

Horse slaughter is humane. Horse meat is safe, nutritious, affordable, and delicious.

The absence of a valuable use for otherwise unwanted horses results in immediate tragedy, increased suffering, loss of economic opportunity, environmental degradation, and unnecessary taxpayer burden. The answer is simple and obvious. Allow a properly regulated industry that protects the rights and choices of horse owners, while restoring a normal market that creates jobs, offers opportunity, and ends the unnecessary misery of horses.

# Americans Eat Horses

*And the World is Hungry Enough to  
Help Us Save Them*

International Equine Business Association

---





June, 2012

This comprehensive report is submitted as an informational tool to Congress and to USDA to serve as an accurate representation of the position of the majority of the horse industry, and to directly refute the claims and petitions of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and similar animal rights organizations in regards to the legal and humane processing of horse meat for human consumption.

A recent HSUS petition submitted to Secretary Vilsack seeks to demolish what is left of a beleaguered horse industry, and will only result in the increased suffering of horses. Worse, if the animal rights agenda prevails it will spell the eventual death knell to horses as a genetically diverse and viable domestic species. It is the position of the International Equine Business Association members and supporters that extremist animal rights organizations do not have a vested interest in either the welfare of horses, or the people who seek to make their livings with them, and as such, should have no standing in determining proper animal welfare, or the regulation of the horse business.

Respectfully submitted to the United States Congress, to the United States Department of Agriculture, and to the American people.

Sue Wallis  
United States, Chair

# America Eats Horses

---

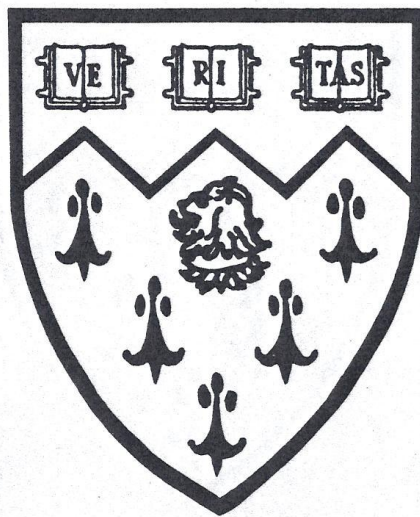
## And the World is Hungry Enough to Help Us Save Them

### Contents

Americans Eat Horses .....	6
Horse Slaughter is Humane, and Horse meat is Safe, Nutritious, Affordable, and Delicious .....	6
The Tragic Loss of Value.....	13
The Simple and Obvious Solution. ....	16
Works Cited.....	18
Linked to Documents .....	21
International Equine Business Association .....	33
IEBA Overview.....	34
Equine Traceability and Drug Testing Protocols.....	37
Humane Handling for Horses at Processing.....	50
Slaughter Horse Transport.....	52
Background Information .....	53
The Fundamental Truth of Animal Agriculture:.....	54
Introduction .....	54
The Basics of Animal Agriculture .....	55
Horrific Unintended Consequences .....	59
The Problem with Wild Horses .....	60
Valuable Asset to Expensive Liabilities .....	61
Abhorrence of Horse Meat is a Cultural Phenomenon.....	62
Criminalization of Horse Meat is a Radical Imposition on Liberty .....	63
Summary .....	64
Fundamental Legal Problem with Horse Slaughter Prevention Bills .....	67
There is a Thriving Worldwide Market for Horse Meat.....	68
Official report of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency .....	69
Moral, Cultural, Food Quality, and Food Safety Concerns in Horse Meat.....	70
Citations .....	71

The Truth About Horses – A Brief History.....	72
Tribes.....	76
National Tribal Horse Coalition Letter .....	77
Yakama Letter .....	79
Tribal Horses .....	81
Policy Resolutions .....	84
National Congress of American Indians – Resolution.....	85
State Agriculture and Rural Leaders - Resolution on Reasonable Regulation of Equine Processing.....	87
National Association of Counties – Policy Platform.....	88
Policy Position of the American Association of Equine Practitioners in regards to Horse Processing ...	89
Facts and Answers to Frequently Asked Questions .....	90
FACTS Refuting Anti-agriculture, Anti-horse Slaughter Activist Rhetoric:.....	91
Unified Equine – Facts.....	97
Unified Equine - Frequently Asked Questions: .....	98
The Truth About Kaufman, Texas, and the Dallas Crown Horse Plant .....	103
Euthanasia Facts .....	104





## *Faculty Club of Harvard University Luncheon Menu*

### *Chef's Entrees*

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 21. <i>Chef's Quiche and Garden Salad</i>   | 2.75 |
| 22. <i>Chopped Sirloin with cottage cheese and sliced tomatoes</i>  | 2.75 |
| 23. <i>Omelette with Garden Salad</i><br><i>(Choice of ham, cheese, or mushrooms)</i>                                 | 3.75 |
| 24. <i>Fresh Fish of the Day (broiled or baked) with vegetable</i>  | 3.50 |
| 25. <i>Broiled Luncheon Filet Mignon or Sirloin Steak</i><br><i>with mushroom sauce and french fries or vegetable</i> | 5.75 |
| 26. <i>Horse Steak with mushroom sauce and vegetable</i>  | 3.50 |

*A la Carte potato or vegetable .75*

*A la Carte salads 1.25*

# The World is Hungry Enough to Eat a Horse

---

## *And the Best Way to Save America's Horses is to Eat Them*

**Abstract:** Horse slaughter is humane, and horse meat is safe, nutritious, affordable, and delicious. The absence of a valuable use for otherwise unwanted horses results in immediate tragedy, increased suffering, loss of economic opportunity, environmental degradation, and unnecessary taxpayer burden. The answer is simple and obvious. Allow a properly regulated industry that protects the rights and choices of horse owners, while restoring a normal market that creates jobs, offers opportunity, and ends the unnecessary misery of horses.

## Americans Eat Horses

### Horse Slaughter is Humane, and Horse meat is Safe, Nutritious, Affordable, and Delicious.

**Americans eat horses.** Some Americans eat horses today, and more would do so if it was available as it is in most of the world. For more than three-quarters of the cultures of the world, horse meat is just another culinary choice that is safe, nutritious, and delicious, right alongside the beef, pork, chicken, and fish in the meat counter. It is widely available in Canada and Mexico, and currently the majority of horses processed in both neighboring countries originate from the United States.

For the sake of the horses, and for the people who love them enough to want to make their living with them; imbue their beloved horseback culture with them; ensure their genetic diversity and the preservation of all of the multifarious breeds and purposes for them (1); and for those who want to raise their children and grandchildren with the joy of horses in their lives...the restoration of humane and regulated processing of horses and the consequential return of full value for all horses...cannot happen soon enough.

In a country where common gastronomic choices include everything from baby lambs and suckling pigs to grasshopper tacos and alligator tails, why can you not find the horse steak that was available on the menu of the Harvard dining room

---

*"Isn't it funny how people who like lamb...are never accused of hating sheep?"*

Rod McQueary , *rancher and horseman*

---

in the 1990s? When our Canadian

neighbors are dining on delightful meals of Medallions of Cheval au Porto, where is the same lean, tender dish to tempt our palates? How can it be that south of our border Mexico is the second largest consumer of horse meat in the world, second only to China? And why, oh why, are so many good horses—many who under normal market conditions would be wanted and valuable for

other purposes—either enduring long transportation to processing plants in other countries where we Americans have no jurisdiction whatsoever over how that is done, or starving to death because they don't have enough value to sell, while at the exact same time the so-called rescues are full of horses



These French horses are from one of nine rare heritage breeds of heavy horses that are preserved in France because they are used for food. (32)

they cannot “adopt out” (read “turn a profit on”)? Why are so many thousands of horses suffering needlessly because their owners have fallen upon hard times, or just don’t care? And why are so many horses now so worthless that they aren’t even taken to a sale where they might be valuable enough to feed, be kept in good health, and at the very least processed into meat in a regulated and inspected facility designed for the purpose by trained professionals? Why are so many horses doomed to the prolonged misery and excruciating demise of slow starvation and disease, and why has this holocaust occurred in the last five years when it never did before?

The short answer is that there is no legitimate reason. Horses are simply a convenient and easy fundraising tool for extremist organizations seeking to drive an unhealthy, unnatural, political agenda.

Americans love horses. We always have and we always will. We can’t stand the thought of any horse being abused, nor should we. Radical activists have learned that the shortest route from your checkbook to their six figure salaries and cushy benefit packages is to scream “bloody murder,” even if it isn’t true. For their purposes it doesn’t have to be true, all it has to be is newsworthy. Create a gut-wrenching, catchy headline that will drive up ratings, and sell papers, and you have a winner. No one will check the facts, that is too boring...all you have to do is proclaim outrageous, preposterous claims with authority, pull a few images out of context, spin up a little double speak, and every horse loving gentle soul unknowledgeable about the inevitable cycles of life, the realities of livestock health and preservation, or the details of meat processing, are in your pocket. Literally. The media is an extremist’s best friend, their blunt weapon of choice, in an all-out onslaught against anyone who would have the audacity to try and make a living with horses.

The problem with today’s journalism is that it fails to deliver any real reason. It used to be that journalists were required to fact check, something akin to the scientific method, to corroborate a story. This meant a bit of work to consult multiple sources, and to make sure that what they were

From the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics...

## Seek Truth and Report It

Journalists should be honest, fair and courageous in gathering, reporting and interpreting information.

Journalists should:

- Test the accuracy of information from all sources and exercise care to avoid inadvertent error. Deliberate distortion is never permissible.
- Diligently seek out subjects of news stories to give them the opportunity to respond to allegations of wrongdoing.
- Identify sources whenever feasible. The public is entitled to as much information as possible on sources’ reliability.
- Always question sources’ motives before promising anonymity. Clarify conditions attached to any promise made in exchange for information. Keep promises.
- Make certain that headlines, news teases and promotional material, photos, video, audio, graphics, sound bites and quotations do not misrepresent. They should not oversimplify or highlight incidents out of context.
- Never distort the content of news photos or video. Image enhancement for technical clarity is always permissible. Label montages and photo illustrations.
- Avoid misleading re-enactments or staged news events. If re-enactment is necessary to tell a story, label it.
- Avoid undercover or other surreptitious methods of gathering information except when traditional open methods will not yield information vital to the public. Use of such methods should be explained as part of the story
- Never plagiarize.
- Tell the story of the diversity and magnitude of the human experience boldly, even when it is unpopular to do so.
- Examine their own cultural values and avoid imposing those values on others.
- Avoid stereotyping by race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, geography, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance or social status.
- Support the open exchange of views, even views they find repugnant.
- Give voice to the voiceless; official and unofficial sources of information can be equally valid.
- Distinguish between advocacy and news reporting. Analysis and commentary should be labeled and not misrepresent fact or context.
- Distinguish news from advertising and shun hybrids that blur the lines between the two.

relying about events or issues was based on reality—or they wouldn't run the story. But today, the best you can hope for is that a journalist will present "both sides" as if this were admirable. They don't even attempt to establish the truth or reality of either side.

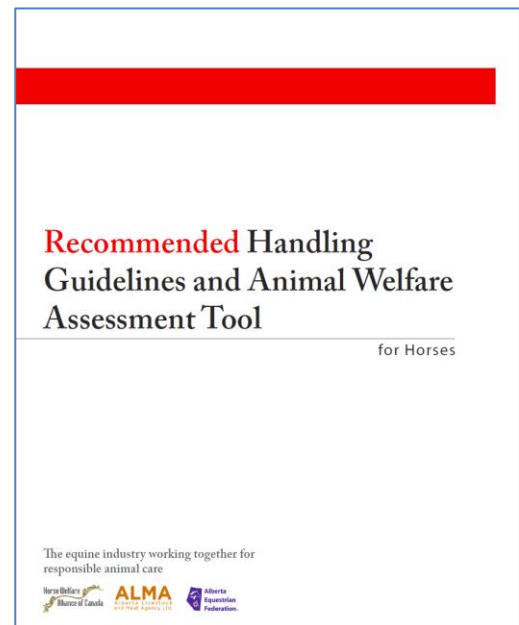
If one "side's" account is untrue and corroboration to determine which story is correct is not pursued, journalism becomes a meaningless relay of information without regard to reliability. Worse, it becomes the fuel for extremist views that we see so often in public dialogue today, especially surrounding issues like the use of horses for food. This tendency puts false and misleading innuendo in the headlines for its dramatic rate raising power, and never even attempts to verify whether or not the statements of extremists are based in any kind of reality. This polarizes every conversation, and gives far too much gravitas to radical notions with no basis in fact.

What is needed is the proverbial reality check. Herewith find factual information with sources and documentation that, at the very least, should have been noted by journalists with a strong public challenge to verify and corroborate statements to the contrary with something besides self-propagated, politically motivated, misinformation:

**Horse slaughter is humane.** Horses are, and always have been, regulated under the [U.S. Humane Methods of Slaughter](#) laws which have been on the books for many decades that require that all animals used for food are "handled with a minimum of stress and pain," and that all animals be dispatched at slaughter by a method that ensures "instantaneous insensibility." (2)

Government inspectors are required to inspect all horses before slaughter, to be present and verify insensibility before they are hung up to bleed out. As trained professionals both the inspectors and the plant employees know how to assess whether there is any feeling, any sensibility whatsoever, even though the carcass will be twitching with reflex movements. These inspectors are required to inspect horses in exactly the same manner as every other species of food animal. In the unlikely circumstance that these requirements were not being

met, citations would be issued. There is no credible evidence of citations for the systemic or habitual improper stunning of horses at slaughter. Processors have every incentive—economic, social, and ethical incentives—to ensure this critical step in the process of meat making is handled correctly because any animal that is in stress, or in pain, produces poor quality, unusable meat. The fact that their regulator has the power and the authority to shut down their plant for non-compliance is actually pretty low on the list of deterrents. It explains why the most highly paid positions on the processing line are the knock box operators, and why they are always instantly removed from that position if they miss.



The International Equine Business Association (IEBA) has adopted the humane handling systems developed by the Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada which are used in horse plants in the U.S. and Canada. (37) IEBA is also developing and implementing fail safe purchase protocols and testing to ensure the safety of all products.

**Horse meat is safe.** A few horses are raised specifically as meat animals in the U.S. today for shipment live to Japan and other countries where they are processed when they arrive. Canada, Iceland (3), Korea (4), and France (5) are just a few countries who have well-developed and flourishing purpose bred horse meat herds. Most meat animals here in the U.S., including livestock bred specifically as food animals, are provided veterinary medicines at some point in their lives. Many of these substances like dewormers are used in cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses, and other species. Most of these substances have scientifically established withdrawal periods which are adhered to before they can be used as food animals. In any case, the food safety regimes in every nation require that there be a scientifically valid and rigidly adhered to testing protocol administered by government inspectors that ensures that no drug residue contaminated meat enters the human food system. (6)



Horse meat sides hanging in a cooler in an inspected and regulated processing plant. (16)

Again, and especially for horses, the meat processors have every incentive—economic, social, and ethical—to ensure that their protocols go beyond minimum government requirements to guarantee that no horse that has unacceptable levels of any substance in their system is processed. In the U.S. comprehensive systems include fail safe methods, verified by independent third party laboratory testing down to the parts per trillion, that every horse processed is free of any drug residue, and that tracks every horse from the moment they begin to be managed as food animals, all of the way through the food chain. These protocols are in addition to and complementary to those established by the United States Department of

Agriculture, whose inspectors are required to perform rigorous random sampling in plants, and who are required to write citations, levy consequences, and condemn any and all meat in the plant for any discovery of unacceptable levels. These protocols are written as part of every plant's Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plan (7), and are promulgated and enhanced by the International Equine Business Association (IEBA) (see details under the IEBA tab in this report) which helps processors go above and beyond minimum government requirements. (8)

Dr. Bagley, a veterinarian at Utah State University and the author of fact sheets cited here notes that "Production agriculture has recognized that it can do a better job in preventing residues. The mistakes detected in the future will be so costly they will put some producers out of business because of one minor error. Contaminated milk from one cow could result in residue detection and cause the condemnation of mixed milk from 1,000 to 60,000 other cows. The regulations could force a producer to pay for that contaminated, discarded milk. Few producers could afford it and they would be forced out of business." The example is well taken, and applies equally well to the horse meat situation.

As noted by Dr. Bagley and others, the emphasis on drug residue contamination is primarily driven by the increased ability of testing protocols to detect levels in minute amounts, and that all of these precautions are for basically a non-existent, but perceived, public danger. No human being has ever been documented as having been sickened by any drug residue in any meat in the last twenty years. (9)

In spite of these long standing food safety systems and protocols, one tactic of extremists is to proclaim that horses not raised for their entire life span as food animals, are always provided veterinary medicines which make them permanently ineligible for food animals. Fortunately, there are [scientists dedicated to pure scientific methods](#) (10) who have stepped up [to debunk these spurious claims](#) (11), noting that bute is one of the substances most quickly eliminated from horse's systems and pointing to the established science which proves this. The [disclosure requirements for horses destined to be slaughtered for human consumption in Canada are working effectively](#) to keep restricted drugs and vaccines out of the food supply, according to Dr. Richard Arsenault, director of the meat programs division for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and USDA standards will be as rigid or more so. (12)

It is a documented fact that as a direct result of the discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy commonly referred to as BSE or mad cow disease in cattle, the demand for horse meat shoots up. Horses are not ruminants and they do not get diseases like BSE or Foot and Mouth Disease. (13)

Comparative Nutritional Analysis Of Various Meats				
The following chart was prepared by Food Research Laboratories, Inc., a USDA-approved laboratory located in Boston, MA.				
<b>BEEF -</b>	<b>PROTEIN</b>	<b>FAT</b>	<b>ASH</b>	<b>CALORIES</b>
* Club Steak	15.5	34.8	0.7	380
* Porterhouse Steak	14.8	36.2	0.7	390
* Rib Steak	14.8	37.4	0.6	401
* T-Bone	14.8	37.1	0.7	397
** Ground Beef (Lean)	17.9	21.2	0.7	268
<b>PORK -</b>				
* Ham	15.9	26.6	0.7	308
* Loin	17.1	24.9	0.9	298
<b>LAMB -</b>				
* Leg	17.8	16.2	1.3	222
* Rib	15.1	30.4	1.1	339
<b>VEAL -</b>				
* Plate	18.3	17.0	0.9	231
* Round	19.5	9.0	1.0	164
<b>SAUSAGE PRODUCTS -</b>				
* Bologna	12.1	27.5	3.1	304
* Frankfurters	12.5	27.6	2.5	309
* Salami (cooked)	17.5	25.6	4.5	311
* Pork Sausage (Raw)	9.4	50.8	1.7	498
<b>HORSEMEAT -</b>				
** Clod	21.7	1.3	1.1	99
*** Flaked & Formed Steak	18.8	12.6	1.1	189
* American Meat Institute Bulletin #57, July 1964 ** Food Science Department, Clemson University - Average value of Clods A, B, C, D (wholesale trim) *** Research Laboratories Inc., Boston, Mass. - USDA Approved Laboratory				

**Horsemeat is Nutritious.** On nutritional websites horse meat is often lumped together with game meats as a lean, nutritionally dense source of protein. (14) An old USDA publication promoting both horse and goat meat from 1997 lists the nutritional characteristics of horse meat as low in fat with a 100-gram (3 1/2 ounces) serving of cooked, roasted meat as 175 calories; 28 grams protein; 6 grams fat; 5 milligrams iron; 55 milligrams sodium; and 68 milligrams cholesterol. (15) A Korean study that compared the nutritional characteristics of horse meat to pork and beef concluded that in comparison to both other meats, horse was particularly high in fatty acids and some vitamins. "Horse fat had a much higher  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid than the others, probably due to the more intakes of fatty acids through hay by horses. Grasses usually contain significant amounts of  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid. Although cattle gain the same amount of  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid through hay, unsaturated fatty acids will be hydrogenated in the rumen and as a result very little  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid will reach the animal's fat storage." (4)





In Italy horse meat baby food is very popular with finicky mothers who want only the best and purest foods for their children.

