

*"I love you, not only for what  
you are, but for what I am  
when I am with you."  
~ Elizabeth Barret Browning*



Love encompasses so many things: commitment, respect, mercy, trust and understanding.

When someone says the word "love," some people think of romance and poetry.

We asked our WHE team members to write a Valentine letter. Most of our team members sent in a submission and we place them in this collection. Each letter takes on the personality of each author reflecting the unique collection of individuals that make up this organization and advocacy itself.



*Happy Valentine's Day*

*Wild Horse Education  
volunteers, 2025*



*As an advocacy we are united in love surrounding our wild horses and burros.*

*Love is just a word. Love is a word that carries many meanings, deep and personal meanings as numerous as those that speak it.*

*Love translates from theory into reality through actions.*

*Just as saying "I'm sorry" carries no meaning unless the actions that caused the hurt are recognized and rectified. So too the words "I love you" carry little more than a promise unless actions define the meaning.*

*As advocates we move the meaning of the word "love" beyond an affection. Together, we have embarked on a journey filled with deep commitment to face the hardships required of such a path.*

*We must learn how to balance an understanding of our unique perspectives; be patient with each other and yet impatient with wrongdoing. We must encourage participation to elevate efforts to create protections for those we say we love, our wild ones.*

*With true love comes the desire for mercy and justice. Each and every day the love that unites advocates (and our team) creates the work to stop abuse, neglect. We seek justice and to reform the inequities that have failed our wild ones from range, during capture, into holding and to stop our wild ones from entering the cruel slaughter pipeline.*

*The journey of advocacy is fraught with hardship. A journey begun in real love does not allow disappointment to steal wonder, tenderness and hope.*

*No one ever said the path of true love was easy.*

*This Valentine's Day I express my deepest gratitude to the team at WHE for all they do. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you that walk the path of "advocate."*

*Together we create the living embodiment of the commitment, devotion and strength of the love needed to protect and preserve our wild ones.*

*Happy Valentine's Day!*

*Laura Leigh*

*President and founder, Wild Horse Education*

Wild Horse Education



*I honestly cannot remember a time in my life when I did not love horses and dogs;  
my first true loves.*

*When I was a child, my grandfather, an Ojibwe Cree, told me I carried spirits  
of the horse and dog in my soul. He said they would guide and carry me through life  
with kind-heartedness, perseverance, and understanding of the beauty and importance  
of nature and family.*

*The grounding spirit of nature and my innate desire to preserve and protect the  
environment, its inhabitants, ecosystems, and resources guided me to my professional  
career as an environmental engineer.*

*The first time I felt the spirit of "untouched" horses was in the late 1980s while trekking  
around the massive state of Wyoming providing environmental assessments for a large  
utility company. Engrossed in my evaluations and looking for signs of environmental impact,  
I felt a presence...*

*I looked up and saw three faces staring at me, ears perked, eyes intent,  
all fixated on me. I felt honored by the gift of their curiosity and calm.*

*Every time I witness wild horses and burros in their natural environment, I feel intense joy  
and exhilaration, like a young child on Christmas morning.  
Peace then blankets my soul, like gentle snowfall on Christmas night.*

*Research and guiding spirits graciously led me to Wild Horse Education and my "tribe"  
of kindred warriors. There is no greater gift or purpose in life for me than to unite with  
esteemed, compassionate, and authentic comrades fighting for freedom and protection  
of our wild horses and burros and the land they call home.*

*My children and all future generations deserve the gift of  
experiencing "untouched" nature and the magical,  
healing spirits of wild horses and burros.*

*May your lives be blessed with  
unconditional love,  
peaceful hearts,  
and the true kindness  
only nature can  
generously provide.*

*Happy Valentine's Day!*

*Tammi Adams  
WHE NEPA Coordinator*





The deep and lasting bond between burros is a truly endearing and special thing.

When it comes to establishing lifelong friendships these burros can be very particular about who they trust their lives and hearts with, but when they do not a day goes by that they don't show their devotion in one way or another.

They relieve each other's itches, share newly discovered tasty morsels, play and then fight without holding a grudge, stick together during uncertain times, and if one burro wanders out of sight of the other you will hear an earth shattering bray asking "is everything okay"?

Even death can not erase that place in their hearts they have for one another.

This is why when burros are separated during and after roundups the extreme stress and emotional pain of losing a loved companion or family member can be life threatening. Their hearts are broken.

So when my burros, after much consideration, decided to trust me, and offered me a place in their hearts, it was, indeed, a truly special thing because I knew they didn't do it lightly.

These burros have taught me to not give my own heart away so easily to ensure that, when I do, a lifelong bond will exist much like their own.

Happy Valentines Day to everyone and those they hold close to their hearts.

**Laurie Ford**

*WHE Burro Specialist*





My love for the Wilds is not limited by the span of the sun they bask in, the clouds that cast enchanting shadows on them, or the distance of the stars that illuminate them; it has no boundaries.

They are vulnerable yet fierce, spiritual yet grounded, innocent yet wise. The honor of being in their presence is enough to soar the spirits, and the sound of a soft nicker between a herd mate or foal is a symphony to my ears..

As they glide across the valley and draw, their hoofbeats raise my heart to a level akin to a hummingbird's wings. My heart sings as I share with them the exhilaration of their wildness, agility, and prowess in navigating the obstacles and terrain in their shrewd-chosen path. I am awed at their mystical demeanor as they vanish from my view.

