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Another San Luis Valley Horse Mutilation

From: "Christopher O'Brien" <tmv@pop.amigo.net>
Date: Fri, 6 Mar 1998 08:23:30 -7
Fwd Date: Sat, 07 Mar 1998 13:46:56 -0500
Subject: Another San Luis Valley Horse Mutilation

Another SLV Horse Mutilation

A second horse has been found dead and disfigured south of Alamosa Colorado. This makes three, rare winter-month unusual animal deaths that have been reported in the San Luis Valley since November 30, 1997. The animal was found near the Rio Grande River, 10 miles south of Alamosa, CO.

The six year-old white gelding, called by its owner, "the head of the herd" (16 horses) was discovered yesterday, a mile and a half from the herd, laying on it's left side and missing the flesh around the left mandible; its genitalia and right ear. The ear was removed in a three-inch diameter circle. The horse also had a "baseball-sized hole in the brisket," and the rancher suspects that the animal's heart was removed. The rancher, an avid hunter and tracker, noted the horses winter coat exhibited "obvious sign" of a knife-type instrument being used. Individual hairs appeared cleanly cut, as if by a scalpal or very sharp knife.

There were no tracks found around the animal--not even the gelding's own tracks. It was discovered laying in "fluffy alkali" which shows tracks very well. "You could throw a pea out there and see it," the rancher noted. Upon discovery by the ranchers 19 year-old son, "50 eagles were flying around like swallows." The eagles showed great interest in the carcass and were seen scavenging the horse with several crows. This huge number of eagles in one area is highly unusual, I have never heard of this before.

This investigator is headed down to the site to obtain forensic samples, and will add to this report if needed.

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