Because of these nutritional benefits horse meat is prized by mothers as baby food in places like Italy (16) and Japan (17), and especially sought after by athletes as a lean, high protein, red meat perfect for building body condition. (18)

**Horsemeat is Affordable.** According to the United States Meat Export Federation, leading purveyors of horse meat globally, and export meat traders here in the U.S., horse meat tends to be 40% to 50% less in price than traditional meats like beef in

every country where it is sold. Sometimes called “red meat for the poor,” with the rise in popularity of exotic meats worldwide, horse meat is sought after for its lean, high protein nutrition. But in hard

economic times, the main driver for the increasing demand worldwide is economic. (19)

**Horsemeat is Delicious.** Good horse meat is hard to find in the U.S. right now, unless you butcher it yourself as a few Western ranch families continue to do, and some ethnic communities such as Tongans or Mongolians whose traditional cuisines treasure horse meat, and who will buy horses and process the meat themselves. Unfortunately, some have been known to butcher other people’s horses and sell it on the street at black market prices for up to \$40 per pound in southern Florida. A black market that would be completely eliminated if there were safe, government inspected, and affordable meat available in the stores.

Horse meat is often described as tender, lean, slightly sweet to the taste, and somewhere between grassfed beef and really good elk or venison in taste. Recipes abound on the internet, and the possibilities are endless. Like other lean red meats, the tougher front quarter cuts benefit from long, slow braising in liquid, but the tender, high quality hind quarter, and especially roasts or steaks cut from the “pistole”<sup>1</sup> are stupendous when seared over high heat to lock in the juices, and then quickly brought to a mouthwatering medium rare.



### Horsemeat Roast with Blue Cheese-Horseradish Sauce

- 2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 2¼ lb horsemeat roast
- Dijon mustard as needed
- Salt and pepper to taste
- **Blue cheese-horseradish sauce**
- 3 Tbsp. blue cheese, crumbled
- 3 Tbsp. sour cream
- 5 tsp. minced chives
- 5 tsp. prepared horseradish or wasabi
- 5 tsp. (25 mL) light mayonnaise
- Freshly ground peppercorns to taste

Preheat oven to 425°F. Heat oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Sear roast all sides. Rub with mustard and season. Roast 10 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350°F and continue to cook to desired degree of doneness. Take meat out, cover loosely with foil and let stand. In a bowl, mix sauce ingredients together. In a skillet, bring sauce to a boil. Lay sliced meat on a bed of sauce. (36)

<sup>1</sup> The pistole is the best cut of meat from a horse which includes the tenderloin strip, and runs down into the rump.

There is at least one restaurant in the U.S. serving horse meat in New York City. A food blog, the [United Nations of Food](#) (20), raved about an Uzbeki dried horse meat with cumin dish served at a new Armenian restaurant in Sheepshead Bay. “Even more awesome: one of our salads was an appealing little number called naryn, made from shredded dough with medallions of an unusually tasty meat



Uzbeki Naryn, horse meat dried with cumin, Aladdin Restaurant, NYC.

product. It tasted like a cross between a mild sausage and a not-completely-dried beef jerky, and none of us—not even our well-traveled Armenian friend—knew exactly what it was. I imagined that it was beef or lamb, cured in some ingenious way. Nope. It was horse meat, dried with cumin. And it was delicious.”

The 2013 invitation only, “already sold out with a waiting list,” Red Meat Club dinner at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado next January will feature an outstanding array of *chevalaline* and *carne de caballo* dishes to tempt the palate. For those who support the meat and livestock industries it is an event not to miss.



Beer Braised Shoulder of Horse – Chris Badenoch – Australia – downloaded 2/6/2011 - <http://chrisbadenoch.com/2010/08/01/i-could-eat-a-horse/>

## The Tragic Loss of Value

*The absence of a valuable use for otherwise unwanted horses results in immediate tragedy, increased suffering, loss of economic opportunity, and enormous, unnecessary, taxpayer expense and burden.*

There are several reasons why the dismal situation of the U.S. horse world matters to the entire country. The first is an unprecedented circumstance where the political and social agenda of a tiny minority of animal rights extremists is being used to destroy the free market opportunity of an entire sector of animal agriculture. By using deceptive media campaigns that raise funds supposedly to help pet animals, these groups use skillful manipulation of the media, and aggressive litigation against individual property owners without the resources to counter them, to eliminate choice and competition in the horse world.

The inevitable and immediate result is that horses suffer. Horses suffer tragically in huge numbers. People who depended on horses for their living, the families of breeders, trainers, veterinarians, farriers, stable owners, feed growers, equipment suppliers, all see their chosen and beloved profession become impossible to maintain, and the industry liquidates. Without a residual market for horses, the entire market collapses.

Part of this tragedy is documented in the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on [HORSE WELFARE: Action Needed to Address Unintended Consequences of Domestic Slaughter Cessation](#). (21) This eighteen month long study took a team across the Nation to talk to every segment of the horse world to find out the true result of the plants closing in 2007. When they talked to trainers they learned how the market collapse had evaporated the dollars that breeders were willing to put into training. When they talked to tribes they learned how the lack of market for low-end horses had eliminated the only humane management tool they had to manage their herds of horses that naturally increase by 20% to 25% per year as noted by the letter to Congress from the National Tribal Horse Council included in the Appendices of this report. When they talked to sale barns they learned how the lack of market was

---

*A once viable, humane, market solution providing economic opportunity turns into an unfunded mandate and societal travesty that kills jobs, drains already stretched thin public coffers, and worst of all condemns horses to the most awful fates imaginable.*

---

else to go, and no other options. When they talked to state veterinarians and livestock agencies they learned about the enormous spike in abandoned and neglected horses in every area of the country.



**More needs to be done to expose the unethical practices engaged in by extremist groups like this clever video. (38)**

One key indicator that is not addressed in the GAO report is the drastic decline in breeding. Every single major breed registry in the U.S. from the American Quarter Horse Association, to the Jockey Club which registers thoroughbreds, to the American Paint Horse Association, and all of the rest—every stud book is recording well over 70% fewer foals being registered over the course of the past five years. Regardless of what occupation one comes from, even someone who has never had the opportunity to touch a horse in their life, or who has no knowledge whatsoever of the livestock industry, can understand that when your livelihood is diminished by close to three quarters, that is a very dire circumstance and a sure recipe for disaster. 70% fewer colts being born means 70% fewer colts being sold, 70% fewer colts being trained, fed, fitted, shod, showed, or sold...70% fewer jobs. Another factor not even mentioned in the GAO is the resulting loss of genetic diversity and the danger of losing forever rare and endangered breeds of horses, as well as valuable genetic lines within the prominent breeds.

A current situation in [Los Lunas, New Mexico](#) (22) perfectly illustrates the scope, and [the inevitable disaster that occurs almost immediately](#) (23) when the industry is prevented from providing normal market value and a humane, valuable use for some horses. The horses suffer. Once profitable businesses that could take the risk of taking a horse, feeding them, providing them care, and marketing them once they are in good shape are prevented from providing this service. Nonprofit rescues beg for money, are unregulated and often corrupt, or simply incompetent. The taxpayer ultimately pays the bill. The problem of excess, unmarketable horses quickly spirals out of control. A once viable, humane, market solution providing economic opportunity turns into an unfunded mandate and societal travesty that kills jobs, drains already stretched thin public coffers, and worst of all condemns horses to the most awful fates imaginable.

---

***[Excerpt from International Equine Business Association letter to New Mexico Governor Martinez—full letter included in Appendices]***

*"It is the position of the IEBA that the fate of these suffering horses, and far too many others, are the direct result of the actions of animal activists who in a misguided attempt to "save horses from slaughter," have instead rendered them worthless, or nearly so, and have condemned good horses to a fate far worse.*

*Instead of charging Mr. Chavez with negligent mistreatment or animal cruelty, and trying to ruin his business...if these groups really cared about horses they would be honoring and applauding him, as we do, for providing care and sustenance to horses that would otherwise have no chance of survival.*

*Mr. Chavez, and other hardworking, taxpaying, livestock businesses in New Mexico deserve our support and appreciation for the care and feeding of otherwise doomed horses. They do not deserve the blatant stalking and harassment of out-of-state special interest groups, the negative impact to their ability to conduct business, nor the mental stress and anguish of hate mail and death threats to family members incited by this vicious, uncalled for public vilification."*

---

## Show Your Compassion – Support humane and regulated horse processing in the United States

Horse owners and concerned citizens have come together with real solutions to ensure the humane care, management, and euthanasia of horses; to ensure the long-term sustainability and viability of the equine industry; and to restore the market for all horses. Anti-slaughter legislation exacerbates these problems, and offers zero solutions



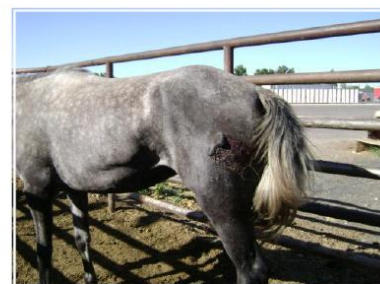
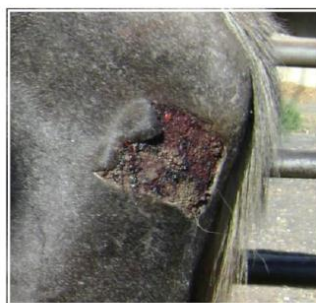
What if the people who couldn't take care of these horses, could sell them before they starved?

**This is what happens when there is no market...**  
**No value...**  
**No options!**



What if HSUS/PETA, spent as much money on veterinarians, and care givers as they do on slick city lawyers, six figure salaries, and million dollar ad campaigns?

A quick, painless euthanasia while still in good condition, and providing nourishing meat for hungry people is a far more humane fate than an agonizingly prolonged death of starvation.



A young mare found with her brand cut out—turned loose on the Nevada desert to fend for herself.

Additional documentation of nation-wide abandonment and starvation of equines at <http://www.abandonedhorses.net>.

## The Simple and Obvious Solution.

*Allow a properly regulated free market industry that protects the rights and choices of horse owners, while allowing the return to normal market functioning to create jobs, offer opportunity, and end the unnecessary misery of horses.*

**The Simple Solution.** Restore humane and regulated processing of horses to the United States as soon as possible. Take heed of the straight forward message of the GAO to restore the USDA inspection of horse processing facilities, or completely ban all transportation and processing of horses. (21) Make note of the fact that the second alternative will inevitably lead to an even worse situation than the one that exists now. The GAO Report points out the devastation and suffering wrought by the shutdown of the U.S. industry which only resulted in many horses starving, and many horses enduring long transportation to another country where that country reaped all of the benefit. Understand that the second alternative would only result in the exponential increase of the suffering, and of the economic loss, and that there are no solutions being proposed to mitigate either.

The brutal fact is that the horse industry has been devastated by a failed experiment foisted upon it by extremists who have had five long years to come up with any viable solution to the devastation...and have done nothing to relieve the suffering. The only alternatives offered are the creation of a taxpayer supported welfare entitlement system for every horse to allow them to live out their 30 plus years of life though they serve no useful purpose to anyone, or to kill them all with lethal drugs so that no one can use the meat. They offer no solution to the resulting more than 200,000 toxic waste filled carcasses per year which in most jurisdictions cannot be buried for fear of leaching into ground water, cannot be

rendered or composted because the toxicity survives both processes, and certainly cannot be left lying on top of the ground to poison any scavenger like endangered bald eagles, or the neighbor's dog...not to mention the stench of a rotting carcass.

---

*Let fully informed consumers decide for themselves whether they would like to have another culinary choice, or not.*

*Let horse owners decide if and when and under what circumstances they want to market their horses.*

*Let our ancient and venerable horse industry thrive.*

*Protect our American freedoms and responsibilities.*

---

Make sure that the industry is monitored by both horse people and government oversight to ensure that every horse is handled appropriately at every stage. Let the market work. Do not allow a tiny minority of culturally arrogant and ethnically insensitive extremists determine the culinary choices of

others, or to limit the economic use of animals. Protect the rights of horse owners, and insist that if the value of animals is eliminated through the agenda of a few radicals, hold those extremists accountable for the suffering they have caused, and make sure that horse owners are properly compensated for their loss.

Make sure that it is the horse people of the United States, participating in a normal market and pursuing their own economic self-interest, with real knowledge of the equine species and the livestock industry, who determine the proper and humane handling of horses at every stage. The horse industry has the benefit of equine veterinarians, animal scientists, and equine professionals. Do not allow radical extremists whose only objective is factory fundraising, and the elimination of animal agriculture to

destroy jobs, limit opportunity, increase the public burden of taxpayers, or continue the unnecessary suffering of horses.

Let fully informed consumers decide for themselves whether they would like to have another culinary choice, or not. Let horse owners decide if and when and under what circumstances they want to market their horses. Let our ancient and venerable horse industry thrive. And protect our American freedoms and responsibilities.



---

" I would argue that good laws are written in a way to protect the innocent from injuries that they could not be protected from in the absence of a statute. In application of this principle of liberal democracy to the horse meat discussion; the USA is a major exporter of poultry, pork, and beef products, so the export of other meat is not offensive. Provided horses born in the USA are raised, transported, and slaughtered under conditions similar to those for beef cattle or pigs, in what way is an American injured by Canadians or Europeans and Asians consuming horse meat? If a claim of injury is made, what is the nature and severity of that injury? There is agreement that horse slaughter is offensive to some; however, when is personal offence sufficient cause in a liberal democracy for state enforced prohibition or the use of force to deny personal choice to other citizens?"

*Dr. Terry Whiting, DVM*

---

## Works Cited

1. Heritage Breeds at Risk. *Horse Tradition*. [Online] [Cited: May 6, 2012.] <http://www.horsetradition.com/heritagerisk.html>.
2. **U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service**. Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter. *Regulations and Policies: Compliance Assistance*. [Online] May 2012. [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/Humane\\_Methods\\_of\\_Slaughter/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/Humane_Methods_of_Slaughter/index.asp).
3. Horsebreeding. *Iceland: Horsebreeding in extreme climatic conditions*. [Online] May 4, 2012. <http://www.pferd-und-fleisch.de/Horsemeat/iceland.htm>.
4. **Chong-Eon Lee, Pil-Nam Seong, Woon-Young Oh, Moon-Suck Ko, Kyu-Il Kim, and Jae-Hong Jeong**. Nutritional characteristics of horsemeat in comparison with those of beef and pork. *Nutrition Research and Practice*. [Online] 2007. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2882581/>.
5. Production. *la Viande Chevaline: Production*. [Online] May 4, 2012. <http://www.viande-chevaline.fr/francais/production/index.html>.
6. **Bagley DVM, Dr. Clell V**. Drug Use in Food Animals Food Safety Fact Sheet. *Utah State University Cooperative Extension*. [Online] [http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/FN-250\\_2.pdf](http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/FN-250_2.pdf).
7. HACCP. *Food Safety and Inspection Service*. [Online] United States Department of Agriculture. [Cited: May 6, 2012.] <http://www.fda.gov/food/foodsafety/hazardanalysiscriticalcontrolpointshaccp/default.htm>.
8. Residue Prevention Compliance Guide. *Food Safety and Inspection Service*. [Online] United States Department of Agriculture. [Cited: May 6, 2012.] [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Residue\\_Prevention\\_Compliance\\_Guide\\_042512.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Residue_Prevention_Compliance_Guide_042512.pdf).
9. **Bagley DVM, Dr. Clell V and Univ., Utah State**. Drug Residues and Food Safety. *Utah State University*. [Online] July 1997. [http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/AH\\_General\\_01.pdf](http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/AH_General_01.pdf).
10. Letter from Equine Scientists. *United Horsemen*. [Online] [Cited: May 6, 2012.] <http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1103685263837-91/Drs+Day-King-Henneke-Evans+letter.pdf>.
11. Health risk of horse meat is unsubstantiated. *United Horsemen*. [Online] [Cited: May 6, 2012.] <http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1103685263837-90/health+risk+of+horse+meat+from+American+racehorses+is+unsubstantiated.pdf>.
12. Safeguards for Horse Slaughter Work Says CFIA Meat Programs Director. *Better Farming*. [Online] [Cited: May 14, 2012.] <http://www.betterfarming.com/online-news/safeguards-horse-slaughter-work-says-cfia-meat-programs-director-5415>.

13. Equine Products. *APHIS Animal Product Manual*. [Online] Animal Plant Health Inspection Service. [Cited: May 5, 2012.] [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/apm\\_pdf/03\\_10foreignmeatequine.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/apm_pdf/03_10foreignmeatequine.pdf).
14. *Nutrition Data*. [Online] May 2012. <http://nutritiondata.self.com/facts/lamb-veal-and-game-products/4639/2>.
15. USDA. *Food Safety of Goat and Horse*. [Online] 1997. <http://www.igha.org/USDA.html>.
16. LioMellin Horse (translated). *Mellin*. [Online] 2012. <http://www.mellin.it/i-nostri-prodotti/svezzamento/?liofilizzato-cavallo>.
17. *Life in the Land of Wa*. [Online] 2012. <http://dustinandlaura.blogspot.com/2012/03/taste-test.html>.
18. Cagewriter. *Yahoo Sports*. [Online] 2012. <http://sports.yahoo.com/mma/blog/cagewriter/post/Horse-meat-diet-is-the-secret-to-Overeem-s?urn=mma,158278>.
19. **New York Times - Opinion**. Hungry for Horse Meat. *Michael Johnson*. [Online] [Cited: May 5, 2012.] <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/19/opinion/19iht-edjohnson.1.13829773.html>.
20. Uzbek Horsemeat at Aladdin Restaurant NYC. *United Nations of Food*. [Online] [Cited: May 6, 2012.] <http://www.unitednationsoffood.com/2012/03/uzbek-horsemeat-at-aladdin-restaurant-nyc/>.
21. Horse Welfare Action Needed. *Government Accountability Office*. [Online] [Cited: May 6, 2012.] <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-228>.
22. Letter to New Mexico Governor Regarding Dennis Chavez and Southwest Livestock. *United Horsemen*. [Online] <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs024/1103685263837/archive/1109661006413.html>.
23. Horse Rescuers Overwhelmed With Animals. *KRQE News*. [Online] <http://www.krqe.com/dpp/news/local/central/horse-rescuers-overwhelmed-with-animals>.
24. All Opposed Say "Neigh": A Flawed Bill to Ban Horse Slaughter - Nick Robins-Early. *The New Republic*. [Online] [Cited: May 14, 2012.] <http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/103310/all-opposed-say-neigh-flawed-bill-ban-horse-slaughter>.
25. *Foreign Agricultural Service*. [Online] [Cited: May 14, 2012.] <http://www.fas.usda.gov/>.
26. *Technical Report of European Food Safety Authority*. [Online] 2009. [Cited: May 14, 2012.] <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/doc/158e.pdf>.
27. *European Union Mission to Mexico to Evaluate Drug Residue*. [Online] 2008. [Cited: May 14, 2012.] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act\\_getPDF.cfm?PDF\\_ID=9501](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=9501).

