

Shackleford Banks Horse Herd Update July 28, 2008

The herd numbers 127 with the newest addition, a colt, born July 7. Ten foals have been born so far this year. Some of these will be available for adoption.

In July the sea oat seeds are still green and the horses sample them between grazing times. This eleven-year-old bachelor (below) carries scars from many battles with other stallions.





While we aren't on the island to watch horses in hurricanes, we believe they take cover. However, in relatively gentle summer rain, they turn their tails to the rain and lower their ears to keep water out.

The stallion in this harem (above, second from right) lost all his mares in early April and just got them back in early July. His relative dominance among all the stallions on the island made it unlikely that he would have lost a fight -unless he had been injured. He sustained an eye injury which has healed.

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Source: Cape Lookout National Seashore, Wildlife Biologist - Horses