



## *Great Grants and Initiatives*

**Grantor: Animal Assistance Foundation**

**Grantee or Initiative: Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance**

**Amount: \$61,520      Period of Grant Award: Spring 2008 to Spring 2009**

The number of unwanted horses has increased in Colorado due to the economic crisis. Horse owners have limited options for placing their horses as horse rescues are full, euthanasia and disposal are expensive, and, with the closing of the slaughter plants, that option is no longer available. The Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance was formed as a resource to address this issue.

The Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance is composed of representatives of the horse industry, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado State University, horse rescues, veterinarians, animal welfare and non-profit organizations. They conducted a statewide survey of stakeholders to determine the scope of the problem, published the results and are using these results to identify possible solutions. A website has been established to provide resources to horse owners, horse professionals and the general public. Their foremost accomplishments have been to develop an information network to monitor the issues, and to foster collaboration among the different groups. The collection of data to substantiate the problem is of paramount importance.

The Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance, working with interns from CSU, has gathered information on their website to provide horse owners with resources for horse rescues and other disposal options. They have reached out to the community with information about the issue and ways to mitigate the problem, including links to resources for gelding, feed, and carcass disposal. The data they have gathered and continue to gather is providing support for programs to benefit the welfare of horses in Colorado and to support horse owners. Their upcoming initiative is to provide grants to horse rescues that are caring for these unwanted horses and who are willing to gather additional statistical information. The welfare of horses is paramount.