28. *A Million Horses*. [Online] [Cited: May 14, 2012.] <http://amillionhorses.com>.
29. Unwanted Horses. *UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine*. [Online] [Cited: May 14, 2012.] [www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/.../Unwanted\\_Horses\\_JAS\\_2010.pdf](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/.../Unwanted_Horses_JAS_2010.pdf).
30. Slaughter Horse Transport Program. *USDA - Animal Plant Health Inspection Service*. [Online] [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_dis\\_spec/horses/horse\\_transport.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/horses/horse_transport.shtml).
31. **Otto, Shawn Lawrence**. *Fool Me Twice: Fighting the Assault on Science in America*. New York, NY : Rodale, 2011. pp. 22-23.
32. Production. *Viande Chevaline*. [Online] [Cited: May 6, 2012.] <http://www.viande-chevaline.fr/francais/production/index.html>.
33. Products. *Chevideco*. [Online] [Cited: May 6, 2012.] <http://www.chevideco.com/en/producten/karkassen.asp>.
34. *International Equine Business Association*. [Online] [Cited: May 6, 2012.] <http://ieqbassn.com/>.
35. Livestock Dewormer Comparison. *PBS Animal Health*. [Online] [Cited: May 6, 2012.] <http://www.pbsanimalhealth.com/dewormerchart1.html>.
36. Horse Meat Recipes. *Metro*. [Online] [Cited: 5 2012, May.] <http://www.metro.ca/recette/5371/horsemeat-roast-with-blue-cheese-horseradish-sauce.en.html>.
37. Humane Handling Guidelines and Standards. *International Equine Business Association*. [Online] [Cited: May 6, 2012.] <https://origin.library.constantcontact.com/doc207/1103685263837/doc/IZYAnptLw7H0xceH.pdf>.
38. HSUS: Lawyers in Cages YouTube. *Center for Consumer Freedom*. [Online] [Cited: May 6, 2012.] <http://youtu.be/XTrhQd9GHIE>.



Horse Meat on Canadian Grocery Shelf

## Linked to Documents

### *U.S. Humane Methods of Slaughter Act*

#### CHAPTER 48—HUMANE METHODS OF LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Sec.

1901. Findings and declaration of policy.

1902. Humane methods.

1903. Repealed.

1904. Methods research; designation of methods.

1905. Repealed.

1906. Exemption of ritual slaughter.

1907. Practices involving nonambulatory livestock.

#### § 1901. Findings and declaration of policy

The Congress finds that the use of humane methods in the slaughter of livestock prevents needless suffering; results in safer and better working conditions for persons engaged in the slaughtering industry; brings about improvement of products and economies in slaughtering operations; and produces other benefits for producers, processors, and consumers which tend to expedite an orderly flow of livestock and livestock products in interstate and foreign commerce. It is therefore declared to be the policy of the United States that the slaughtering of livestock and the handling of livestock in connection with slaughter shall be carried out only by humane methods.

(Pub. L. 85–765, § 1, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 862.)

SHORT TITLE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

For citation of Pub. L. 95–445, Oct. 10, 1978, 92 Stat.

1069, as the “Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978”, see Short Title of 1978 Amendment note set out under section 601 of Title 21, Food and Drugs.

ENFORCEMENT OF HUMANE METHODS OF SLAUGHTER

ACT OF 1958

Pub. L. 107–171, title X, § 10305, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat.

493, provided that:

“(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture should—

“(1) continue tracking the number of violations of Public Law 85–765 (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.; commonly known as the ‘Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958’) and report the results and relevant trends annually to Congress; and

“(2) fully enforce Public Law 85–765 by ensuring that humane methods in the slaughter of livestock—

“(A) prevent needless suffering;

“(B) result in safer and better working conditions for persons engaged in slaughtering operations;

“(C) bring about improvement of products and economies in slaughtering operations; and

“(D) produce other benefits for producers, processors, and consumers that tend to expedite an orderly flow of livestock and livestock products in interstate and foreign commerce.

“(b) UNITED STATES POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that the slaughtering of livestock and the handling of livestock in connection with slaughter shall be carried out only by humane methods, as provided by Public Law 85–765.”

COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION OF EQUINE FOR SLAUGHTER

Pub. L. 104–127, title IX, subtitle A, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1184, provided that:

“SEC. 901. FINDINGS.

“Because of the unique and special needs of equine being transported to slaughter, Congress finds that it is appropriate for the Secretary of Agriculture to issue

Page 967 TITLE 7—AGRICULTURE § 1904

guidelines for the regulation of the commercial transportation of equine for slaughter by persons regularly engaged in that activity within the United States.

“SEC. 902. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subtitle:

“(1) COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION.—The term ‘commercial transportation’ means the regular operation for profit of a transport business that uses trucks, tractors, trailers, or semitrailers, or any combination thereof, propelled or drawn by mechanical power on any highway or public road.

“(2) EQUINE FOR SLAUGHTER.—The term ‘equine for slaughter’ means any member of the Equidae family being transferred to a slaughter facility, including an assembly point, feedlot, or stockyard.

“(3) PERSON.—The term ‘person’—

“(A) means any individual, partnership, corporation, or cooperative association that regularly engages in the commercial transportation of equine for slaughter; but

“(B) does not include any individual or other entity referred to in subparagraph (A) that occasionally transports equine for slaughter incidental to the principal activity of the individual or other entity in production agriculture.

“SEC. 903. REGULATION OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION OF EQUINE FOR SLAUGHTER.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Agriculture may issue guidelines for the regulation of the commercial transportation of equine for slaughter by persons regularly engaged in that activity within the United States.

“(b) ISSUES FOR REVIEW.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall review the food, water, and rest provided to equine for slaughter in transit, the segregation of stallions from other equine during transit, and such other issues as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(c) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture may—

“(1) require any person to maintain such records

and reports as the Secretary considers necessary;

“(2) conduct such investigations and inspections as the Secretary considers necessary; and

“(3) establish and enforce appropriate and effective civil penalties.

“SEC. 904. LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY TO EQUINE FOR SLAUGHTER.

“Nothing in this subtitle authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the routine or regular transportation, to slaughter or elsewhere, of—

“(1) livestock other than equine; or

“(2) poultry.

“SEC. 905. EFFECTIVE DATE.

“This subtitle shall become effective on the first day of the first month that begins 30 days or more after the date of enactment of this Act [Apr. 4, 1996].”

#### § 1902. Humane methods

No method of slaughtering or handling in connection with slaughtering shall be deemed to comply with the public policy of the United States unless it is humane. Either of the following two methods of slaughtering and handling are hereby found to be humane:

(a) in the case of cattle, calves, horses, mules, sheep, swine, and other livestock, all animals are rendered insensible to pain by a single blow or gunshot or an electrical, chemical or other means that is rapid and effective, before being shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast, or cut; or

(b) by slaughtering in accordance with the ritual requirements of the Jewish faith or any other religious faith that prescribes a method

of slaughter whereby the animal suffers loss of consciousness by anemia of the brain caused by the simultaneous and instantaneous severance of the carotid arteries with a sharp instrument and handling in connection with such slaughtering.

(Pub. L. 85–765, § 2, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 862; Pub. L. 95–445, § 5(a), Oct. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 1069.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1978—Par. (b). Pub. L. 95–445 inserted “and handling in connection with such slaughtering” at end.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95–445 effective one year after Oct. 10, 1978, and nonapplicability during not to exceed additional 18 months in hardship cases, see sec. 7 of Pub. L. 95–445 set out as a note under section 603 of Title 21, Food and Drugs.

#### **§ 1903. Repealed. Pub. L. 95–445, § 5(b), Oct. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 1069**

Section, Pub. L. 85–765, § 3, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 862, related to limitations on Government procurement and price support, modifications during national emergency, and statements of eligibility.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective one year after Oct. 10, 1978, and nonapplicability during not to exceed additional 18 months in hardship cases, see sec. 7 of Pub. L. 95–445 set out as an Effective Date of 1978 Amendment note under section 603 of Title 21, Food and Drugs.

#### CONTRACTS FOR OR PROCUREMENT OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS DURING THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 30, 1960, TO AUGUST 30, 1960

Pub. L. 86–547, June 29, 1960, 74 Stat. 255, permitted any agency or instrumentality of the United States, during the period from June 30, 1960, to August 30, 1960, to contract for or procure livestock products produced or processed by a slaughterer or processor which slaughters or handles for slaughter livestock by methods other than those designated and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture if such slaughterer or processor has contracted for the purchase of the equipment necessary to enable him to adopt such methods but such equipment has not been delivered to him.

#### **§ 1904. Methods research; designation of methods**

In furtherance of the policy expressed herein the Secretary is authorized and directed—

(a) to conduct, assist, and foster research, investigation, and experimentation to develop and determine methods of slaughter and the handling of livestock in connection with slaughter which are practicable with reference to the speed and scope of slaughtering operations and humane with reference to other existing methods and then current scientific knowledge; and

(b) on or before March 1, 1959, and at such times thereafter as he deems advisable, to designate methods of slaughter and of handling in connection with slaughter which, with respect to each species of livestock, conform to the policy stated in this chapter. If he deems it more effective, the Secretary may make any such designation by designating methods which are not in conformity with such policy. Designations by the Secretary subsequent to March 1, 1959, shall become effective 180 days after their publication in the Federal Register.

#### **§ 1905 TITLE 7—AGRICULTURE Page 968**

(Pub. L. 85–765, § 4, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 863; Pub. L. 95–445, § 5(b)–(e), Oct. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 1069.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1978—Par. (a). Pub. L. 95–445, § 5(d), inserted “and” after the semicolon at end.

Par. (b). Pub. L. 95–445, § 5(c), (e), struck out “for purposes of section 1903 of this title” before “180 days”, and substituted a period for the semicolon at end.

Par. (c). Pub. L. 95–445, § 5(b), repealed par. (c).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95–445 effective one year after Oct. 10, 1978, and nonapplicability during not to exceed additional 18 months in hardship cases, see sec. 7 of Pub. L. 95–445 set out as a note under section 603 of Title 21, Food and Drugs.

#### **§ 1905. Repealed. Pub. L. 95–445, § 5(b), Oct. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 1069**

Section, Pub. L. 85–765, § 5, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 863, related to establishment, composition, functions, compensation, meetings, and reports of advisory committees.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective one year after Oct. 10, 1978, and nonapplicability during not to exceed additional 18 months in hardship cases, see sec. 7 of Pub. L. 95–445 set out as an Effective Date of 1978 Amendment note under section 603 of Title 21, Food and Drugs.

#### **§ 1906. Exemption of ritual slaughter**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit, abridge, or in any way hinder the religious freedom of any person or group. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, in order to protect freedom of religion, ritual slaughter and the handling or other preparation of livestock for ritual slaughter are exempted from the terms of this chapter. For the purposes of this section the term “ritual slaughter” means slaughter in accordance with section 1902(b) of this title.

(Pub. L. 85–765, § 6, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 864.)

#### **§ 1907. Practices involving nonambulatory livestock (a) Report**

The Secretary of Agriculture shall investigate and submit to Congress a report on—

- (1) the scope of nonambulatory livestock;
- (2) the causes that render livestock nonambulatory;
- (3) the humane treatment of nonambulatory livestock; and
- (4) the extent to which nonambulatory livestock may present handling and disposition problems for stockyards, market agencies, and dealers.

#### **(b) Authority**

Based on the findings of the report, if the Secretary determines it necessary, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to provide for the humane treatment, handling, and disposition of nonambulatory livestock by stockyards, market agencies, and dealers.

#### **(c) Administration and enforcement**

For the purpose of administering and enforcing any regulations promulgated under subsection (b) of this section, the authorities provided under sections 10414 [7 U.S.C. 8313] and 10415 [7 U.S.C. 8314] shall apply to the regulations in a similar manner as those sections apply to the Animal Health Protection Act [7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.]. Any person that violates regulations promulgated under subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to penalties provided in section 10414.

(Pub. L. 107–171, title X, § 10815, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 532.)

## *Letter from Equine Scientists*

Michael Hansen  
CEO, Health Sciences  
Elsevier Press  
3521 Riverport Lane  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Dear Mr. Hansen,

The paper "*Association of phenylbutazone usage in horses bought for slaughter: A public health risk*" by Nicolas Dodman, Nicolas Blondeau, and Ann M. Marini published by Food and Chemical Toxicology in February 2010 is a classic example of utilizing unrelated scientific information to support an unfounded conclusion. By mixing sound research conducted on humans with unrelated sound research from horses, the authors attempt to formulate an unfounded and unsubstantiated conclusion that horsemeat derived from American horses contains residues of phenylbutazone that are harmful to humans. This conclusion is not supported by the research cited or any other research that we have discovered.

The Research Methods described in the article indicate that out of 68 horses, 34 had received phenylbutazone. Out of this group, 18 "were not rescued" and presumed to have gone to slaughter. The other 16 were rescued. No information is given on the remaining 34 horses. None of the horses were tested for the presence of phenylbutazone at the time of presumed slaughter or at any other time following the listed administration.

In the Results, no data are presented indicating the level of phenylbutazone residue in the horses. This section emphasizes that possibly 9 horses were slaughtered within 6 months of phenylbutazone administration. There is no indication if these horses had any detectable residues at that time.

The Discussion, as well as the Introduction, spends considerable time presenting data from the administration of phenylbutazone to humans and a clear-cut relationship to aplastic anemia and leukemia. This led to the banning of this drug for human use by the Food and Drug Administration. This information is not in dispute. The authors also spend considerable space presenting information concerning utilization of phenylbutazone in horses. Again, the data from these cited reports are not in question. What *is* in question is the conclusion drawn from these unrelated studies that phenylbutazone usage in horses presents a public health risk.

To our knowledge, there has never been a documented case of human illness caused by ingestion of horsemeat from a horse that was administered phenylbutazone prior to slaughter. The European Food Safety Authority has never reported an incident of horsemeat contaminated by phenylbutazone residues. Reports by Dr. Thomas Tobin and associates of the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center have shown that the half-life of phenylbutazone in the horse is 7.22 hours. These researchers have demonstrated that 90% of a dose will be eliminated in 24 hours. At 48 hours post administration the level of phenylbutazone in the blood was less than 0.4% of the initial dose and at 72 hours it was 0.02%.

Since, as the article states, Phenylbutazone and its metabolites are highest in the blood, it is more than likely that the level found in muscle tissue would be totally undetectable at 72 hours post administration.

There are no data concerning the residual lifespan of many drugs commonly administered to horses because the research has never been conducted. Since phenylbutazone is not labeled for use in animals intended for meat there have been no research efforts to define an adequate withdrawal time from this drug. Although assumed that residues might be present, no research has been conducted in horses. Horses have been specifically targeted in this publication, suggesting that they are unique among livestock species in their exposure to phenylbutazone. However, it is well known that off-label use of the drug has occurred in other meat animals. The 2004 Proceedings of The United States Pharmacopeial Convention reported that evidence had been compiled by the Canadian FARAD leading to the recommendation of a withdrawal time of 60 days following administration of phenylbutazone paste to beef animals and a withholding time of 10 days in milk would be sufficient to avoid residues. Phenylbutazone has been shown to be cleared from the bovine system more slowly than in the horse. Therefore there is information that supports a hypothesis that a withdrawal time could be set for phenylbutazone in all animals intended for slaughter. Specific research in all meat producing animals needs to be conducted.

The article in question also appears to have some very serious political implications that should have prevented its publication in any reputable research journal. Aside from its obvious lack of true scientific basis, the background of the article's authors as

well as several persons in the acknowledgements calls attention to the strong animal rights agenda behind the publication. Dr. Nicolas Dodson is an animal behaviorist with expertise in dogs and cats. He has a strong affiliation with the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association – formerly known as the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights before the group combined forces with the largest and wealthiest animal rights organization in the world, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Co-author Nicolas Blondeau is a horse trainer with no scientific credentials whatsoever, and Dr. Ann Marine serves as the Food Safety Advisor for the Equine Welfare Alliance, an animal rights group affiliated with HSUS and foursquare in the fight to end production of horsemeat for human consumption. Of the personnel acknowledged for their input into the publication, Dr. Galen Barbour, who was presumably asked to critique the technical aspects of the article, has no apparent credentials in toxicology. John Holland is associated with the Humane Society of the United States and linked to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Valerie James-Patton is the Vice-President of the Equine Welfare Alliance, and Jo Anne Normile is the founder of CANTER, an organization devoted to saving racehorses from slaughter. In addition to the affiliations of the authors, recognition of these last three persons in the article makes it clear that it was written with the express political purpose to raise questions concerning the safety of horsemeat for public consumption. While the safety of *all* meat products consumed by the public should receive the highest scrutiny, the obvious bias and lack of scientific data makes this article obviously politically motivated. Publication by a peerreviewed journal such as Food and Chemical Toxicology and printed under the auspices of the normally highly regarded Elsevier press should not have occurred.

As Equine Science Instructors, we strive to present factual information to our students in an unbiased manner. The topic of horse slaughter is controversial and emotional. No horse owner looks forward to making end of life decisions concerning their animals. Humane euthanasia, whether it is done at the veterinarian's facility, the owner's facility, or the slaughter facility, is not an easy decision to make. We believe that the decision should be left up to the individual horse owner. In the current economic climate, the availability of humane euthanasia must remain a viable option for the health of the horse industry. The publication of this obviously biased article by such a reputable source raises real concerns about the value of the peer review process. We trust that future acceptance of articles by Food and Chemical Toxicology concerning the horse will be properly reviewed prior to acceptance and publication.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr Don Henneke, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Director of Equine Science  
Tarleton State University  
Tarleton, TX

Dr Sheryl King, PhD, PAS  
Professor  
Director of Equine Studies  
Southern Illinois State University  
Carbondale, IL

Dr William E. Day, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Morrisville State College Equine Institute  
Morrisville, NY

Dr Pat Evans, EdD  
Director of Equine Science  
Scottsdale Community College  
Scottsdale, AZ

## *Health Risk from American Horse Meat is Unsubstantiated*

**Subject: The public health risk of horse meat from American racehorses is unsubstantiated by the 2010 Dodman et al. paper published in the Journal, *Food and Chemical Toxicology*.**

Esteemed Senators,

In their paper, “*Association of phenylbutazone usage with horses bought for slaughter: A public health risk*”, the authors Nicolas Dodman, Nicolas Blondeau, and Ann Marini assert that human consumption of horsemeat following the administration of therapeutic amounts of the anti-inflammatory medication phenylbutazone (PBZ) could hold health risks similar to the direct consumption of the drug. Examples they included were case studies reported 25-62 years ago in which adults and children administered multiple human therapeutic PBZ doses experienced severe and sometimes fatal outcomes, most notably from aplastic anemia, a precursor to Leukemia.

Direct human administration of PBZ was discontinued in the US as a result of these findings. No studies on the risk of these serious side-effects developing from significantly lower (parts per million or less) exposures – such as those that could conceivably occur from consumption of horsemeat products produced from animals recently treated with PBZ – are present in the scientific literature. Experimental Pathologist and Toxicologist, K.N Woodward, author of “*Surveillance of Veterinary Residues*” in the book *Veterinary Pharmacovigilance* (1990) states that “it is difficult to associate human health problems with residues of veterinary drugs”. In other words, there is no cogent frame of reference for the authors’ arguments.

The Dodman et al. 2010 study did not actually measure PBZ levels in any of the horses that were used in this report. Therefore, no conclusions can be drawn – particularly conclusions linking the meat produced by these subject horses and the possibility of human risk. The authors *assume* that the consumption of horsemeat produced from animals treated with PBZ one week or longer prior to slaughter is unsafe for human consumption. As we consider the millions of pounds of horsemeat consumed each year and the length of time horses have been treated with PBZ we might ask: Why has this risk never been proven? Indeed, no cause-and-effect relation between consumption of meat products (from horse or other species) from PBZ-treated animals and a single case of aplastic anemia in any child worldwide has ever been reported.

