

# *Great Escape*

Mustang Sanctuary  
& Training Center



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

# **Collaborate for Solutions. Protect our Resources. Save our Mustangs.**

**The Great Escape Mustang Sanctuary (GEMS) is a non-profit organization that was formed in 2011 with an idea to support the BLM in managing wild horses both on and off the range. We rely solely on public donations, fundraising events, our programs and grants to make ends meet.**

**Today, we are that innovative model working with the BLM and other key organizations for both on range and off range collaboration for healthy herds, lands, and homes for mustangs. It is our vision that this model of support can be replicated to other HMAs.**

**Off range, GEMS provides training and adoption of Mustangs and Burros, while providing a sanctuary for those in need. We foster a connection with children and adults through community outreach, tours, field trips, overnight retreat programs, therapeutic programs and horsemanship clinics in order to increase public awareness and education.**

**On range, our organization is responsible for herd documentation, fertility control, special range projects and promotion of proper wild horse management for the Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area.**



# On Range Support

## The Sand Wash Advocate Team



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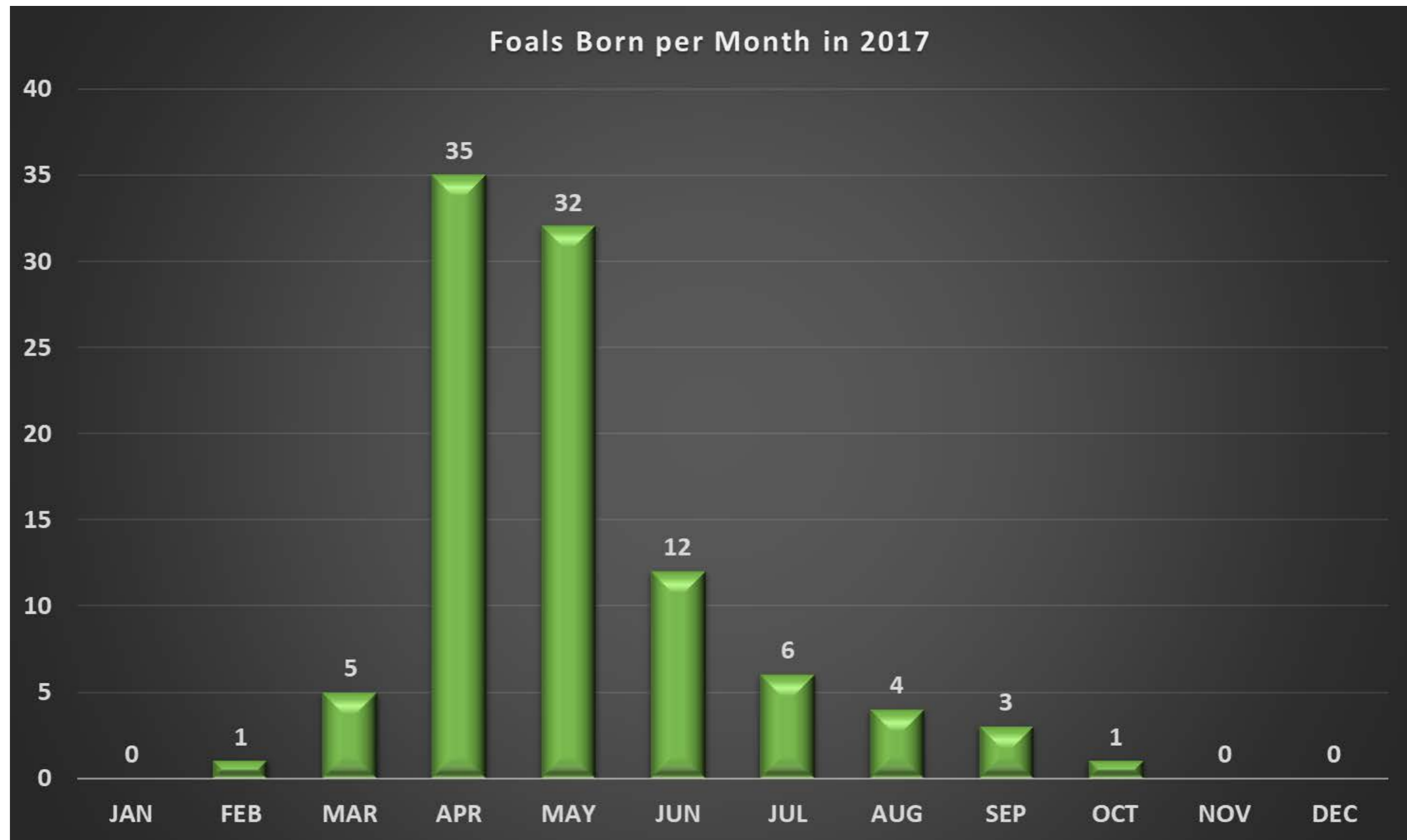
# The Sand Wash Advocate Team