They are the grittiest inhabitants on the range and bear themselves with unmatched verity, a testament to their survival in areas encroached upon by human assaults in their natural ways. I am filled with admiration by their ability to ascend towering mountains, traverse rivers and canyons, float across the plains, negotiate blazing deserts, and survive the harshest climates.

God willing, they may survive the challenges nature and humans pose daily.

My devotion to them is gratefully elevated and executed within an authentic organization with a small, tenacious group of heroic volunteers—a sisterhood to which I aspire to earn my keep.

May the Wilds and WHE be provided with the continuing opportunity to endow them with long-standing work based on integrity and a shared passion for our beloved Wilds.

**I wish you a Valentine's Day  
full of whatever makes your  
heart sing; happy Valentine's  
Day to you and yours!**

*Marie Milliman*

WHE CAWP and Investigative team



Wild Horse Education



A wild stallion's strength and sense to survive is spectacular to see.  
Wild horses are showing us who they are and what they need to survive, and we are listening and learning from them.

Humankind is good and wants to help the wild horses and burros. We are inspired and motivated, of course by the wild ones, but also by people and their strong, irrepressible sense that we can fight to protect and preserve the wild places they call home and the animals will survive.

We are inspired to continue our collective journey by the tenacious wild horses that never gave up no matter how many times and how hard they are pursued and they still remain free.

Imagine the sight of wild horses so strong and stunningly beautiful, some with unique characteristics from a genetic pool created over generations and how important it is that our fellow Americans will be able to see and be inspired by wild horses.

One person can feel helpless. But don't give up. Change throughout history has come from creating a ripple, and you never know how far it will travel.

We celebrate and respect the passage of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act and Velma Johnston.

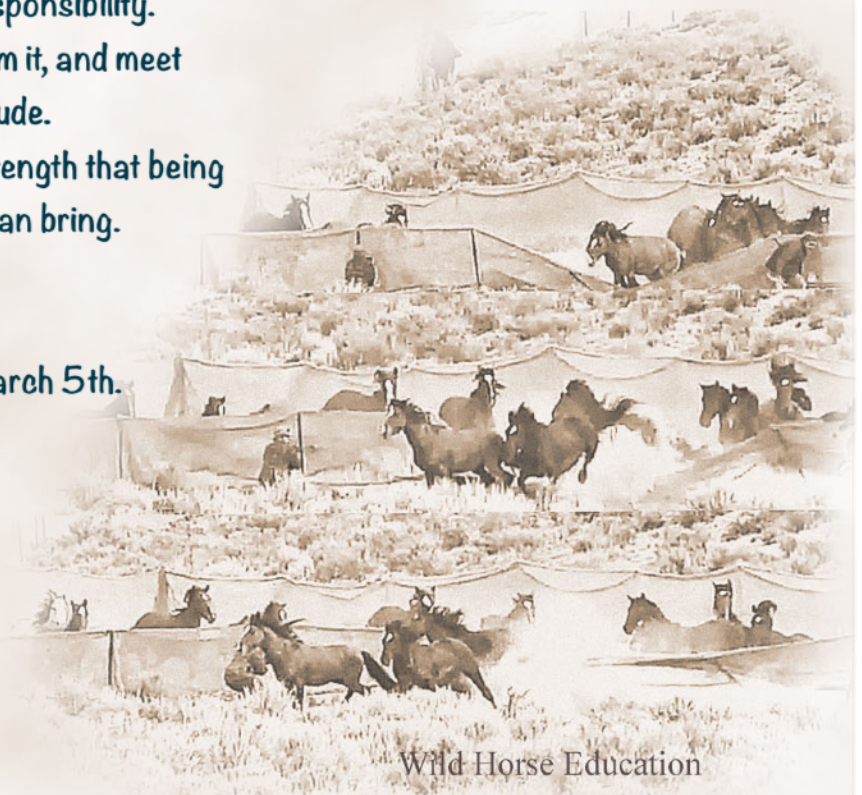
**To love something comes with responsibility.  
We can honor the past, learn from it, and meet  
obstacles with wisdom and fortitude.  
Together, we can stand in the strength that being  
united in love for our wild ones can bring.**

**Valentine's Day reminds us  
Velma Johnston's birthday is March 5th.**

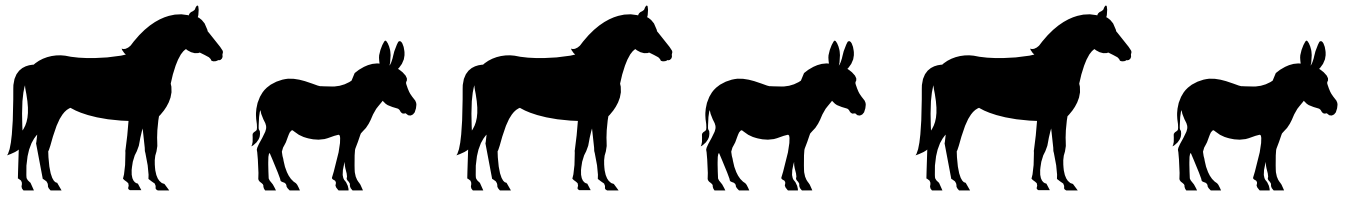
**Happy Valentine's Day  
and Happy Birthday Velma.**

*Colette Kaluza*

WHE Assistant CAWP Team Director



Wild Horse Education



Each piece of stationary used for the collection of letters contains images captured by each author.

You can access blank pages of each to use for your own letters to family and friends.

Simply click the name to download.

[Laura](#)

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We continue to work for our wild ones each and every day.

You can follow our work at:

[WildHorseEducation.org](http://WildHorseEducation.org)