The authors have taken one serious human health threat, in the form of treatment of *humans* with pharmacological doses (averaging 100 mg) of PBZ - a threat that has since been eliminated - and erroneously extrapolated it to the consumption of horsemeat. It is important to note that this study produced *not one thread of scientific evidence* supporting the supposed threats to human health resulting from horsemeat consumption. No reference was cited - in fact, no reference exists - to human disease or death associated with the consumption of horsemeat. In short, this study was specifically designed to be inflammatory, not scientific. The authors had political agendas that were promulgated by this publication. The level of scientific rigor both in the design of the study as well as in the peer review process was lacking. It is indeed surprising that a study of this caliber should make it past the reviewers of this journal.

To better understand the level of possible PBZ residue in horses we suggest the following explanation (this applies to PBZ levels in blood, where it is primarily sequestered – levels in muscle would be far less than those calculated below) ...

The half-life for PBZ in horses is 5 to 6 hrs (MERCK Veterinary Manual). This is the time needed for a horse to naturally remove 50% of the drug from its system. So, by 6 hours post-administration, half of the PBZ has been eliminated from the horse; by 12 hours, half of this remaining half-concentration has been eliminated, and so forth.

Human PBZ dosages of 100mg were reported in the 1960’s to increase the risk of bone marrow depression disorders. Considering the half-life of PBZ in the body of the horse, in order for a human to consume a 100mg dose of PBZ, assuming that PBZ is evenly distributed throughout the horse, that person would need to eat at least 100lbs of horse meat produced within one hour after that 1000 pound horse was administered a normal therapeutic dose of 1000mg PBZ.

If the same horse were slaughtered the following day, a person would have to consume 1000 lbs of its meat – in other words, an entire horse and about 2/3 of a second horse (assuming a dressing percentage yielding a 600 pound carcass). For horses processed after 2 days withdrawal, 10,000 lbs would need to be consumed. After 3 days, 100,000 pounds. After 4 days, 1 million pounds. After 5 days, 10 million pounds. After 6 days, 100 million pounds. So then, after just a single week of withdrawal, the shortest holding time reported in this study, a person would have to eat 1 billion pounds of horsemeat to consume 100mg of PBZ.

In effect, an adult would need to consume about 1.5 million horses to receive a single, potentially toxic dose of 100mg. That would be more than the total number of horses than have been exported since US horse processing ceased in 2007.

The authors skirt this issue by claiming that *any* amount of PBZ, even those that cannot be measured by current toxicological screening methods, has the potential to produce aplastic anemia in children. Where is the evidence for such a bold statement? The authors point to the EU regulations prohibiting PBZ administration at any time in the life of a horse intended to enter the human food chain as their “proof”. This doesn’t prove a health risk, it merely highlights a regulation created because there have been no studies on a withdrawal period for this drug.

As reported by Dodman et al., PBZ and its metabolite, oxyphenbutazone, are not distributed evenly throughout the horse. Instead they accumulate in the kidneys and liver as they are naturally and continually removed or degraded from the animal. PBZ is not permanently retained by muscle or fatty tissues, thus its concentration in these edible tissues would be far less than in the blood that is drained away. Also noteworthy is that other potential causes of aplastic anemia include toxic chemicals in gasoline and some pesticides, autoimmune disorders and some types of viral infections. <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/aplastic-anemia/DS00322/DSECTION=causes>

As indicated in the 11<sup>th</sup> paragraph of the Dodman et al. 2010 discussion section, the FDA has set no safe levels of PBZ in livestock carcasses. A safe drug withdrawal period can be attained even in animals that have been administered PBZ at some time during their life, as there is a time following administration of PBZ where it has been completely eliminated from an animal’s system with absolutely no detectable residues in any tissues. Perhaps the FDA should work to establish a timeline for withdrawal that results in zero PBZ levels in these carcasses.

If the FDA were to establish a withdrawal period, this would appropriately release an implied and unsubstantiated ban on this important veterinary NSAID for horses. Related public educational programs on drug residues in meat could help provide public assurance on food safety issues and make known how such issues affect food prices and animal agriculture.

Sincerely,

Dr William Day, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Morrisville State College Equine Institute  
Morrisville, NY

Dr Sheryl King, PhD, PAS  
Professor  
Director of Equine Studies  
Southern Illinois State University  
Carbondale, IL

Dr Don Henneke, PhD  
Professor  
Director of Equine Science  
Tarleton State University  
Tarleton, TX

Dr Pat Evans, EdD  
Director of Equine Science  
Scottsdale Community College  
Scottsdale, AZ

## **Safeguards for horse slaughter work says CFIA meat programs director**

© AgMedia Inc.

May 8, 2012

by DAVE PINK

The disclosure requirements for horses destined to be slaughtered for human consumption are working effectively to keep restricted drugs and vaccines out of the food supply, says Dr. Richard Arsenault, director of the meat programs division for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Any horse that is to be slaughtered for food must have an Equine Information Document (EID), which tracks its history, including any drugs that might have been administered to the horse. Horses that don't have that document won't be slaughtered for human consumption, says Arsenault, a veterinarian.

"It's extremely well respected in terms of compliance," he says.

Since July 31, 2010, equine presented for slaughter have been required to have an EID, which includes a six-month documented history showing compliant drug and vaccine use. Drugs and vaccines that have been used in the last six months must be safe for use in food producing animals and the period of time since the last use must be sufficient to clear unwanted residues. The EID was made available to the public in January 2010 to allow owners enough time to comply with the July 31, 2010 implementation date.

As well, the CFIA also has a monitoring program that takes tissue samples of slaughtered animals.

Arsenault's comments come in response to a rumour that a one-time racehorse that had been treated with the anti-inflammatory drug phenylbutazone — better known as bute — had been sold for slaughter. But without that EID documentation no horse will be processed for human consumption, he says.

There are just four slaughter facilities for horses throughout Canada, all of them in western Canada or Quebec. It is a very small industry, says Arsenault, adding that the regulations for drug treatments in traditional meat sources such as cattle and swine have been more clearly researched and defined. Because of that there is less tolerance for horses that may have been treated with any drug.

"We're taking steps to make sure the system is working well, and our information tells us that it is working well right now," says Arsenault. "There's a potential hazard, but controls are in place."

<http://www.betterfarming.com/online-news/safeguards-horse-slaughter-work-says-cfia-meat-programs-director-5415>

## **#34B Uzbekistan: bring on the horsemeat!**

I went to Sheepshead Bay, looking for Armenian food. Instead, I found tasty dried horse meat. And fake pet birds. Life is good.

Aladdin, a six-week-old [Uzbek restaurant](#) in the spot formerly occupied by Armenian-owned Garden Bay Café, serves all sorts of classic Uzbek awesomeness: a colorful version of lagman (noodle) soup, solid renditions of manti (large dumplings, similar to [nippled Georgian khinkhali](#)) and chebureki (flat, empanada-like pockets of fried meat and dough), and the best plov (Uzbek rice pilaf with lamb) I've had in NYC.

Across the board, the execution at Aladdin seemed to be a notch above its pan-Soviet peers. All of our kebabs had a delicious charred taste to them, the avocado salad was unusually fresh, and the servers were friendly and efficient. Even the tongue salad, topped with freshly fried onion rings, had an appealing tang to it, and was a huge improvement on [the gloppy stuff we ate in a nearby Belorussian restaurant](#).

Clearly, they're doing something right. The place was packed on only its seventh weekend of business, and the Kyrgyz ambassador to the United States was in the restaurant, despite the fact that the restaurant is hardly Kyrgyz: the chef is from Uzbekistan and his front-of-the-house partner, a fine fellow named Alex, is from the Caucasus mountains in southwestern Russia.

And clearly, one of the things they're doing right is the décor: there are fake birds, in a fake golden birdcage. And that's awesome.

Even more awesome: one of our salads was an appealing little number called naryn, made from shredded dough with medallions of an unusually tasty meat product. It tasted like a cross between a mild sausage and a not-completely-dried beef jerky, and none of us—not even our well-traveled Armenian friend—knew exactly what it was. I imagined that it was beef or lamb, cured in some ingenious way.

Nope. It was horse meat, dried with cumin. And it was delicious.



delicious mystery meat is awesome, yes?

<http://www.unitednationsoffood.com/2012/03/uzbek-horsemeat-at-aladdin-restaurant-nyc/>



June 2011

## HORSE WELFARE

### Action Needed to Address Unintended Consequences from Cessation of Domestic Slaughter

#### Why GAO Did This Study

Since fiscal year 2006, Congress has annually prohibited the use of federal funds to inspect horses destined for food, effectively prohibiting domestic slaughter. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for overseeing the welfare of horses transported for slaughter.

Congress directed GAO to examine horse welfare since cessation of domestic slaughter in 2007. GAO examined (1) the effect on the U.S. horse market, if any, since cessation; (2) any impact of these market changes on horse welfare and on states, local governments, tribes, and animal welfare organizations; and (3) challenges, if any, to USDA's oversight of the transport and welfare of U.S. horses exported for slaughter. GAO analyzed horse price and shipping data, and interviewed officials from USDA, state and local governments, tribes, the livestock industry, and animal welfare organizations, and reviewed documents they provided.

#### What GAO Recommends

GAO suggests that Congress may wish to reconsider restrictions on the use of federal funds to inspect horses for slaughter or, instead, consider a permanent ban on horse slaughter. GAO recommends that USDA issue a final rule to protect horses through more of the transportation chain to slaughter and consider ways to better leverage resources for compliance activities. USDA agreed with GAO's recommendations and noted specific actions it will take to implement them.

View GAO-11-228 or key components. For more information, contact Lisa Shamas at (202) 512-3841 or [shamasl@gao.gov](mailto:shamasl@gao.gov).

#### What GAO Found

Since domestic horse slaughter ceased in 2007, the slaughter horse market has shifted to Canada and Mexico. From 2006 through 2010, U.S. horse exports for slaughter increased by 148 and 660 percent to Canada and Mexico, respectively. As a result, nearly the same number of U.S. horses was transported to Canada and Mexico for slaughter in 2010—nearly 138,000—as was slaughtered before domestic slaughter ceased. Available data show that horse prices declined since 2007, mainly for the lower-priced horses that are more likely to be bought for slaughter. GAO analysis of horse sale data estimates that closing domestic horse slaughtering facilities significantly and negatively affected lower-to-medium priced horses by 8 to 21 percent; higher-priced horses appear not to have lost value for that reason. Also, GAO estimates the economic downturn reduced prices for all horses by 4 to 5 percent.

Comprehensive, national data are lacking, but state, local government, and animal welfare organizations report a rise in investigations for horse neglect and more abandoned horses since 2007. For example, Colorado data showed that investigations for horse neglect and abuse increased more than 60 percent from 975 in 2005 to 1,588 in 2009. Also, California, Texas, and Florida reported more horses abandoned on private or state land since 2007. These changes have strained resources, according to state data and officials that GAO interviewed. State, local, tribal, and horse industry officials generally attributed these increases in neglect and abandonments to cessation of domestic slaughter and the economic downturn. Others, including representatives from some animal welfare organizations, questioned the relevance of cessation of slaughter to these problems.

USDA faces three broad challenges in overseeing the welfare of horses during transport to slaughter. First, among other management challenges, the current transport regulation only applies to horses transported directly to slaughtering facilities. A 2007 proposed rule would more broadly include horses moved first to stockyards, assembly points, and feedlots before being transported to Canada and Mexico, but delays in issuing a final rule have prevented USDA from protecting horses during much of their transit to slaughtering facilities. In addition, GAO found that many owner/shipper certificates, which document compliance with the regulation, are being returned to USDA without key information, if they are returned at all. Second, annual legislative prohibitions on USDA's use of federal funds for inspecting horses impede USDA's ability to improve compliance with, and enforcement of, the transport regulation. Third, GAO analysis shows that U.S. horses intended for slaughter are now traveling significantly greater distances to reach their final destination, where they are not covered by U.S. humane slaughter protections. With cessation of domestic slaughter, USDA lacks staff and resources at the borders and foreign slaughtering facilities that it once had in domestic facilities to help identify problems with shipping paperwork or the condition of horses before they are slaughtered.

United States Government Accountability Office

## ***Letter to New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez***

***Dennis Chavez and Southwest Livestock deserve appreciation and support for the care and feeding of otherwise doomed horses***

April 12, 2012

The Honorable Susana Martinez  
Governor of New Mexico  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400  
Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501

Dear Governor Martinez,

The International Equine Business Association (IEBA) has been formed to protect and promote the horse industry and steps forward to assist equine businesses under attack from dishonest, and unethical, radical animal rights organizations.

Dennis Chavez and Southwest Livestock of Los Lunas have been under scrutiny, and have been vilified on the Internet and in media outlets because of disturbing videos of horses in very poor condition, that were subsequently euthanized. Most of these reports contain biased and speculative information implying that the horses were mistreated by Mr. Chavez.

Missing from the public discussion are any voices from the livestock industry, veterinarians, or experts in animal care and handling. While we wait for the results of the New Mexico Livestock Board's investigation, IEBA has been gathering facts and testimony. The analysis of these findings results in an alarming picture of special interest group stalking and harassment of a legitimate livestock business.

Here are the facts so far as we have been able to ascertain:

- On a busy sale day, March 10th, 2012, when hundreds of horses and hundreds of people were at Southwest Livestock, two activists found four horses in very poor condition.
- According to the activists' own reports they arrived on the scene at 7:19 am.
- It is indisputable that they spent an extended period of time videoing each of these horses from every angle before they reported their condition to anyone.
- They did not show up in the office to report the horses until 2:30 pm.
- The horses were not part of the auction. They were in a separate area.
- The horses in question were in a "hospital pen" with plenty of hay and water, which was carefully framed out of the videos, as were the hundreds of healthy horses in good condition on the premises.
- The video was not released until weeks later when the carcasses had been long disposed of; preventing any examination to determine whether there was foul play.
- Horses in poor condition who are given the kind of feed and care given to every horse at Southwest Livestock usually recover in 60 to 90 days.
- Mr. Chavez has documentation to prove that he has purchased nearly a million dollars of hay, feed, and veterinary supplies in the past year. His livestock are never without free choice hay, and clean water.
- Practically all of Dennis Chavez's customers are repeat customers, if horses were abused he would soon be out of business, and this is a well-respected and successful operation that has been in business for over forty years.

Dennis Chavez has the support of his neighbors, Native Americans, the entire agriculture industry, and people who understand the realities of livestock and the circle of Life. It is sad that these horses died, but it was not the fault of Mr. Chavez or Southwest Livestock. We do not believe that it was the result of any sort of intentional animal abuse.

It is the position of the IEBA that the fate of these suffering horses, and far too many others, are the direct result of the actions of animal activists who in a misguided attempt to "save horses from slaughter," have instead rendered them worthless, or nearly so, and have condemned good horses to a fate far worse.

Instead of charging Mr. Chavez with negligent mistreatment or animal cruelty, and trying to ruin his business...if these groups really cared about horses they would be honoring and applauding him, as we do, for providing care and sustenance to horses that would otherwise have no chance of survival.

Mr. Chavez, and other hardworking, taxpaying, livestock businesses in New Mexico deserve our support and appreciation for the care and feeding of otherwise doomed horses. They do not deserve the blatant stalking and harassment of out-of-state special interest groups, the negative impact to their ability to conduct business, nor the mental stress and anguish of hate mail and death threats to family members incited by this vicious, uncalled for public vilification.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, and to provide you with documentation of the nationwide scope of the animal rights activist threat to agriculture and our food supply, and the consistent pattern of attack of innocent individuals and businesses. Below are statements provided by Mr. Chavez in regards to this matter, in which he expresses very articulately the attitude and beliefs of the horse industry in particular, and of animal agriculture as a whole.

Sincerely,

Sue Wallis, Chair, United States  
International Equine Business Association

CC:  
New Mexico Livestock Board  
New Mexico Agricultural Organizations

#### STATEMENTS FROM DENNIS CHAVEZ...

"Our number one concern is the care and condition of all animals, and our concern is as great, or greater, than the concern of those who have brought these accusations. "

"Southwest Livestock receives all kinds of horses in all kinds of conditions. Some are brought to the facility because they have been abandoned. Some are left tied to the fence overnight by anonymous people. Many come off of Indian reservations and other facilities. Some arrive off of trucks and trailers already in sad condition. We do everything in our power to handle horses that arrive in a compromised condition appropriately."

"We have and will continue to fully cooperate with the New Mexico Livestock Board investigation of this incident. We are confident that the political motives behind the complaints will be revealed, and that we will be cleared of any wrong doing."

"Far too many poor horses arrive at this facility and other livestock facilities across the Nation as a result of the poor economy, the drought, and the high price of feed. When they arrive we supply feed, clean water, and care."

"We appreciate the support of the entire livestock industry."

# Horse rescuers overwhelmed with animals

## Controversial video closes off livestock auctions

Updated: Friday, 04 May 2012, 5:25 PM MDT  
Published : Friday, 04 May 2012, 5:25 PM MDT

- [Celina Westervelt](#) 

EDGEWOOD, N.M. (KRQE) - After undercover video of alleged abuses at an animal auction went public, horse rescue organizations are suddenly swamped with animals.

The video was shocking. It showed **starving and dying horses** that couldn't even stand.

It was taken in March by an animal rights group. Since then, many surrendered and abused horses in New Mexico are finding they have nowhere to go.

The undercover video taken by **Animals' Angels** showed what the groups claimed were abusive conditions at the Southwest Livestock Auction in Los Lunas. The case is being investigated, but because of the controversy over the video, auction houses around the state are refusing horses.

That means horse rescues are filling up fast.

"I was told by a source that there are probably 800 horses right now in the state of New Mexico that need to be rescued or need to be taken to a sale barn," said Walkin' N Circles Executive Director Charles Graham.

His shelter and rehabilitation center in Edgewood has taken in 39 horses in the last 18 days. Usually they see two or three a month. He claims it's all because of the video.

"For someone to treat horses with that lack of concern and care it just breaks your heart," he said.

After the images surfaced, the State Livestock Board shows auction houses across the state slammed their doors rather than risk being accused of abuse. That leaves the state no choice.

Any confiscated animals, like the seven malnourished horses rescued Wednesday in Tularosa, now must go to shelters.

Graham explained the change is straining his resources, but he prefers that to any animal being abused.

Graham also said he met with other New Mexico Equine Rescue Alliance members in Aztec, Cerrillos and Silver City to give these horses safe shelter and to begin their rehabilitation. From now on every confiscated horse will come to his ranch, be evaluated and then sent to a state shelter.

They are looking to expand their stables, and because the ranch is publicly funded, they're also looking for monetary donations and volunteers looking to help out. [Click here to help.](#)

The Livestock Board explained spring is their busiest time of the year, and reminds owners to surrender animals to licensed rescues listed [on their website.](#)

<http://www.krqe.com/dpp/news/local/central/horse-rescuers-overwhelmed-with-animals>

## International Equine Business Association



## IEBA Overview



## Mission and Purpose of the Association

The purpose of the Association is to serve as a production agriculture association for the equine species, to mutually protect the international horse industry, and to promote the use of horses and equine products in commercial enterprises. The International Equine Business Association is formed to serve the horse businesses and families of the World by protecting their economic, legislative, regulatory, judicial, environmental, custom and cultural interests. The Association promotes the role of the horse industry in resource stewardship, animal care, and in the production of high-quality, safe, nutritious meat, and other products.

## Structure of the Association

The Association is structured to provide service and support to equine harvest businesses, and the use of horses for food, dairy, leather, and by-products. Aspects of technological systems, animal care standards, and advocacy activities may be beneficial to and offered to other equine organizations such as breed registries and stud books, as well as sport, performance, and pleasure horse organizations.

