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state / national

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December 15, 1982

Horses found dying now well; sent to new homes

United Press International
BROWNSBORO — A fourth of the surviving wild horses found starving last month in east Texas have headed for new homes, and the remainder of the herd will get "well-earned pampering" for several more weeks before they too are turned over to new owners.

Jerry Owens, director of the 350-acre Black Beauty Ranch operating 30 miles west of Tyler for the Fund for Animals humane organization, said 32 of the 126 horses still alive were picked up by new owners Monday.

The horses were among the original 168 purchased by rancher Joe Corbett for \$25 each

through the Bureau of Land Management's "Adopt-a-Horse" program in December 1981. Corbett used the power of attorney from 42 people to legally bypass the federal limit of only four horses per person.

The animals were taken away from him late last month after hunters found carcasses scattered across Corbett's pasture near Pittsburg.

Thirty-six horses were found dead on the land and 10 have died since then, said John Gumert, regional public affairs chief for the Interior Department.

Owens said the remaining 94 horses would stay on the Black Beauty Ranch for at least six

weeks to get stronger before they are offered for reoption.

"These horses are getting plenty to eat now and being treated for the parasites which they developed. It's a well-earned pampering," Owens said. "I think most of them will make it unless we get some really harsh weather."

Gumert said veterinarians Sunday screened the herd and determined 60 were healthy enough to be moved to new homes. Prospective owners selected by lottery from a list of more than 500 people were assigned times to get their horses Monday.

"We had hoped to do it Sunday, but bad weather was a prob-

lem," Owens said. "Some of the people couldn't get here on Monday. We'll just keep the horses and they'll have a chance to get them again in six weeks or so."

Gumert said normal fees for adopting horses in the program were waived under the direction of Interior Secretary James Watt. The Interior Department also is paying for the horses care, he said.

Corbett, out on bond from state charges of animal abuse, faces possible federal charges. Gumert said investigators probably would present evidence to the U.S. Attorney's office in Tyler this week for federal charges.

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Refugee tikes resist English

United Press International
GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Cuban refugee children must overcome their terror of anything American — stamped into them by years of propaganda — before they can learn English, researchers say.

Florida schools have a two-year bilingual program to help immigrant children learn English, after which they are placed in regular classes.

Researchers with the program say the children of Mariel refugees who fled to the United States in 1980 are learning their new language at a slow pace.

"There's a terror of learning to speak English," Sandra Fradd, a bilingual education researcher at the University of Florida said. "These kids were told all their lives that North Americans were evil."

Fradd said Monday the children of Florida's "Marielitos," as a result, tend to spend their time in close-knit groups that allow them to "purposefully or inadvertently" avoid speaking English.

"We know you don't acquire

another language without using it, and if they are keeping together in their own little groups and not using the language, they're not learning it," she said.

Fradd said the young students also suffer from the bad publicity that has followed the Cubans who fled their homeland via the port of Mariel.

"The publicity and backlash against the refugees have caused the children to cling together even more," Fradd said.

Fradd, who speaks fluent Spanish, interviewed more than 50 school-age refugee children in Florida. She also talked to parents, teachers and other members of the community.

"When we spoke in English, many of the students could not hold a conversation," she said.

Fradd also blamed the refugee children's slowness in learning English on a basic cultural difference: American schools stress individual accomplishment while Cuban schools concentrate on group cooperation.

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