

DON JUAN



Don Juan is a handsome all white stallion. He has been observed in the Placitas area since the late 1990s. Don is forever watching over his little band. He works hard keeping them away from Captain Midnight the



other dominate stallion of the area who was “adopted” by Don as a juvenile when his own family was rounded up and taken away for slaughter in 2001.

Don and his herd was rounded up by Al Baca from his gravel mine last summer and taken to Dennis Chavez's facility where he was gelded and his family bought by a killer buyer. WHOA (the Wild Horse Observers Association) found the buyer and ask Placitas WILD members to help WHOA buy them back. Five thousand dollars was raised to ransom Juan's family and now the herd is living free and safe from capture on the San Felipe Wild Horse Preserve.

Don Juan is that famous wild horse seen with mane and tail flowing in the wind framed against the purple Sandias of the David Cramer's photograph seen all around Albuquerque. He is also the subject of the international prize winning photograph "Stallion Chase" also by David Cramer and featured in the beautiful photograph by Lynne Pomeranz on the cover of the February-March 2012 *Santa Fean* . He was the poster boy for the New Mexico State Law declaring that the Placitas Wild Horses are protected under the 1971 Wild Horse and Burrow Act discounting the BLM claim that they were not counted so they could not be protected under the law.

You can always pick out Don Juan when you see the small band of mostly white horses grazing at the preserve north of Placitas. He is the one standing apart from the others a bit wary and watching out for threats against his heard.