## Founding Board of Directors

Sue Wallis – Unified Equine, LLC - United States – Founding Chairman

Bill des Barres – Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada

Olivier Kemseke – Chevideco - European Union, Mexico, Argentina

## History and Evolution of the Association

The Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada (HWAC) and United Horsemen (UH) formed the International Equine Business Association (IEBA) in the Fall of 2011. HWAC and UH continue in their current educational and charitable missions. The Association was formed as a separate and distinct business association designed to serve the entire equine industry.

## Services and Benefits for Members

- Technology solutions for the equine industry
- Crisis mitigation and reputation management
- Legal defense network and protection from activist attack
- Consulting services for business development
- Political advocacy and governmental relations
- Market data and analysis
- Research and development
- Insurance and financial services

## Technology Solutions

Included in services provided to member businesses are flexible technology solutions that integrate with existing legacy systems to seamlessly provide enhanced capabilities such as permanent identification and traceability, veterinary records, and optional enrollment in the United Horsemen Equine Owners Assurance Program (EOAP). Technology services are provided to IEBA by a Canadian company with operations in the United States, Animal ID Solutions. Animal ID Solution's Global Animal Identification Network(G.A.I.N.) includes data centers in Illinois and Ontario to house, manage, and maintain IEBA databases.

## Equine Owners Assurance Program (EOAP)

EOAP was developed by **United Horsemen**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit devoted to the well-being of horses and horse people, as a safeguard to ensure that no horse is mistakenly or illegally slaughtered against an owner or registrant's wishes. In simplest terms, IEBA member companies agree to scan every horse for permanent identification before purchasing, and if the horse is in the EOAP registry, the registrant is notified that the horse has been presented for sale to slaughter. This provides the registrant with the opportunity to pay all costs, make arrangements, and recover the horse. If a horse already enrolled in the EOAP registry is stolen, an alert "*Do Not Slaughter - STOLEN - contact law enforcement*" alert will appear on any scanning device used by horse buyers, sale barns, plant personnel, or anyone else with reason to scan the horse for ID. The same technological systems and databases used for the EOAP registry will be used by the horse harvesting industry for equine tracking and product traceability. EOAP Registry enrollment will be available through participating breed registries and organizations, as well as directly from United Horsemen, a U.S. 501c3 nonprofit organization, and IEBA.

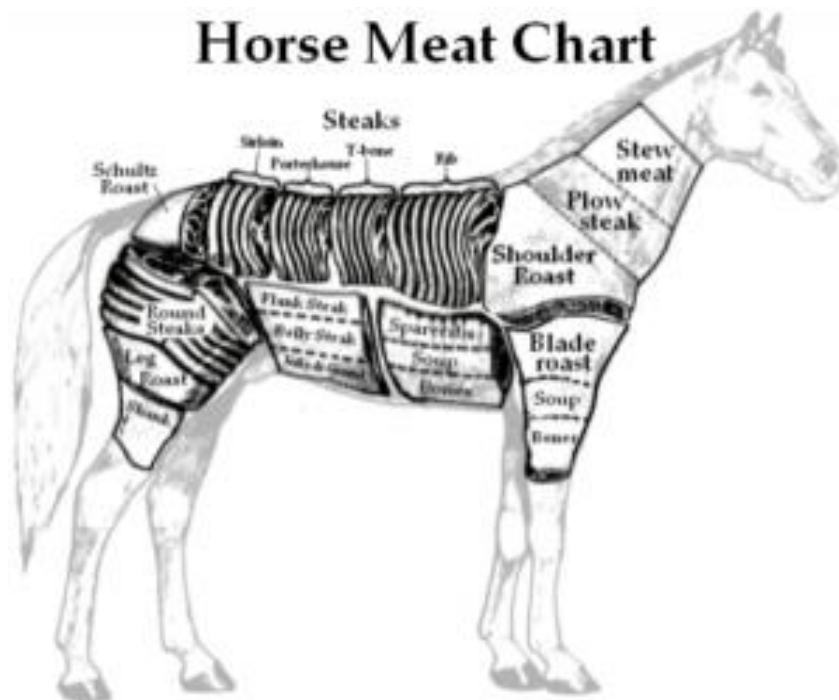
## Equine Quality Assurance Program (EQAP)

Initial services provided to the horse harvesting industry include the comprehensive EQAP--an industry driven and policed humane handling and food safety and quality control program--that builds on the Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada's work in developing certification programs for horse purchasing protocols, equine transportation, management and audit tools and systems for monitoring both the

humane handling of horses at processing, and food safety protocols. The system uses market driven permanent identification of live horses, and traceability of carcasses that include scientifically sound and rigorously enforced third party laboratory testing protocols to ensure the highest quality, verified safe, and pure products to the end consumer. These are processes that the IEBA will be working to harmonize from a regulatory standpoint across international boundaries.

Systems and standards adopted by IEBA as components of the comprehensive EQAP program include:

- Equine Traceability and Drug Residue Testing Protocols
- Humane Handling for Horses at Processing
- Slaughter Horse Transport



## Equine Traceability and Drug Testing Protocols

The International Equine Business Association (IEBA) Equine Identification process provides a verified medication free equine product, and traceability for food safety purposes throughout the food chain.

Traceability is important to ensure that the consumer receives meat that is traceable, auditable and free of drug residue. All horses that are slaughtered will have an Animal ID Solutions Inc., Equine Sticker-Tag affixed to its left upper rib on the hide, visible and readable at the time of processing. The Sticker-Tag will be an approved IEBA Identification format when coupled with the animal identification history retained on the GAIN Portal. The animals can have been retained in inventory for 180 days of care or more, non-medicated, or be exempt based on protocols described below.

IEBA equine traceability protocols require every horse to be processed for human consumption to be permanently identified and entered into the IEBA database at the point where they are purchased and managed as potential food animals. This identification draws together an individual animal's biometric profile, implanted microchip or RFID embedded Animal ID Sticker-Tag along with pertinent phenotypical data, brands, tattoos, or iris scans that when consolidated, creates a scientifically and statistically accurate record that becomes the definitive resource for that animal's unique identification.

Every horse to be processed within IEBA U.S. based operations will require either a microchip or a Sticker-Tag enrollment to the G.A.I.N Portal. In order to be IEBA verified drug residue free at processing each equine must have been:

- Permanently identified and managed as a food animal for a minimum of 180 days; or
- Legally certified by a licensed veterinarian as a horse from a herd program he or she oversees with complete veterinary records; or
- Legally certified by a federal, state, or tribal livestock agency as a feral equine eligible for use as a food animal; or
- Equine that are obviously untrained, show no evidence of shoeing, have no brand, tattoo, microchip, or any other identification indicating domestic use, and have never been used for any work, sport, or pleasure horse purpose; or
- Any equine that does not meet one of the previous four conditions may be processed under the following circumstances:
  - The horse or other equine has been procured from an IEBA member who certifies under penalty of substantial IEBA fines and or suspension for any equine carcass so certified discovered to have any trace of any substance upon processing; and

- Every equine in this category has been tested utilizing a scientifically verified independent third-party laboratory test for any discernible trace of phenylbutazolidine, in which case the horse is ineligible for human consumption<sup>2</sup>; and
- One horse in every one hundred animals in this category, randomly selected from submitted samples by the third-party independent laboratory, is subjected to a full spectrum test for unacceptable levels of any veterinary medicine residues.



1 Example of a sheet of IEBA Sticker-Tags

<sup>2</sup> Once an appropriate withdrawal period for phenylbutazolidine has been scientifically established it is expected that this requirement for every horse in categories at risk of having been administered the drug will be relaxed. Per studies conducted by Dr. Tobin et al at the University of Kentucky and others it is known that the half-life of phenylbutazolidine is six hours; that withdrawal periods for bute in beef cattle have been established in Canada; and that once that appropriate withdrawal period in equine has been determined, food safety can be ensured by adhering to the required management of horses once they have been designated to be used as food animals.

Veterinary medicines included in a broad spectrum drug residue test. These tests are scientifically verified to be accurate down to parts per trillion.

**Beta-agonists:**

Clenbuterol  
Ractopamine  
Zilpaterol

**Hormones/steroids:**

Boldenone  
Oestradiol  
Stanozolol  
Estradiol  
Progesterone  
Testosterone  
Trenbolone

**Chloroform**

**Chlorpromazine**

**Phenylbutazone**

**Nitroimidazoles:**

Dimetridazole  
Metronidazole  
Ronidazole

**Antibiotics:**

Olaquinox  
Carbadox  
Tylosin

**Nitrofurans:**

Furazolidone  
Furaltadone  
Nitrofurantoin  
Nitrofurazone  
Aristolochic acid  
Arsanilic acid  
Chloramphenicol  
Colchicine  
Dapsone  
Methandriol  
Zeranol  
Melengestrol  
Diethylstilbestrol

**Process:**

Every IEBA member equine processing company will ensure that all horses or other equine animals to be used for human consumption are permanently identified and enrolled into the IEBA database after a thorough examination for any and all existing identification—brands, tattoos, microchips, and phenotypical descriptors such as sex, color, markings recorded at first point of entrance into the food system.

- At point of purchase horses are scanned for existing microchips. If any are detected, the number is first checked with the EOAP registry and if enrolled the animal is handled appropriately per EOAP protocols. If no EOAP registration is present, and clear transfer of title with all required documentation is present, the microchip number with associated details are enrolled into the IEBA database.
- Procedure to affix Sticker-Tag is to clip a patch of hair on the upper, left ribcage slightly behind the upper edge of the scapula. Once clipped and free of dirt or debris, a Sticker-Tag is affixed. This ensures accurate reading through chute or handheld scanners upon movement or change of status.

- Any horse that is expected to be maintained on pasture, or feedlot for six months or longer before processing shall have a microchip implanted, and be enrolled into the IEBA database. At the point when the horse is ready to be transported to processing the microchip shall be associated with a Sticker-Tag to provide traceability throughout the food system.
- Horses likely to be processed in less than six months from point of entry to the food system, at the company's discretion, may have a microchip implanted, or may simply be identified with their associated Sticker-Tag.
- Once the Sticker-Tag has been affixed to the horse it is scanned for a UHF read, bar code read or the identification number keyed in to a handheld tool or computer system and the required data fields filled out.
- At this time, unless the horse is exempt per IEBA standards described above, blood samples will be drawn and identified with the bar code strips that are part of and associated to each animal's individual Sticker-Tag. Vials of blood will be identified with a bar code strip that is part of and associated to each horses individual Sticker-Tag.
- All test/samples/documents/procedures that are completed upon intake will be identified, associated and linked to a horse's individual GAIN Portal record by the Sticker-Tag process. Independent third party laboratory with secure access to the IEBA database directly record results to the horses individual GAIN Portal record with a simple bar code scan or manual data entry of the animal's identification number keyed in to a handheld tool or computer system and the required data fields updated.
- Associated stickers recorded in the database for each individual animal are maintained as part of the animal's permanent record that follow them throughout the system, are affixed to all legal documents for transfer of ownership, for transportation manifests, for official health papers, drug residue testing, carcass identification, product lot identification, and other purposes.

### **Required Data Fields**

Date enrolled – auto time and date stamp

Supplier –drop down directory, swipe card or scan of transport doc with reader

Sex – drop down selections

Colour, coat pattern – drop down selections

general age designation – drop down selections - foal, juvenile, aged, senior

Blood Test Required – yes or no, scan of bar code authenticates completion of task and associates sample to records. If required, fields for recording of results directly inputted by authorized representative of independent third-party laboratory

Location/Status – drop down directory, or scan of Sticker-Tag upon arrival and departure from IEBA member pasture, feedlot, processing plant, processed date time stamp, date died/euthanized/disposed of prior to processing.

Additional optional fields may be used for a myriad of data capture purposes at the IEBA member company's discretion.

### **Plant Process:**

- Upon arrival at the Plant, horses are scanned and eligibility for processing is verified.
- As horses enter the path to the kill box, at a choke point, panel readers acquire a read from the UHF tag imbedded in the Sticker-Tag, the horse's identification/Signature is placed in sequence for processing.
- The horse is euthanized and recorded as harvested. All harvested horse records will be maintained and archived for a period of one year to allow for reasonable food safety records and traceability.
- The hooks that carry the carcasses down the rail will have an RFID, UHF number affixed. As a carcass is hung a read of the hook will associate and correlate the dressed carcass back to that particular animal's Equine Sticker-Tag number so that the animal can be tracked throughout the entire slaughter process.
- When the carcass comes out of the cooler to be processed the cuts of meat will go into boxes that are labeled with the corresponding a bar code. The bar code correlates back to all of the Equine Sticker-Tag numbers of the animals that ended up in that box. This will ensure that if there is a problem with any boxes of meat that is can be traced back to the original animal.



# Recommended Handling Guidelines and Animal Welfare Assessment Tool

---

for Horses

The equine industry working together for  
responsible animal care



IEBA has adopted this protocol for all member companies. Access the entire text at <http://ieqbassn.com/humane-handling/>

## Introduction

Horses have been a source of protein for people around the world for centuries. Over one billion people, or 16% of the world population, eat horse meat.<sup>1</sup> In 2008, 111,2362 horses were processed for meat in Canada and 20,912 tonnes of horse meat was exported. Canada's third largest exported meat is horse meat.

As with all other livestock, horses at processing are closely monitored by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and regulated under the federal Health of Animals Act and the Meat Inspection Act and Regulations.

In 1991 the American Meat Institute (AMI) established the first voluntary animal welfare guidelines and audit tools for the meat packing industry (cattle, pigs and sheep). These have since evolved into the world-recognized Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audits, 2010 Edition.

In 2008, the newly formed Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada (HWAC) recognized the lack of resources for the horse meat plant industry. Following through on their mission statement of "Promoting the humane handling of horses throughout all their life stages", HWAC commissioned this Recommended Handling Guidelines and Horse Welfare Assessment Tool for Horses ([www.horsewelfare.ca](http://www.horsewelfare.ca)).

This project, coordinated through the Alberta Equestrian Federation, was lead by livestock handling specialist Jennifer Woods. Jennifer has worked with Dr. Temple Grandin and the livestock industry to develop assessment standards and tools for cattle, sheep and pigs. She is a member of the AMI Animal Welfare Committee and the North American Food Animal Well-being Commission (NAFAWC).

Animal welfare and equine industry experts, processing plant owners and government officials worked together to develop these guidelines. The guidelines offer detailed information about equine behavior and handling, facility design, transport, compromised animals, effective stunning and willful acts of abuse.

These guidelines are intended to be utilized by the horse processing industry for guidance, education and self assessments. They also provide third party assessors and their clients with a consistent standard upon which to measure animal welfare. Third party assessments ensure customers, consumers and the general public that horse owners, caregivers and handlers are given the guidance and resources to provide optimal care for their animals throughout all stages of life.

The objective criteria in the guidelines is based on work done for other livestock species by AMI and Dr. Temple Grandin. New criteria has been added and existing criteria has been customized to meet the needs of horses.

The compliance levels were developed to be achievable when plants employ good animal handling and stunning practices.

The numeric criteria in the animal welfare assessment were developed based on professional judgment of the author with input from the committee. While it is essential to set numeric targets, the mere act of

assessing, measuring and tracking will help companies manage and improve animal welfare. As stated by Dr. Temple Grandin, “you cannot manage, what you cannot measure.”

Just as plants strive for continuous improvements based on new practices and information, HWAC and the working committee strive for continuous improvements and refinement of this document. The general recommendations and the assessment criteria are based on real data and observation. However, as additional research is completed and new information is generated, this document will evolve and be continually updated.

Visit [www.horsewelfare.ca](http://www.horsewelfare.ca) for more information on the work being done by HWAC and the equine industry.

## Slaughter Horse Transport

IEBA provides training and certification to all IEBA member equine transportation company employees that ensure compliance with U.S. and Canadian equine transportation law and regulation. Substantial fines and or suspension as a member in good standing eligible to deliver horses to IEBA facilities are imposed for violation of IEBA standards and protocols.



Seattle Pike's Place Market - 1940s

## Background Information



Pike Market - 1963 - Horse Meat in the Case

## The Fundamental Truth of Animal Agriculture:

*Why it is so important to defeat efforts to criminalize consumption of horse meat; and why it is so important to re-establish horse processing facilities in the United States.*

An Informational Position Paper

### Introduction

Private property as a central institution of European civil law started with the Roman law of Justinian, and the English common-law tradition that started with the Norman Conquest. The protection of private property from the Crown was a major purpose of the Magna Carta as early as 1215. Centuries later, the key writers who set the intellectual framework for our Constitution—John Locke, David Hume, William Blackstone, Adam Smith, and James Madison—all treated private property as a bulwark of the individual against the arbitrary power of the state. Our founding fathers had a keen appreciation of the central role of private property in social life. Just as a strong view of the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion is necessary to serve fundamental constitutional values, so, too, is a strong view of private property in a free and democratic society. The institution of private property is as old as civilization itself. The exclusive possession, use, and disposition of property have long been recognized as forming the core that lies at the center of organized social life. Its social importance helps explain why private property has been so vital to the organization of every legal system. Traditional legal thinkers in both the Roman law and common-law tradition constantly insisted on this key proposition: “property is the guardian of every other right.” The logic that drives this expression is that only a system of private property lets people form and raise families, organize religious and other charitable organizations, and earn a living through honest labor. (Epstein, 2008)

Private property rights include exclusive rights of possession, use, and disposition, and our legal system includes effective systems to record title and to transfer ownership. No one disputes that all domestic animals are private property.

**And yet there are now bills introduced in both the US Senate and House of Representatives that would make it a felony to possess, ship, transport, purchase, sell, deliver, or receive, in interstate commerce or foreign commerce, any horse with the intent that it is to be slaughtered for human consumption. To use a horse for food would become a felony crime commensurate with aggravated assault and battery, arson, burglary, illegal drug sales, embezzlement, grand theft, tax evasion, treason, espionage, racketeering, robbery, murder, rape, kidnapping and fraud.**

These bills represent an arrogant cultural bigotry that should never be contemplated in polite society, much less received a second’s consideration by any elected official. The United States slaughters and exports beef, pork, and chicken, all of which are killed humanely under regulated inspection, but horse meat—which is consumed by the majority of world cultures including our closest neighbors in Canada, Iceland, Mexico, and South America; which appears on the menus of the finest restaurants in Europe; and which is purveyed in grocery stores right alongside the other meats all over Asia and Polynesia—would be a felony for Americans. Horse meat was widely consumed in the United States and Britain until

the late 1940s.<sup>3</sup> In some regions horse meat can still be found in small, specialty shops and ethnic markets today. It is prized by many of the ethnic populations who have immigrated to the United States.

This would represent the first time that the consumption of **ANY** domestic animal is prohibited in the United States. If it can be legally established that the regulated slaughter of horses is in and of itself inherently cruel and inhumane—then it is also true that the regulated slaughter of cows, pigs, and chickens is also cruel and inhumane. There is nothing that makes horses different than any other livestock animal. Thus the legal precedent would be set to make it a felony to consume the flesh of any animal.

This would be the first time that Americans are prohibited from consuming any food item based on purely social and political reasons. The first time that the US Congress has contemplated the audacity of trying to influence or change the culinary traditions and food practices of other nations.

Even though US horse owners would be criminalized for accessing a world market, that market would not stop eating horses, they will simply turn elsewhere for the meat they seek to import.

It would deprive American horse owners' access to a market, and deprive them of their property rights without compensation—which is blatantly unconstitutional under the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Because so few people are actually involved in the business of animal agriculture in the United States, less than 1% of the population, and because these few people produce the highest quality protein, and the most nutrient dense food stuff available, it is imperative that policy makers have at least some understanding of how the business actually works. The environment surrounding this debate is full of passionate rhetoric, graphic images presented out of context, half-truths, untruths, and manipulated sound bites. This paper seeks to counter this with clear descriptions and factual information about the implications and impacts of these efforts.