**SWAT is an on-the-range project of GEMS and was formed in 2012, recognizing a need to organize the energy and efforts of individuals and groups in supporting the Sand Wash Basin land and wild horses.**

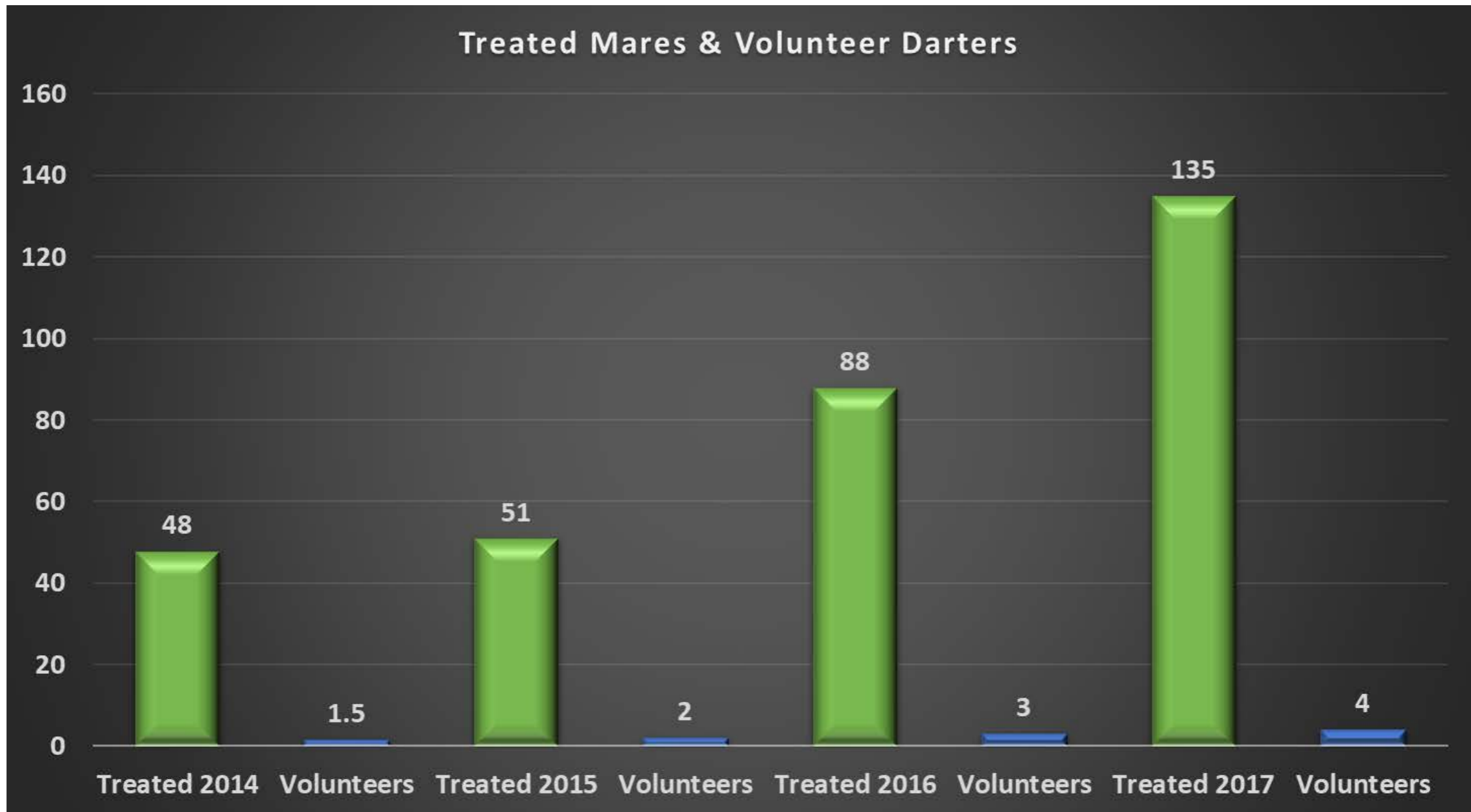
**SWAT is 100% volunteer driven.**

- **we provide herd documentation and database implementation for tracking herd genetics**
- **we have created and now implement a PZP fertility control program**  
(this past month, a PZP training was held in Grand Junction, doubling our number of trained volunteer darters)
- **we provide bait & trap gather support**  
(in early 2017, 43 horses were removed from the Sand Wash Basin HMA and with 2 successful adoption events, all have found homes)
- **we assist with special range projects**  
(annual SWAT Rendezvous/National Public Lands Day work day, as well as assisting with ongoing year round projects)
- **we promote the Sand Wash Basin Mustangs**  
(for purposes of promoting adoptions and herd preservation)

