint Horse.

WHEREAS, the states of Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina have declared strains of the Spanish Colonial Horse as their state horses.

WHEREAS, the Centennial Celebration of the Arizona Statehood will be celebrated in 2012, and the Colonial Spanish Horse has been in the State of Arizona long before 1912; the Colonial Spanish Horse should be recognized as the Arizona State Heritage Horse so that these precious pieces of history can be part of the Centennial Celebration

WHEREAS, having the Colonial Spanish Horse as the Arizona State Heritage Horse is supported by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, the American Quarter Horse Association, the County Line Riders of Catalina,., Marshall Trimble, the Official Arizona State Historian, Rex Allen Jr., the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance, Spanish Barb Horse Association, the Spanish Mustang Registry and the signers of this petition.

WHEREAS, additional information on the horses and their historical connection to Arizona can be found on the Arizona Horse Project website at <http://www.arizonahorseproject.com>.

NOW, THEREFORE, In order to acknowledge and celebrate the historical importance of all horses to the State of Arizona I have signed this proclamation and do hereby support: **The Colonial Spanish Horse as the Arizona State Heritage Horse**