### The Basics of Animal Agriculture

The first thing to understand is that everything that human beings consume as solid food, except for a single mineral, salt, is a living thing. What you put into your mouth, whether that is a piece of meat, or a fresh-pulled carrot out of your garden, interrupts the life cycle of a living thing. The business of agriculture is to produce food.

The second thing to understand is that human beings, in order to thrive and be healthy need both plant and animal foods. A purely vegan diet that contains no animal derived products of any kind—spells

---

<sup>3</sup> In fact, if it wasn't for horse meat the troops in World War II would have gone hungry. One little known fact is that the government as part of the New Deal during the Great Depression forced ranchers to sell beef for \$1 per head, dug huge pits, drove the cattle in and killed them and then covered them with lye so that no one could use the meat in a misguided effort to raise the price. The problem wasn't that there was too much beef. The problem was that the economy was ruined and nobody had money to buy food. Lessons we should be mindful of considering current events. After the War, as mechanized farm machinery eliminated the use of horses as draft animals, there was a glut of horses. Unscrupulous individuals took advantage of this situation by buying horses for pennies, then passing off the horse meat as beef, and taking huge profits. The 1948 Texas law against the human consumption of horse meat was in direct response to this corrupt practice.

death for the human species. More than 85% of a human's brain develops in the first three years of life, and a vegan diet for either a child or a nursing mother does not provide the necessary nutrients for proper development. (Planck, *Vegan Babies at Risk*, 2007) People deprived of animal products die slow, painful deaths of malnutrition, vitamin and protein deficiencies, and grow up with weak, fragile bones and systems vulnerable to disease. (Planck, *Real Food: What to Eat and Why*, 2007) While no human society on earth is completely vegan—those multi-generational vegetarian societies that come the closest in India and Asia have the frailest, least robust bodies and the shortest life spans known to mankind. (Jarvis, 1997)

You don't need to be a physician, a nutritionist, or even have a fancy degree to understand why humans eat meat. Just check the teeth in your mouth. There are twenty of them devoted to eating meat, but only twelve for fruit and vegetables. As Dr. Max Ernest Jutte, MD, points out, "the stomach is a carnivorous organ designed primarily to digest lean meat, and the small intestine, pancreas, and liver are mainly herbivorous and designed to digest vegetables, fruits, fats, and farinaceous (starch) foods." (Jutte, 2004) Most obvious of all, we've got eyes in the front of our heads to see and hunt, rather than eyes on the sides of our heads to see in all directions like most herbivorous prey animals. Human beings are designed to eat meat.<sup>4</sup>

Rather than try to transform Americans into vegan purists obsessed with food, which according to even the experts, is the only way you can be a vegan and preserve any semblance of health—wouldn't it make more sense to eat what humans have eaten for thousands of years? Eat real food. Eat some meat and lots of plants. Don't eat anything your great grandmother wouldn't recognize as food. Stay away from the middle of the grocery store—do your shopping around the edges where you find the meat, dairy, eggs, and fresh, whole vegetables and fruits. (Pollan, 2008)

The third thing to understand about animals and animal agriculture is that every domestic animal has been used for many purposes since the dawn of time. For instance, cattle are kept for their milk, as beasts of burden, and for meat—but there are literally thousands of useful and necessary things made out of every piece of a cow from meat to pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, to leather, bone and blood meal, to adobe brick made out of their manure. The same is true for poultry, pigs, sheep, and goats. Horses are no different. The big, meaty breeds—Belgians, Friesians, Clydesdales—were bred in Europe specifically as meat animals, and as work and war horses. In Asia they milk mares and either drink it fresh, or ferment it into powerful hooch by spitting in it and letting it sit around for a few days.

The basic equation for animal agriculture in the United States is this: first, a producer selects appropriate breeding animals based on the desired characteristics of individual animals for the primary product they will be used for—if it is meat, they will be selecting for ability to grow meat as quickly as possible, on economical feed, and for the highest quality ultimate product in terms of flavor, tenderness and nutritional value. The main purpose of breeding animals is to produce offspring, and a sustainable supply of the product. Animals destined for harvest are given quality feed and clean water so that they stay healthy and grow quickly. When animals are handled they are managed as stress free as possible—stressed animals do not thrive. When animals are butchered and their carcasses broken down into all of

---

<sup>4</sup> Some aboriginal far north humans have survived for thousands of years on a diet of nothing except raw animal products—mostly whale blubber—and live long, healthy lives. The key is to eat it raw. Cooking destroys the vitamin C and that is why the early explorers so often died of scurvy. For this reason the only two mammals that cannot survive on vegetable foods alone are Eskimos and cats.

the useful components it is especially important that animals are not stressed when they are killed for a number of reasons—from a quality standpoint, adrenaline and lactic acid builds up very quickly in any animal that is frightened or agitated and the meat will be tough and flavorless. If an animal is handled roughly the meat will be bruised and unusable. Contrary to incendiary rhetoric, neither horses nor any other animal are “beaten and dragged across the border where they face horrific torture and cruel death.”

Contingents of American Association of Equine Veterinarians (AAEP) have now toured the European Union regulated processing plants in both Mexico and Canada. In Mexico, they were allowed to tour every aspect of the processing plant, and they were allowed to take pictures, something generally not allowed in any U.S. processing facility. On these tours they watched how live horses were handled and moved with flags, no prods or whips, and that no animals showed any sign of distress. They watched more than fifty horses be killed, and observed that it was handled very professionally, and from an animal welfare standpoint, they found absolutely no problem. The horses were never in a position to witness the procedure happening to other horses, and were not stressed. (American Association of Equine Practitioners, 2009) It should be noted that all U.S. horses that are shipped across either border for processing arrive at the border in a sealed truck that has been inspected before leaving the U.S. feedlot, they are inspected at the border, and then they continue to the E.U. regulated processing plant in a truck that has been sealed by government veterinarians. At the plant, the truck is unsealed by inspectors, and the horses are unloaded and inspected again for any injury or health concern prior to processing.

Both United States and European Union food safety regulations require that all animals, including horses, be guaranteed free of drugs. Horses to be processed for human food are maintained in a controlled environment for a minimum for 30 to 45 days to ensure that all drugs have cleared the system. This is why horses destined for the export market are kept in feed lots in the US for this time period near the borders. Official reports from both Canada, and Mexico show that drug residues are not a consideration for horse meat. (European Commission, 2008) (Alberta, 2008) Horses are loaded and hauled from feedlots near the border, and from corrals and chutes with rounded corners so as not to risk bruising the meat. There is every economic incentive for care and zero tolerance for abuse when a horse is destined for the finest tables in Europe and Asia.<sup>5</sup>

Most agricultural people believe that it is spiritually important for humans who are harvesting animals to use systems that are humane—where animals are treated with dignity and respect and the killing process is quick and painless. It doesn’t matter whether it is a rancher’s carefully placed bullet, a properly used captive bolt in a facility processing hundreds or thousands a day, or a rabbi-wielded sharp knife, slit throat, and a quick bleed-out, the end result is the same—all sensation ends within a few seconds. That is why the work of Dr. Temple Grandin, Animal Behavior Scientist at Colorado State University, and her optimal work to transform industrial slaughter facilities from the animals’ point-of-

---

<sup>5</sup> Freedom of Information Act images of graphic images of injured horses which are widely disseminated by horse slaughter opponents as “proof” of inherent cruelty and abuse are separated from the USDA inspectors’ reports that they were associated with, and depict horses that were injured when they arrived at a plant. None were injured at the plant. Most were associated with just a few unethical transporters, all of whom were subsequently charged and prosecuted. Common sense would indicate that once an animal enters a kill chute they do not leave alive, so the insinuation that injuries are the result of poor killing practices like a misused captive bolt mechanism on the head of a live horse is simply, outrageously, false.

view is so important. (Grandin D. T.) According to Dr. Grandin and her designer, Mark Deesing, horse slaughter facilities can be designed and operated to be humane—but it requires BOTH good design and good management. Mr. Deesing adds a wealth of experience with horse handling facilities to Dr. Grandin's impressive credentials. He has designed horse facilities for the Bureau of Land Management to handle wild horses, and has worked and observed horse slaughter facilities so he has solid understanding of the components necessary to ensure proper handling. (Grandin & Deesing, 2009)

Even when domestic animals are not destined for meat production, that valuable asset will eventually be salvaged. The dairy cow's business is the production of milk. She is bred to a bull in order to produce a calf, thus activating her normal annual cycle of lactation. The calf is a by-product that is marketed separately—sometimes to be raised as a milking or breeding animal—more often as veal or beef. Once the dairy cow reaches the point in her life cycle where milk production decreases substantially or ceases because she does not conceive she is marketed for her salvage value as a meat animal; with the salvage value being reinvested into young dairy cows. Another example would be sheep where the primary product might be fine wool, but almost all of the lambs as well as the older, less productive animals are marketed as meat.

In a world where someone starves to death every 3.6 seconds and 75% of those people are children under the age of 5, we should be thankful so many facets of agriculture ultimately produce healthy, high-protein meat. The primary purpose of horses might be for breeding in order to improve a particular bloodline; it might be as riding animals for ranch work; for sport—rodeo, racing, dressage, jumping, hunting, or polo ponies; they might be used to pull carriages, wagons, plows, and chariots; they have been used in the past as mighty steeds in open warfare; and fleet, intelligent transporters of people and goods since the first cave woman decided to raise an orphan colt along with the kids and dogs in the camp. Many horses are never suitable for any of these purposes, and even those who are will cease to be either through injury or age. When that time comes, depending on the beliefs, philosophies, and/or financial circumstances of the owner—some owners will need to sell horses for their salvage value, and some of those horses will be used for food.

Today, less than 1% of Americans are actively engaged in animal agriculture, and yet this is the one industry that provides all Americans with absolutely essential food for existence. Animal agriculture is a business. To be successful, a producer must build up an asset, must preserve and grow that asset, and market products. In a free market system that means producing a product that somebody wants or needs enough to pay a fair price and create profit for the seller. When the asset is no longer profitably producing it needs to be sold for whatever salvage value is possible, and the proceeds reinvested back into more productive assets. It doesn't matter whether you are producing widgets, or pounds of meat, the fundamental realities are the same. One of those fundamental realities is that the salvage market, whatever the market is for products of lesser quality, is what establishes the baseline, the floor, for a market.

Some people in America who are far removed from animal agriculture—people who have no concept of animal husbandry or what it takes to manage living animals for profit—insist that horses are inherently unsuitable as food animals. They believe the only use for horses is as pets, as companion animals, and for sport and when no longer useful for these narrow purposes the owner's only option should be to kill

them and dispose of the carcass.<sup>6</sup> Such people ignore or dismiss the fact that horses have historically been used for food in the United States, and still are in the majority of world cultures. If this dangerous viewpoint can be foisted on Americans through court actions or legislation, then the end result will be the denial of an important food source to a starving world, plus complete elimination of a salvage market for horses.

This is unfortunately happening in the United States today! The last three horse processing plants in the nation, operating in Texas and Illinois, were closed by state court action in both states. The last one closed in 2007. These actions were financed and directed by radical animal rights organizations led by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) who advocate vegan diets for all Americans, and insist that animals should have the right to be represented by human lawyers in a court of law. Because so many Americans are emotionally attached to horses as pets, and have no relationship or understanding of animal agriculture economics, rich and powerful lobby groups such as HSUS and PETA (which twist, exaggerate and misrepresent facts and present graphic images out of context) have been able to successfully manipulate public opinion.

### Horrific Unintended Consequences

Today the only market left for unusable horses in the United States is through processing plants in Canada or Mexico. This has resulted in horrific unintended consequences that most of the nation is only just now beginning to realize.

The timing couldn't have been worse. Just when the economy is taking a major downturn—jobs being lost, homes being foreclosed on, livelihoods disappearing—horses as expensive luxury items are no longer saleable. Local governments and livestock agencies have seen a doubling and tripling in the number of neglected, abandoned, and starving horses every year since 2007. (A Million Horses: Documenting Abandoned, Abused and Neglected Horses)

Pre-2007 most jurisdictions had provision for trying to determine ownership and responsibility in these cases, and if that could not be done the animals could be sold for the cost of the feed and care. Now, most sale barns won't even let you unload a horse unless it is in good shape and healthy, you leave payment for yardage (feed, water, and commission), and agree to pick them up if they do not sell. Since the livestock agencies can no longer recoup the costs through the marketing of abandoned horses, feed, care, euthanasia, and disposal costs all become an additional burden on taxpayers. (Board, 2009)

An undergraduate research project conducted by Utah State University led by Equine Specialist, Dr. Patricia Evans, and Economist DeeVon Bailey concluded the following:

***The ban on harvesting horses has put employees at the harvesting facilities out of jobs at a time when the nation is facing unemployment and recession concerns. At the same time, these groups have put tens of thousands of horses in a prime situation for neglect and abandonment. It does not take too***

---

<sup>6</sup> Disposal of a horse carcass euthanized with toxic chemicals is becoming increasingly difficult and expensive. They cannot be left unburied because the toxic chemicals will kill scavengers, some of which are endangered species like eagles. Rendering facilities are being shut down by over burdensome regulations imposed by the FDA to eliminate the risk of mad cow disease. Horses don't carry BSE but if a renderer can no longer pick up large animals like cattle economically, there aren't enough dead horses to keep them in the business. (Kemp, 2009)

***much insight to understand if the U.S. harvest facilities remain closed and there is an attempt to stop transportation of horses across our borders the federal government will have to take on a prominent role to ensure that unwanted horses are cared for humanely. This will require money from already overspent budgets to supply patrols at the border in an attempt to stop horses from crossing. The drain on the U.S. economy will continue as other regulations and funding are required to fix the current and future situations that develop to a problem that did not exist. "If it isn't broke, don't fix it" is a statement that seems to apply to the U.S. horse harvesting situation. These facilities provided an export market for unwanted horses amounting to approximately \$26 million in value and also provided employment to U.S. citizens, both with limited government involvement. Public policy should not be based on emotional appeals, but rather on hard facts. It appears that no one read nor listened to the facts and now the facts are haunting even those who made the wrong decision.***

***While not the focus of this paper, questions about what the economic effect of the ban will have on the U.S. economy deserve attention (hay producers, feed mills, tack shops, and the price of horses). It is clear that persons purchasing horses will now need to consider disposal costs for the horse at the end of its useful life rather than anticipating any salvage value for the horse when it is sold. Evidence suggests that horse prices have decreased since the implementation of the ban and indicate that the negative effect of the ban on the industry is widely based.*** (Evans, Bailey, Rice, Jones, Shumway, & McKendrick, 2008)

### **The Problem with Wild Horses**

All of those starving and abandoned horses join the more than 40,000 so-called wild horses that are now standing in feed lots and holding pens off of public lands in the West, and the more than 38,000 still running wild on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ranges and destroying the ecosystem because they are over-populated and over-grazed—all at taxpayer expense. In Washington the Yakima Tribe is struggling with the problems created by more than 12,000 feral horses that are severely impacting their traditional cultural practices and tribal land uses. Western states continue to ask the federal government to mitigate the overgrazing and ecosystem destruction caused by wild horses that are eliminating wildlife habitats and constraining multiple use priorities for public lands. Unmanaged horse herds double in population every four years and only a fraction of the number necessary to maintain sustainable wild herds are being removed. Nonetheless, there are now as many wild horses in feedlots and holding facilities off of the public lands as the BLM acknowledges are still running wild—all being fed and cared for at taxpayer expense.

One of the problems of trying to maintain feral wild horses as if they were wildlife is that wildlife is managed aggressively in most jurisdictions to ensure a sustainable population—generally through hunting seasons or lethal predator controls. While outside of the scope of this paper, an excellent discussion of this problem is contained in New Mexico State graduate student, Ashton Graham's paper on Wild Horses and Federal Tax Dollars which concludes:

***Though wild horses are a part of our American heritage, some action needs to be taken to reduce the numbers of wild horses in the open range and in captivity. One of the biggest problems with the numbers of horses that the BLM has to manage is the public's opinion about what should be done with the excess horses. Adoption and fertility control appear to be acceptable options, but these options do not come close to solving the cost-benefits problem. Individuals and groups have played on emotions without giving adequate thought to the inefficiencies of the current program. While the BLM itself***

***states that costs are rising, the American public resists the most efficient way to solve the problem. Emotion, not science, is driving the decisions that allow the inefficiency to continue.***

***Until pressure is put on the US Government and the BLM to comply with the law and effectively manage this inefficient program, costs will continue to outpace revenue. The Secretary of the Department of Interior must strengthen compliance and enforce consequences. Enacting legislation to prohibit transporting horses to Canada and Mexico would be detrimental to the equine industry and would inevitably put more strain on government entities for both horses in the private sector and horses under federal care. Americans need to accept and embrace the idea of using horse meat for human consumption outside of the United States. While the decisions may be difficult, science and fiscal responsibility should dictate responses instead of emotions and special interests. An important solution is available and should be implemented. That solution would benefit the government financially and would benefit others around the world by providing a food source.*** (Graham, 2008)

### **Valuable Asset to Expensive Liabilities**

It used to be that when a horse owner fell upon hard times that horse was still an asset that could be liquidated into cash long before the horse suffered the agonizing prolonged emaciation, disease, and pain of starvation because the owners could no longer afford to feed them. Even if you considered your horse an old pet and never wanted to see them slaughtered, you could almost always find an equine rescue or recovery organization willing to take them. With more than 10,000,000 horses in the US today and nowhere to go with the 1% to 2% that can't be used, or the owner can no longer support, these organizations are overwhelmed.

For those of us who understand the realities of animal agriculture the ethical, moral and responsible thing to do when you can no longer care for an animal is to ensure their end-of-life experience is as quick, painless, and stress free as possible. For us to see an animal starved to death is an outrage beyond comprehension. Part of our ethical responsibility to animals as the spiritual creatures that they are is to make sure that nothing is wasted, and that the sustenance and usefulness we gain from their lives is acknowledged and respected, that their lives have not been in vain. Any rancher faced with extended drought or changing circumstances will sell their breeding animals for slaughter, even at a loss, long before they starve.

**Even a botched captive bolt death in a kill chute is over in less than one minute and far, far preferable to an agonizingly prolonged death by starvation.**

Almost every rancher I know keeps a few old pets around who never make it to the food chain. My grandpa had an old longhorn steer named Poncho who lived so long both horns turned down. I think he was over 20 years old when he finally died. My cousin's daughter keeps a 500 lb. sow that she raised for 4-H and can't bear to part with. Old horses who have been with a family a long time are often allowed to live out their lives as pensioners, and when the time comes and they begin to suffer, we put them down ourselves. Same goes for any animal—cow, dog, pig, cat, or sheep—that becomes too sick or injured to recover. A quick and merciful death is an ethical and moral imperative, and part of our responsibility as owners of livestock.

As a result of the US plants closing, the only unusable horses that have any market at all are those that are in good enough shape to be worth the trucking to Canada or Mexico. Remember that in the business of animal agriculture, and the production of food—the product we sell is pounds of meat. Horse sale

barns across the country are going broke, and are having to institute draconian policies like insisting on a \$350 deposit to cover normal feed, water, and care in the yard, and euthanasia and disposal of the carcass if a horse doesn't sell. Because there is no bottom, and very little salvage value left, the value of all horses as assets has plummeted by as much as 70% to 80%. For us that means a young saddle horse we could expect \$10,000 to \$12,000 in 2007 will be lucky to bring \$1,500 today.