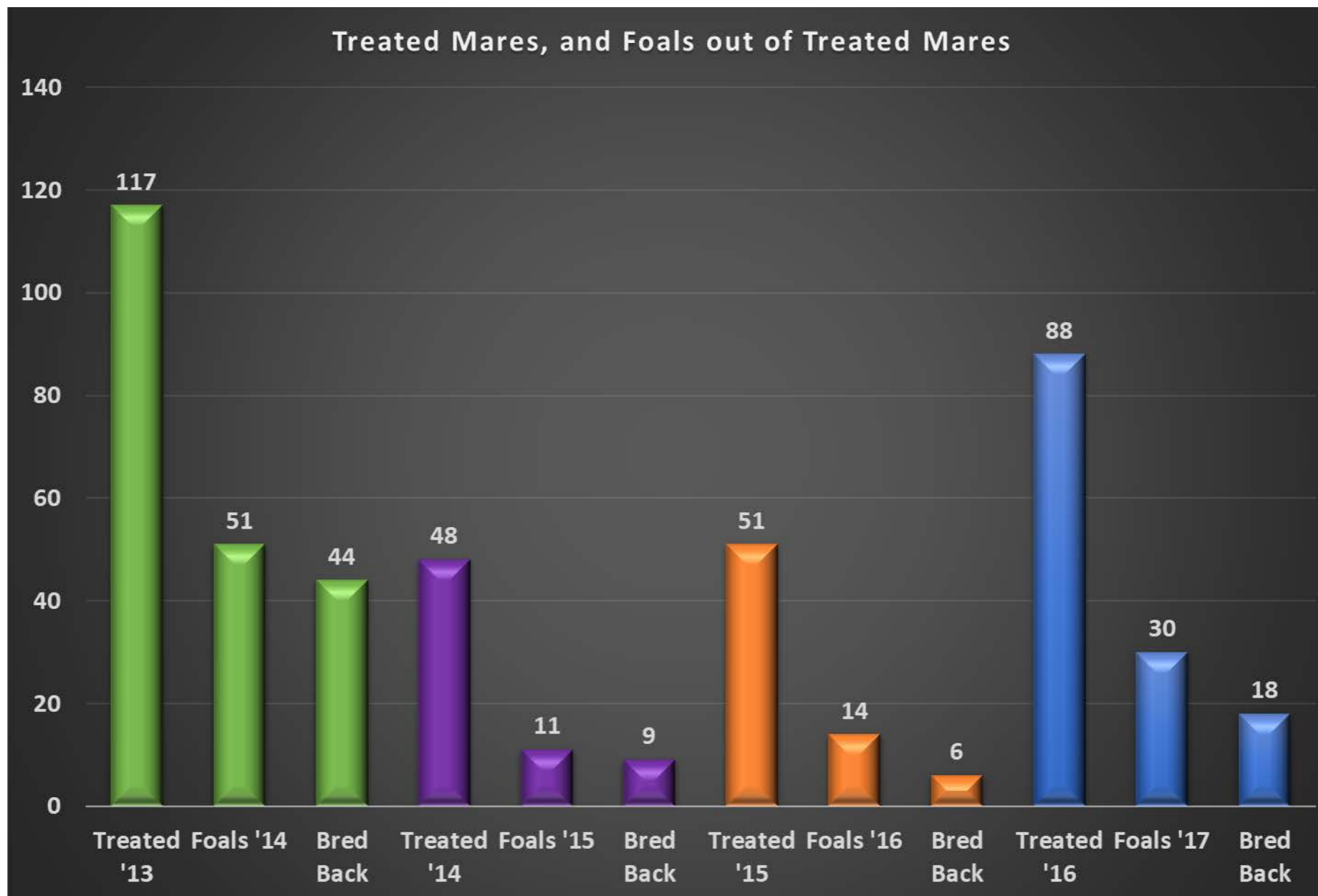




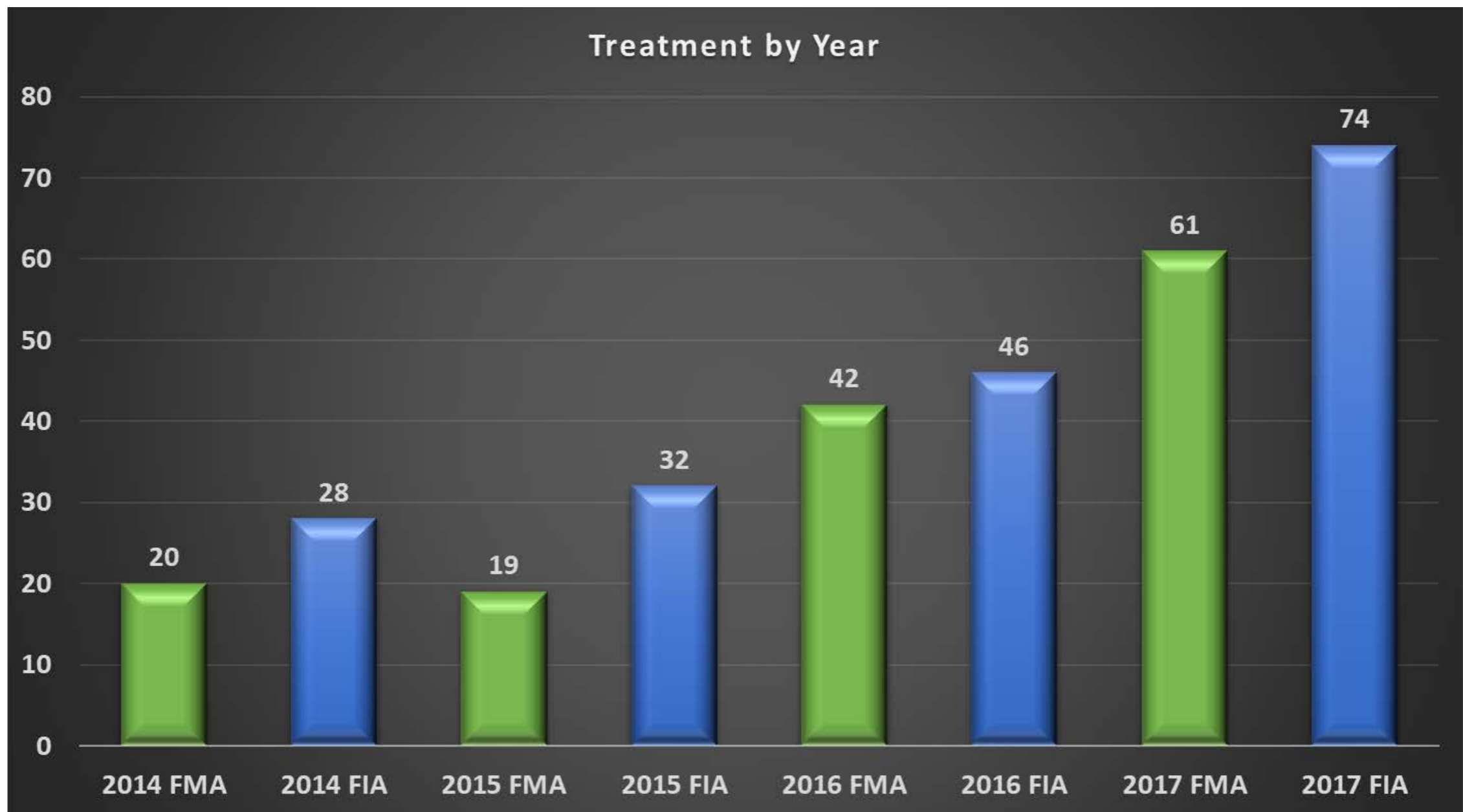
**Represents the number of foals born by month in 2017.  
It is important to access the basin in February & March, before breeding season.**



