



*Press Release for immediate release
provided by Wild Horses of Abaco
and the Equus Survival Trust
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EQUUS SURVIVAL TRUST ACTION ALERT
ABACO, The Bahamas

THE LAST COLUMBUS HORSE ON EARTH?

The last genetically pure mare, descended from the first horses brought by the second voyage of Columbus in 1493, lives precariously on the Island of Abaco in the Bahamas.

The 15th Century horses bred on the Cuban breeding farms of Columbus predated *every* horse brought to the Americas. Descendants of these resilient Spanish Barb horses were brought from Cuba to the island of Abaco in the Bahamas in the late 1800's. This created a time capsule of pristine genes from the time of Columbus. Three separate DNA analyzes have confirmed this. The world is down to the last living descendant - the mare Nunki - who also carries one of the rarest color genes - Splash white.

If the genes of Nunki and her legacy are to live on, critical intervention (such as harvesting of eggs put to surrogates mares) is needed now, or the hope of saving and reestablishing the direct legacy of the last horses Columbus gave to the new world will be gone.

Arkwild, Inc, a 501 (c) charity in the United States, has led the efforts to keep this blood line alive since 1992. The Equus Survival Trust has supported Arkwild's efforts since EST's inception in 2004. Yet getting the funding necessary for the reproductive assistance remains elusive.

An urgent plea goes out to the international equine community to provide the critical donations needed for the aggressive reproduction and care intervention necessary. Without this funding, the loss of Nunki and her genes are certain - *and with her, the legacy of the Wild horses of the Abacos is extinguished.*

At the Equus Survival Trust we have a slogan - *Extinction is Forever!* It was never more true than now for the Abaco Barb. Won't you please help?

For more information or to make donations:

- Arkwild website at www.arkwild.org/blog/
- Abaco Wild Horses on FaceBook
- Arkwild on YouTube
- Equus Survival Trust - www.Equus-Survival-Trust.org