At a public hearing (March, 2009) at the Montana Legislature, one horseman testified that he used to buy a loose horse going through a sale ring, thus diverting them from a kill pen. If he could train and resell the horse his gamble paid off in a good profit—if the horse was untrainable, or didn't work out for whatever reason, he had the option of re-selling the animal for about the purchase price. This is no longer the case, and the once viable segment of the horse industry where this man and countless others like him made a living has died. The universal loss of value in the equine industry nation-wide is affecting everything from the availability of financing, to insurance coverage, to the entire health of rural communities and service industries in areas with significant numbers of horses, not to mention tax revenues. Those who raise and train horses for a living have seen their net worth, livelihood and lifestyle disappear. If even a part of your agricultural assets are in horses (saddle horses on a cow outfit, for example), your net worth has dropped proportionately.

Most ranching families don't eat horses, but we aren't bothered by the fact that lots of people do, and are certainly appreciative of the fact that there is a very strong export market...if we can just get to it. China and Brazil are the largest importers of horse meat at 100,000 metric tons per year each, with Europe, Japan, Asia, French Canada and Mexico close behind. All of the US plants were owned by foreign companies supplying these export markets, as well as a limited domestic market for pet food, zoo meat, and ethnic markets. Since 2007 the US is now importing more than 500 metric tons of horse meat. (USDA, 2008)

Recent news reports from Miami-Dade County, Florida relate that they are finding at least one horse per week stolen and butchered for meat. While having the horse meat they seek readily available in the market probably wouldn't prevent a thief from stealing and butchering horses...it is proof that there are at least some people living in the United States who don't have any qualms about eating horse meat. (Raia, 2009)

### **Abhorrence of Horse Meat is a Cultural Phenomenon**

The abhorrence for horse meat that some Americans have is a purely cultural artifact. Horse meat was widely consumed in the US until well after World War II, and it still is in almost all of the rest of the world. Walk into a supermarket anywhere in Europe and you will find it on the meat counters right next to the beef, pork, and chicken. It comes in steaks, mince, burgers, family bags, barbecue packs, you name it.

Austrians eat it in hot dogs, dumplings, or in a warming stew with a peanut sauce. Belgians like it smoked (for breakfast) or raw (in steak tartare). The Swiss are partial to steaks, the Germans have it in sweet and sour sauce and, in Iceland, horse fondue is quite the thing. One recent NPR report mentioned that frugal Icelanders, in light of a diminished economy, were avoiding imported beers and returning to traditional foods like horse meat, which is half the price of beef. (Frugal Icelanders Prepare For The Holidays, 2008) While France is traditionally most associated with horse meat, the Italians devour the most—accounting for more than 80% of the Eastern European horse export market—and favor it stewed, shredded in a rocket salad with a twist of lemon, or made into sausages.

My brother and his family spent two years working in Sicily and horse meat was on all of the menus there. My son, a graduate student, attended an academic conference in Finland last summer and reported that the horse steak he was served was much better than either the reindeer steak with lingon berries, or the plate full of little fried fish. A recent email message that I received from Wisconsin reported that they were able to get horse sausage at a local butcher shop until just a couple of years ago.

Gordon Ramsey, one of the celebrity chefs, has put horse meat on his London menus. A meat which is delicious and nutritious, described as ever so slightly gamey, lovely and sweet, gorgeously tender and, best of all, very low in fat. Horse meat is high in protein (twice as much as beef), low in fat (it has 40% fewer calories than the leanest beef) and is rich in both iron and Omega 3. Horse meat is free from Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (mad cow disease) - horse breeding for meat has never been industrialized and horses are fussy, only feeding on grass and grain.

***British presenter and writer Janet Street-Porter was much taken by the new superfood after visiting a horse farm in France, a race track, and a barbecue featuring horse meat, and trilled "Horse meat is a really good source of protein and one we should take seriously." It is also fabulously versatile and can substitute beef, pork, mutton or lamb in virtually any recipe. "In a world of mad cows, we should be opening our eyes to new types of red meat." (Fryer, 2007)***

And, why not? After all we eat cows, sheep, pigs, chickens, ducks and deer on a regular basis. Over recent years we've embraced all manner of faddy meats – ostrich, emu, even kangaroo and crocodile. Some people will eat a rattlesnake, and lots of people in Asia and developing countries will eat rats, and dogs, and cats. All you have to do is flick on the TV to see Survivorman chowing down on all sorts of disgusting slugs and snakes, or the Food Channel to see some guy traveling the world eating weird food from grasshoppers to monkey brains.

So...from a strictly logical standpoint, the American aversion is more than a teensy bit irrational.

### **Criminalization of Horse Meat is a Radical Imposition on Liberty**

From a political and regulatory standpoint the effort to criminalize the consumption of horse meat is a radical imposition on the liberties of Americans, and indeed a futile and arrogant attempt to change the diet and food practices of other nations—including our closest neighbors. Dr. Terry Whiting, who is the Chair of the Canadian Veterinary Medicine Association's Animal Welfare Committee probably articulates this best in an article he wrote for the Canadian Veterinary Journal:

***"In liberal democracies, governments are usually reluctant to limit personal freedom unless there is an objective, demonstrated public good. For example, some human nudity, specifically public nudity, is restricted by statute in Canada and the USA. Private nudity is uncontrolled and the commercialization of nudity in the entertainment industry is only somewhat regulated. Although under certain circumstances nudity is "offensive" to the general public, it is in no way prohibited. I would argue that good laws are written in a way to protect the innocent from injuries that they could not be protected from in the absence of a statute. In application of this principle of liberal democracy to the horse meat discussion; the USA is a major exporter of poultry, pork, and beef products, so the export of other meat is not offensive. Provided horses born in the USA are raised, transported, and slaughtered under conditions similar to those for beef cattle or pigs, in what way is an American injured by Canadians or***

*Europeans and Asians consuming horse meat? If a claim of injury is made, what is the nature and severity of that injury? There is agreement that horse slaughter is offensive to some; however, when is personal offence sufficient cause in a liberal democracy for state enforced prohibition or the use of force to deny personal choice to other citizens? Critics of government typically argue that government should refrain from doing that which individuals are capable of doing for themselves. It is an immense expansion of government powers to extend into the regulation of the average citizen's diet or, apparently, to attempt to alter the diet patterns of other nations."* (Whiting, 2007)

## Summary

Because these efforts have become such a threat, and the rights of Americans are close to being abruptly curtailed through the efforts of well financed animal rights organizations, and well meaning, but uninformed horse lovers, there have been an increasing number of states, tribal governments, organizations, and animal agriculture supporters across America including the National Council of State Legislatures, the National Association of Counties, the State Ag and Rural Leaders, the Council of State Governments - Midwest, the International Livestock Identification Association, the Horse Councils of nearly every state in the Union, the American Quarter Horse Association, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, and many more rising up in opposition. In checking with a nation-wide network of horse industry supporters it appears that legislative action is taking place in a number of states including **Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming**--and legislative efforts in support of the horse industry are being considered for introduction in a number of other states including **Georgia, Kentucky, New Mexico, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington**. All of this activity is focused on convincing Congress to oppose legislation that would restrict the market, transport, processing, or export of horses; to recognize the need for humane horse processing facilities in the United States; and not to interfere with State efforts to establish facilities in the United States. Serious legislative efforts to reverse the court actions in Texas and Illinois and re-open horse processing facilities, are joined by pro-active legislation to encourage investment in horse processing facilities in North Dakota and Montana.

Current bills in Congress that threaten to destroy even further the horse industry make it difficult and risky to resume normal operations. These misguided pieces of legislation would make it a felony for any person to transport or sell any horse for slaughter. If passed, they would result in a number of devastating and far-reaching consequences:

1. What little market remains for unusable horses through export to Canada and Mexico would be eliminated.
2. It will be the first time that Americans are prohibited from using or selling any domestic animal as food. The prohibition will be based entirely on social and political grounds.
3. Horses are not unique. All livestock animals are intelligent, sentient, living and breathing creatures who have emotions, feel pain, experience fear, and ultimately die.
4. Once it has been legally determined that the process of killing horses is in and of itself inherently cruel to animals, then there really is no difference between that and telling dairies

that they can no longer market steer calves and old cows for beef, no difference between that and making it illegal to use sheep for anything except wool.

5. Animal agriculture is a business. Prohibiting horse owners from a salvage market is the same as prohibiting a rental car company from selling their cars once they have too many miles on them.

6. Horses will be instantaneously transformed from valuable assets to expensive liabilities.

7. The economic incentives to keep, breed, and improve the species will be massively impacted.

8. Ranchers, breeders, trainers, and all of the related equine service industries will see their livelihoods greatly diminished, and the rural communities which are based, in part, on the horse industry will be deeply hurt and with the entire economy of the United States in a shambles, their ability to adapt, recover, and transform themselves into something else is very, very limited.

Most importantly of all, the private property rights of individual citizens, and the constitutionally guaranteed rights of states to regulate and conduct commerce, will have been totally compromised. For that reason alone every American should be deeply concerned whether they have ever set foot off of pavement, or ever touched a living animal.

Animal welfare is important. The necessary laws and regulations to protect animals from unnecessary abuse and neglect are already in place. Animal rights are another thing entirely. To give any animal, under any circumstances, the legal rights and privileges of a United States citizen is a folly that leads ultimately to a stupid and senseless suicide for our political system. In the short-term it means the destruction of a traditional and valuable agricultural lifestyle for a few Americans. For the long-term it spells the eventual starvation and demise of the human species because the masses who don't have a clue how to take care of themselves have eliminated the few who still know how to put food on the table.

Recently a comment attached to a blog post has been circulating the internet:

***"To all you Hunters who kill animals for food, shame on you," it says, "you ought to go to the store and buy the meat that is made there, where no animals were harmed."***

Grocery stores do not make meat. Living, breathing animals and the people who care for them make meat. The hard, cold, truth is that living things die for you to live...this is an irrefutable, unchangeable fact that no human being can avoid... and survive.

### ***Bibliography***

*A Million Horses: Documenting Abandoned, Abused and Neglected Horses.* (n.d.). Retrieved March 20th, 2009, from <http://www.amillionhorses.com/>  
Alberta, E. W. (2008). *Alberta Horse Welfare Report-A report on horses as food producing animals aimed at addressing horse welfare and improving communication with the livestock industry and the public.* Alberta, Canada: Alberta Equine Welfare Group - Alberta Farm Animal Care.

American Association of Equine Practicioners. (2009, March). *Horse slaughter conditions in Mexico explored by AAEP group*. Retrieved June 27, 2009, from Journal of American Veterinary Medicine Association: <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/mar09/090301h.asp>

Atwill, E. R., McDougald, N. K., & Perea, L. (2000). Cross-sectional study of faecal shedding of *Giardia duodenalis* and *Cryptosporidium parvum* among packstock in the Sierra Nevada Range. *Equine Veterinary Journal*, 32 (3) 247-252.

Board, W. L. (2009). *Wyoming Unresolved Estray Comparisons*. Cheyenne: Legislative Service Office.

Epstein, R. A. (2008). *Supreme Neglect: How to Revive Constitutional Protection for Private Property*. US: Oxford University Press.

Etienne, J. M., Hoss, N. H., Wayland, C. F., & Consulting, H. &. (2009). *Humane Society of the United States*.

European Commission, D. F.-F. (2008). *Final Report of a Mission Carried Out in Mexico from 13 February to 21 February, 2008, in Order to Evaluate the Control of Residues and Contaminants in Live Animals and Animal Products, Including Controls on Veterinary Medicinal Products*. European Commission - Health and Consumers Directorate General.

Evans, P. A., Bailey, D., Rice, C., Jones, A., Shumway, K., & McKendrick, S. (2008). *The State of the US Horse Industry Since the Closing of Plants*. Logan, Utah: Utah State University - Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Services.

*Frugal Icelanders Prepare For The Holidays*. (2008, December 11). Retrieved March 19th, 2009, from [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org), Morning Edition: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=98116248&ft=1&f=1006&sc=YahooNews>

Fryer, J. (2007, May). *Mail Online - Health*. Retrieved March 19th, 2009, from London Daily Mail Online: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-453170/Gordon-Ramsay-urging-Brits-try-horse-meat-em-em-eat-it.html>

GAO. (2008, October 9). *Bureau of Land Management: Effective Long-Term Options Needed to Manage Unadoptable Wild Horses*. Retrieved June 27, 2009, from United States Government Accounting Office: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-77>

Graham, A. (2008). *Wild Horses and Federal Tax Dollars*. New Mexico State University.

Grandin, D. T. (n.d.). Retrieved March 19th, 2009, from Dr. Temple Grandin's Website: <http://www.grandin.com/>

Grandin, T., & Deesing, M. (2009, March). *Design and management of horse slaughter facilities. private email & phone conversations*.

*H.R. 503 - 2009 Prevention of Cruelty to Equines Act & S. 727 - Prohibit Horses for Human Consumption*. (n.d.). Retrieved March 20th, 2009, from <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/thomas>

Hussa, L. (n.d.). *Waiting for Water: Proper Management the Key to Wild Horse Survival*. Retrieved June 27, 2009, from United Organizations of the Horse: <http://www.UnitedOrgsoftheHorse.org/Resource.htm/Waiting%20for%20water-proper%20management%20key%20to%20wild%20horse%20survival-Hussa.pdf>

Jarvis, D. W. (1997, April). *Why I Am Not a Vegetarian*. Retrieved March 20th, 2009, from American Council on Science and Health: [http://www.acsh.org/healthissues/newsid.760/healthissue\\_detail.asp](http://www.acsh.org/healthissues/newsid.760/healthissue_detail.asp)

Jutte, M. E. (2004). *You Must Eat Meat*. Hutton Electronic Publishing.

Kemp, L. (2009, March 30). *'Mad Cow' Regulation Affects Equine, Rendering Industries*. Retrieved April 5, 2009, from The Horse: <http://www.thehorse.com>

North, M. S., Bailey, D. V., & Ward, R. A. (Spring 2005). *The Potential Impact of a Proposed Ban on the Sale of U.S. Horses for Slaughter and Human Consumption*. *Journal of Agribusiness*, 23, 1-7.

Ostermann-Kelm, S. D., Atwill, E. A., Rubin, E. S., Hendrickson, L. E., & Boyce, W. M. (2009). *Impacts of feral horses on a desert environment*. University of California - Davis.

Ostermann-Kelm, S. D., Atwill, E. A., Rubin, E. S., Jorgensen, M. C., & Boyce, W. M. (2008). Interactions Between Feral Horses and Desert Big Horn Sheep at Water. *Journal of Mammalogy* , 89(2):459–466.

Planck, N. (2007). *Real Food: What to Eat and Why*. Bloomsbury USA.

Planck, N. (2007, May 21). *Vegan Babies at Risk*. Retrieved March 20th, 2009, from [http://www.ninaplanck.com/index.php?article=vegan\\_babies](http://www.ninaplanck.com/index.php?article=vegan_babies)

Pollan, M. (2008). *In Defense of Food: an Eater's Manifesto*. New York: Penguin.

Raia, P. (2009, March). *Florida Poachers Target Horses*. Retrieved April 5, 2009, from The Horse: <http://www.thehorse.com>

Stephenson - Big Game Biologist, J., Strathmann - Restoration Biologist, K., Rembold - Rangeland Manager, P., & Adams - Fisheries Biologist, S. (2007). *Wild Horses of the Yakama Nation: A Community-Based Strategy to Develop Regulatory Standards and Sustainable Management Practices*. Yakama Nation Wildlife, Range and Vegetation Management Program.

USDA. (2008). *Livestock Marketing Statistics*. Washington, DC.

Whiting, D. T. (2007). The United States' prohibition of horsemeat for human consumption: Is this a good law? *Canadian Veterinary Journal* .

## Fundamental Legal Problem with Horse Slaughter Prevention Bills

There may also be a more fundamental legal problem with the bill. According to Clif Burns, adjunct professor at Georgetown law school and council at Bryan Cave law firm, the act could be in violation of international trade regulations. Specifically, he says “we would be in violation of our WTO [World Trade Organization] and GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] obligations by putting a ban on the export of horses.”

The problem has to do with Article 11 of GATT, which forbids the “prohibition or restriction” of certain products between the signatory nations. There are of course exceptions (ie: banning the export of a product that could be a threat to national security), but Burns says that horses don’t qualify for any of them. “Simply because we disagree with the cultural mores of foreign countries and don’t eat horses here, we want to prevent other people from eating horses,” Burns said. “But that’s not something we can do under GATT.”

If Burns is correct in his assessment that “it’s none of our business what another country does with a product they buy from us,” then it casts serious doubt on the suggestion that Landrieu’s bill is a particularly humane option for horses. Indeed, if Washington is not legally allowed to prevent the export of horses, then banning their slaughter domestically is essentially condemning ever more of them to a cruel journey abroad. Of course, politicians who stand to gain by exploiting the public’s love of horses are unlikely to admit any of this anytime soon. (24)

## There is a Thriving Worldwide Market for Horse Meat

**...but until the riders were removed from the Agriculture Appropriations bill no one in the United States was able to start a horse meat business, create a single job, or help meet the consumer demand for an affordable, delicious, high quality protein source.**

**Why?** Because of nonprofit professional animal rights fundraising machines (HSUS/PETA/et al) that are anti-agriculture and anti-meat. These are groups who pay no taxes, generate no revenue, create no jobs—and worst of all, offer no solution for the thousands of unwanted, unusable, excess horses that are starving to death nationwide.

What is necessary to stop the suffering of both horses and people is the return of horse processing.

**What a perfect solution!** A decimated industry is revived with only positive impact on the federal budget because the cost of inspection is far outweighed by renewed economic activity and revenue collection. Hundreds of good jobs created practically overnight. And a quick, humane dispatch while still in good shape and healthy for thousands of horses that would otherwise become a burden on local governments draining already overburdened coffers—not to mention millions of pounds of high quality nutritious meat welcomed by a worldwide market.

Horse meat is 50% higher in protein, 40% lower in fat, high in iron, low in cholesterol, and has 18 times the Omega-3 fatty acids than beef. In Europe and Asia it is made into baby food, and available everywhere. Gourmet restaurants in Canada, Mexico, Europe, and Asia serve it with pride. Many would welcome its high nutrition and affordable cost if it was available in the United States, especially some of the ethnic communities that are particularly fond of it such as the Tongans, the Mongolians, and Hispanics.

A recent report on a trade website noted that Argentina has now become the largest exporter of horse meat in the world<sup>7</sup>. According to the Mexican government, 50% of their horse meat production is used domestically, the other 50% is exported. Below is a report showing the countries and amounts that Canadian businesses have been able to benefit from exporting horse meat to other countries. Please note the amount that is now being imported into the United States. At a minimum, that is business that could have benefited our economy, our citizens, and our horse industry...instead it has been exported representing U.S. jobs lost, a loss to the U.S. economy, and a horrific increase in the suffering of horses and people.

All on the behest of a vocal few culturally arrogant, ethnocentric, anti-agriculture animal rights activists who are making a very good living off of million dollar TV ads portraying weepy eyed kittens, three legged dogs, and skinny horses for which they spend practically none of their millions to help a single dog or cat, let alone a horse (1/2 of 1% by their own reports). No wonder they have dozens of executives pulling down six figure salaries, a stable of over forty full time lawyers, and... not a single veterinarian.

**Tells you something, doesn't it?**

---

<sup>7</sup> Argentina – Horse meat sales 23,880 tons from 150,000 horses. Meat Trade News Daily, UK, 5 May 2011

We ask that Congress listen to the horse industry. Listen to the people who work hard and make it their life's work to take care of their livestock, and who hope to raise their children and their grandchildren in our beloved horseback culture. Without the restoration of a viable equine economy and the return of a normal market, the only people who will be able to afford a horse in their lives will be the extremely wealthy and privileged few.

We don't want to live in that kind of country. Only those with a skewed and unnatural view of a vegan future crammed down the throats of every single American would want to.