**Represents the number of mares treated by SWAT volunteers.  
Increase in volunteers = more mares darted**



Represents the number of mares treated and the foals born to those treated mares the next year. The "bred back" data is the number of mares that were already bred at the time they were darted.



**Represents the number and breakdown of mares darted, primer and booster doses.**



# Off Range Support

## The Great Escape Mustang Sanctuary & Training Center



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# Training



# Training

**The key to successful adoptions is training. We provide training in order to minimize adoption barriers that are inherent to wild horses.**

- we have a comprehensive training program where we offer horses at different levels of training from halter to saddle**
- we utilize our trained Ambassador Mustangs & Burros in our programs for the public to experience their potential**
- we find that the training we offer increases the success of adoptions, therefore decreasing return rates**
- we also offer an International Training Internship Program**





# **Mustang Heritage Foundation TIP Storefront**

where we have since moved almost 250 horses out of holding and into homes. A hugely successful program, with the help of approved TIP Trainers placing Mustangs into homes

# Adoption



# Adoption

**To complement our training program, we also host adoption events.**

- **because of the unique situation of where the the Canon City BLM Holding Facility is located, we work with Stephen Leonard to partner on hosting adoption events throughout the year. This is another avenue of public exposure to wild horse adoptions, making them as accessible and available as we can**
- **this year, we plan to host monthly open house/adoption events to invigorate the adoption market even further**
- **for all of our adopters, we offer continued support, even after adoptions to ensure a long lasting relationship with their horse**
- **we hosted the 2017 Colorado TIP Challenge...a “mini Extreme Mustang Makeover” where we had 20 trainers participate (18 adult, 2 youth). The trainers picked up from our location at the beginning of June and we hosted the competition in the beginning of September. Afterwards, we hosted an additional adoption event.**



# Outreach



# Outreach

**Public outreach is another important arm of what we do at GEMS.**

- **we travel to schools, bring wild horses and burros, do presentations to children of all ages, from Pre-School to High School and even Career Development Centers...all while discussing the issues utilizing age appropriate materials and conversations**
- **accompany schools willing to dive in even further and visit the wild herds of Sand Wash Basin, where we involve the local field office in order to give children the perspective from all sides**
- **BLM Compliance Check Training...utilizing volunteers to fill in where BLM may not have the funding to do so. Our training day, led by Stephen Leonard, turned out 22 volunteers from all over the Front Range to assist in this very important part of the Wild Horse & Burro Program**
- **we set up booths and maintain a presence at Expo's and other community events**
- **we bring our trained Ambassador Mustangs to participate in events and outside clinics in order to showcase the versatility and abilities of the Mustang**





# Educational Programs



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# Educational Programs

**We host a myriad of educational programs at GEMS and partner with Clinicians and other groups for diversity**

- **we offer day tours of our training center and sanctuary herds**
- **horsemanship clinics**
- **ranch riding and cow work clinics**
- **through a partnership with Mike's Camera in Denver, we offer photography workshops**
- **children's field trips**





# 4H Mustang Weanling Training Program

In collaboration with Stephen Leonard, we started a new type of 4H club in Boulder County: 24 children and 7 mustangs...Spirits of the West Mustang Training Club, focusing on teaching children the important skill of Natural Horsemanship Training



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# Sanctuary

For those horses that didn't come around in training and were meant to live wild.



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# Retreat



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# Escape on the Range Retreat Center

**Exposing the public from various backgrounds to Mustangs. Our retreat facility is available for rental and is host to many health and wellness programs.**

- **yoga workshops**
- **women's retreats**
- **mindfulness and meditation retreats**
- **therapeutic programs focused on children**



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Working together on and off the  
range for the Mustangs.

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