### Official report of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

#### in regards to the numbers of horses exported live for meat, and of horse meat products in 2010

Received via email from Claude Boissonneault, CFIA, June 16, 2011

**Live Horses exported from Canada to Japan - 3431** (note that Canada does not have a category specifically for live horses for slaughter, so this number may include a small number of horses shipped for other purposes.)

Horse Meat and Horse Meat Products exported from Canada	Canadian Kg	US Lb	US Tons
Total	18,158,132	40,031,418	20,016
Armenia	51,012	112,461	56
Belarus	32,064	70,688	35
Belgium	4,683,233	10,324,655	5,162
The Democratic Republic of the Congo	24,999	55,113	28
Finland	575,102	1,267,869	634
France	3,820,347	8,422,337	4,211
Guadeloupe	15,132	33,360	17
Italy	38,992	85,961	43
Jamaica	2,600	5,732	3
Japan	2,356,426	5,194,978	2,597
Kazakhstan	2,808,915	6,192,533	3,096
Latvia	24,950	55,005	28
Mexico	562,609	1,240,328	620
Moldova	24,508	54,030	27
Netherlands	24,950	55,005	28
Philippines	1,282	2,826	1
South Africa	194,487	428,766	214
Spain	60,592	133,581	67
Swaziland	20,306	44,767	22
Switzerland	2,491,533	5,492,833	2,746
<b>USA</b>	<b>352,094</b>	<b>776,227</b>	<b>388</b>

## Moral, Cultural, Food Quality, and Food Safety Concerns in Horse Meat

From a moral standpoint it is generally accepted that human beings are omnivores that require both animal and plant products for good health. Horses, so long as they are well treated and humanely handled may be ethically used as food animals. The enjoyment of horse meat is a cultural choice that is common and accepted in most of the world including Canada, Mexico, South America, Europe, Asia, and Russia. Better cuts bring attractive prices in gourmet markets and restaurants worldwide. Like their international neighbors, there are some Americans who are interested in utilizing horse meat for its taste<sup>1</sup>, nutrition<sup>2</sup>, and affordability<sup>3</sup>. Ethnic communities such as Tongans, Mongolians, Scandinavians, Italians, and others prize horse meat. The United States has a rich history of using horse meat from long before World War II when it was affordable, abundant, and not rationed in an otherwise meat deprived country<sup>4</sup>. Today there are as many meals of horse meat served every day, worldwide, as there are MacDonald's hamburgers.<sup>5</sup>

Horses eat only grass and grain. Because they are not ruminants horses are never fed animal protein and for this reason, horse meat is free of mad cow type disease concerns. They are not as efficient at producing meat as other livestock, but they are more likely to have been raised on good pasture. Horses are not treated with hormones to promote growth, and are generally not fed in confined lots that require antibiotics to keep animals healthy. Horses straight off of rangeland produce meat with all of the nutritional benefits of wild game.

It is true, however, that most horses in the United States are not raised as food animals. Horse owners selling a horse may not keep detailed veterinary records pertinent to a food animal. There is a culture of "buyer beware" that has traditionally pervaded the horse trading culture. A valid concern is that some would sign an affidavit of no vet drug administration even if they did not have records or knowledge of the actual management of the horse. It behooves the meat processing industry and regulators to take extra precautions.

Horse meat is processed under strict regulation in all European Union (EU) importing countries. These regulations, by international treaty and reciprocal agreements, have to meet or exceed United States Department of Agriculture standards. Industrial processing facilities are also required to adhere to Environmental Protection Agency regulations, and may be required to comply with local and state regulations, as well. Beyond these minimum requirements common sense livestock handling procedures ensure that no animals are processed that have had veterinary medicines administered within a time period that might remain in the carcass. If there is any doubt, horses can be held on feed for a withdrawal period and/or laboratory tests can confirm a horse is free of toxic substances. EU audits are conducted at all plants to test carcasses for drug residue. These audits have not detected any serious problems with toxic drug tainted horse meat in Europe or Mexico<sup>6</sup>.

While there may be the attitude of buyer beware in the horse trader world, such is not the case in the meat processing realm. Food safety and public perception drive food markets and are therefore a primary concern. Because of this the horse meat industry has taken exceptional measures to ensure safe and quality horse meat. Measures that are being implemented in the United States include:

1. Positively identifying horses that are appropriate candidates as food animals including:
  - Those documented as being off of pasture where they have been untouched by human hands for a minimum of six months such as horses off of tribal lands; or

- Ensure that horses destined for use as food animals are managed appropriately in a secure environment for a minimum of six months; and/or
- Test animals for substances identified by regulatory agencies to scientifically verify that there are no residues of any sort. These tests are accurate down to the parts-per-trillion level.<sup>7</sup>

2. Ensure humane handling through facility design, employee training and management, and constant third party video management:

- Adopt and implement the system currently used in Canadian plants, the Recommended Handling Guidelines and Animal Welfare Assessment Tool for Horses, with its associated Certified Assessor Standards of Conduct as part of a holistic system to ensure and certify humane handling of horses being processed;
- Certify all equine products as being humanely produced through a rigorous adherence to standards developed in consultation with experts such as the Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada, American Humane, Dr. Temple Grandin, and others.

3. Humane handling ensures meat quality and profitability because horses that are stressed or in pain have systems that are full of adrenaline and other fear/pain physiological reactions that result in poor quality, unusable meat. Bruising results in what is referred to in the industry as “dark cutters,” in which the carcass is full of unusable meat that has to be discarded as waste. For these reasons meat processors go to great length to make sure that all animals are handled quietly, treated professionally, and dispatched with a single shot. <sup>8</sup>

4. Finally, in addition to the legal, moral, and business reasons already mentioned, there are severe economic penalties that ensure that processors are very careful in making sure the food they produce is safe and drug residue free. Meat inspectors are required to be present at all times to regulate humane handling and food safety, and they are required to take random samples of meat going through the plant. If any sample is found to have higher than acceptable levels of any substance the entire lot of meat in the plant at that time is condemned which results in a total economic loss.

## Citations

1 “The flavour is stronger than beef too, with an insistent sweetness and tang. Like lamb, another distinctively flavoured meat, it goes well with punchy flavoured herbs, such as rosemary, sage and juniper.” The merits of horse meat. By Xanthe Clay, The Telegraph, UK, 16 May 2007

2 Horse meat is nutritionally dense—50% higher in protein, 40% less in fat, high in iron, low in cholesterol, and has eighteen times more Omega-3 fatty acids than beef.

3 ***Frugal Icelanders Prepare For The Holidays – NPR Morning Edition, December 11, 2008*** · “Iceland has been hit by the global financial crisis in a big way. With unemployment surging and the currency collapsing, less expensive traditional staples are coming back into fashion. Frugal Icelanders are avoiding imported beers. **They are also buying horse meat, which is half the price of beef.**”

4 Seattle Now and Then – Horse Meat Anytime

5 Per Claude Bouvry, Bouvry Exports, largest purveyor of horse meat in the global marketplace.

6 EU Technical Report, Final Report Mexican Audit

7 In the cost benefit analysis of spending up to \$200 per head for a full spectrum drug test of every substance, or holding a horse on feed for six months at cost of \$300 and more per month, the testing, which also provides absolute scientific verification of meat quality and safety, is a bargain.

**8 7 U.S.C.A. § 1902. Humane methods.** No method of slaughtering or handling in connection with slaughtering shall be deemed to comply with the public policy of the United States unless it is humane. Either of the following two methods of slaughtering and handling are hereby found to be humane:

- (a) in the case of cattle, calves, **horses**, mules, sheep, swine, and other livestock, all animals are rendered insensible to pain by a single blow or gunshot or an electrical, chemical or other means that is rapid and effective, before being shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast, or cut; or
- (b) by slaughtering in accordance with the ritual requirements of the Jewish faith or any other religious faith that prescribes a method of slaughter whereby the animal suffers loss of consciousness by anemia of the brain caused by the simultaneous and instantaneous severance of the carotid arteries with a sharp instrument and handling in connection with such slaughtering.

## The Truth About Horses – A Brief History

[Originally published in Range Magazine]

In 1880, the United States of America had about 6.9 million horses. There was no such thing as a “wild horse.” All horses had economic value as transportation, as draft animals, and as a source of food, leather, and byproducts. Horses were used for everything from transportation to plowing fields to providing the power to run machinery. Some Native American tribes, like the Apache, didn't use horses for transport all that much...they mostly ate what they caught.

At the height of the Depression, the Federal Government decided that the reason the cattle market was so poor was not because the economy was ruined, but that there were too many cattle. Ranchers were forced to sell their cattle to the government for \$1 per head. Government agents dug huge pits, they drove in the cattle, and they shot them all. They covered it with lye so that no one could use the meat. My grandparents remembered this. It was a scar on their souls for the rest of their lives.

The end result was failure. It didn't fix the cattle market, and when World War II broke out, there wasn't enough beef to feed the troops.

We sent all the beef we had to the troops, and when that ran out we started using horse meat both at home and abroad. Older folks remember eating a lot of horse meat during the War. It was good wholesome meat—high in protein, low in fat—at an affordable price.

After the War, cattlemen moved quickly to regain market share. Cattle numbers were on the rise. John Deere was sweeping the country. With the advent of mechanized machinery there was less and less need for horses. The overabundance of horses was a threat to the cattlemen. Unscrupulous characters were buying up excess horses for pennies, passing the meat off as beef, and making a killing.

Cattlemen disparaged horse meat as unfit for consumption—they reminded servicemen of nasty canned meat in the trenches of warfare. States like Texas and Illinois actually passed laws around 1948 that banned the consumption of horse meat. In 1948 the issue was not animal rights. It was economics and market share, pure and simple.

In 1946 my husband's grandfather bought a ranch in Ruby Valley, Nevada. The outfit included 200 cows, and 80 head of horses. Most of the ranches in Ruby Valley ran their horse herd together. They gathered once a year and each ranch cut out their own haying teams and saddle horses. When they finished the summer's work they kept up a few of their favorites, and turned the rest back out until the next year.

Soon all of those ranches were putting their hay up with machinery. They simply quit gathering the horses. They weren't worth the effort to gather and sell.

This happened everywhere in the West. It is the true evolution of the mustangs. They are no more, and no less, than a feral invasive species. Unmanaged horse herds double in population every four years. We ought to be looking at them the same way we do feral hogs, zebra mussels and kudzu.

Those of us who live in the West have seen the devastation first hand. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is caught between a mandate to protect the range and a romantic notion of horses fed by popular literature, animal rights radicals, and Hollywood. Private horse owners, states, and tribes are all caught in a no-win situation where all of the tools to manage unusable, unwanted, abandoned, excess horses are eliminated.

That is the short history of horses in the United States. Today we have 10 million domestic horses, and another 70,000 plus of so-called wild horses either overpopulating the public lands, or standing in feed

lots and holding pens because they can't give them away. Who in their right mind would pay \$125 to adopt an inbred, unknown mustang when you can buy truckloads of high quality, registered weanlings and yearlings for \$10 a head at any horse sale in the country?

In spite of the fact that we have 3 million more domestic horses than we ever needed when we used them for everything, a conglomeration of animal rights organizations led by the Humane Society of the United States and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (HSUS/PETA) have succeed in shutting down the remaining three horse processing plants in the U.S. in 2007, primarily by making those 1948 cattle industry driven horse meat bans stick in the courts.

These radical initiatives offer no solution to the inevitable glut of unwanted, excess horses. Their efforts have prevented the BLM from doing what needs to be done to control the over-population of feral horses on Western rangelands, and has destroyed the horse market. With no bottom to the market, the value of all domestic horses has dropped by 30% to 80% nationwide.

With no market the only unusable horses that have any economic value whatsoever are those that are big enough and healthy enough to be worth the trucking to Canada or Mexico. There is no option for horse owners who can no longer afford to keep a horse, or who want to get some value out of a horse. The inevitable result is an explosion of abandoned and neglected horses nation-wide, an absolute disaster of suffering, starvation, and disease.

In the West it is easy to dump horses on public or tribal lands. Back East they turn them out in state parks and on roads where people hit them with cars. The general population is starting to understand

that there might be more to this story than the manipulated video segments and outrageous sound bites would have us believe.

There is no sound basis in either science or ethics for the emotional rhetoric of radical groups who seek to destroy the livestock culture, and to preempt the rights of horse owners.

“Horses are pets, companions, and sporting animals...they are not livestock.” Whether horses are pets or livestock they are undoubtedly private property. So long as animals are not unnecessarily abused, no one has the right to dictate to horse owners how their horses should be managed, or how they can be disposed of—that is the central tenet of private property rights.

“Americans don't eat horses, and we shouldn't be supplying those who do.” Many Americans do eat horsemeat, or would if it was available. The majority of world cultures consider horsemeat a common, ordinary food. China consumes the most horse meat in the world at 100 million tons per year, with Mexico close behind. In Europe, Italy consumes the most followed closely by the Scandinavian countries, Belgium and France. You can find horse in the meat cases at both ends of Canada in Quebec and Vancouver. Americans ate a lot of horse meat during and after World War II. Horse sausage can be found in Scandinavian butcher shops in the upper Midwest. Crooks are butchering other peoples' horses in Florida and selling it out of coolers on the street for black market prices. Cultures like the Tongan population in Salt Lake City prize horse meat. Young parents who are struggling to raise healthy kids on limited resources would welcome an affordable, delicious meat.

“Horses are a spiritual icon of the West and our heritage” So are longhorn cattle, deer, elk, bear and moose. We eat them all. What makes horses exempt? Our Native American neighbors teach us that all animals are sacred, and horses, just like elk, deer, cattle, and turkeys should be harvested with gratitude and reverence.

“It is cruel and inhumane to slaughter a horse.” There are long-standing humane methods of slaughter legislation for all classes of food animals, and government inspection of meat processing plants. These laws include the handling of live animals, and veterinarian approved methods of humane killing. Once death has occurred all sensation ends. What happens to the carcass is no longer an issue of animal welfare.

Regardless of all this, there is a well financed, orchestrated effort to insist that killing a horse for food is cruel and inhumane. If this can be legally established, then those of us who make a living with livestock know that there is really no difference between slaughtering a cow and slaughtering a horse. Next the radicals will assert that all animal agriculture is cruel and inhumane, destroying our way of being and our culture utterly and completely.

All of the solutions to excess horses come down to the answer to one question. Is it moral for human beings to eat horses? If the answer is no, we better figure out how to sanitarily, environmentally and economically dispose of up to 200,000 toxic drug ridden domestic and wild horse carcasses per year at an average of 1000 pounds per horse. If the answer is yes, than that same 100,000 tons of wholesome

meat represents a decent return to the owners that they can reinvest, and it also represents high quality protein to nourish millions both at home and abroad who appreciate it and who are willing to pay a fair price.

Aristotle encouraged moderation and saw extremes as degraded and immoral. The animal rights argument to ban horses as human food is an example of one of those degraded and immoral extremes.

Here is why:

- Human beings have evolved as meat eaters. We have eyes in the front of our heads to hunt, and teeth in our mouths designed to tear and chew meat. We can survive, and be healthy on a diet of nothing but meat, while a totally vegan diet requires knowing exactly what, when, and how to eat, and for long-term health requires synthetic nutrients that can only naturally be found in animal products. No society on earth is now, or ever has been completely vegan, for obvious reasons.
- It is ethical for human beings to keep livestock so long as animals are provided adequate feed and water, and killed humanely. This is not only a moral imperative, but a quality and economic consideration. A stressed animal will have a system full of adrenaline, the meat will be tough and the flavor poor.
- There are moral considerations around wildlife. If a hunted animal is wounded, they must be tracked and killed rather than suffer. Hunters should kill quickly and painlessly for exactly the same moral and quality of meat purposes as for livestock. Ask any proficient hunter why their inept counterpart's meat is so "gamey" and they'll be quick to tell you that flavor and tenderness are the result of a clean kill, and how the meat is handled.
- It is unethical to allow any species to become so overpopulated that they destroy the ecosystem.
- For this reason wildlife managers monitor the interaction of plants, predators, and prey, the condition of the land, water, erosion, and invasive species. They utilize lethal means to control populations.
- Not only do wildlife managers resort to intensified hunting seasons, predator controls, and extreme measures when necessary, but so do cities, towns, and counties utilize lethal means to control feral dogs and cats. Animals are humanely killed when they are not adoptable or wanted.
- It is arrogant and insensitive for animal rights advocates to disrespect the culinary traditions and cultural attitudes of other people and other nations.
- Finally, how ethical is it to put off limits a vast, renewable source of wholesome, high quality protein when more than 17,000 children a day die from malnutrition around the world?

The contention that taxpayers must pay for a welfare entitlement program so that every last feral and domestic horse can live out its thirty or more years of life on government supported old horse homes is ludicrous. You may find the use of horse meat objectionable. I find the eating of lima beans repulsive. Neither one of us has the right to enforce our prejudice on our neighbors. It is as simple as that.

## Tribes

## National Tribal Horse Coalition Letter



June 23, 2011

Dear Member of Congress:

As the Senate considers the Appropriations bill, The National Tribal Horse Coalition (NTHC), requests your assistance regarding the provisions that will affect the welfare of horses, and the ramifications it will have on Tribal economies. To begin, we want you to know that the NTHC holds the horse in high esteem. Historically, this animal has provided an important contribution to our people. Early in reservation life, the horse provided a means to travel and trade. Over the centuries our people have continued to respect this animal because of the cultural significance it provides: livestock economy, farming, gathering of livestock, hunting, recreation, and ceremonial purposes. Perhaps most significantly, the horse has, and continues to be utilized and treated as livestock.

Without the ability for the USDA to inspect horse meat, prohibited by Congressional action since the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, the horse market has been flooded, the prices for all horses have dropped dramatically, and the livelihood of horse ranchers—tribal and otherwise—has been severely jeopardized. A collateral effect of the glut of horses is the devastating impact their populations are making on the environment. By exceeding the “carrying capacity” of our Tribal lands, forage depredation is only part of the picture. Plants important in tribal spiritual practices and medicine are being destroyed. Vegetation needed for big and small game has disappeared. Streams important to sport and Indian subsistence fisheries are degraded by silty topsoil rolling off denuded slopes as a result of excess numbers of horses on tribal lands. The NTHC believes that it is necessary to reduce the population of today’s feral horses in order to rebalance our fragile ecosystems. Today, there are over 30,000 feral horses on tribal land in the Pacific Northwest region, and the numbers are increasing. These horse populations increase at an average of 20 percent every year. To compound the problem, many people outside of tribal lands, who have horses and can no longer afford them, are using our reservations as a place to abandon them.

The NTHC has testified before the Government Accountability Office (GAO), on the decline of the overall welfare of horses since there has been a prohibition of horse meat inspections. We stand together to promote and enhance the horse economy in its totality, to protect the horse from unnecessary suffering, and to assure that horse meat inspection will again be an option.

The recently published GAO report recognizes that:

**Even after the recent economic downturn is taken into account, horse abandonment and neglect cases are reportedly up, and appear to be straining state, local, tribal, and animal rescue resources. Clearly, the cessation of domestic slaughter has had unintended consequences, most importantly, perhaps, the decline in horse welfare in United States.**

We share the importance of animal welfare and are looking for ways to best preserve that. We also recognize that you have well meaning colleagues who have, in the past, voted to remove funding for USDA inspectors of horse meat that resulted in the unintended consequences of widespread starvation, neglect, abandonment, and unnecessary suffering of this beautiful animal. We respectfully request your assistance. We would like you to carry this important message to your colleagues in the Senate as this issue is addressed in the Senate Appropriations bill. Hopefully, the annual “rider” that prohibits funding for ante-mortem horse inspection will be removed from the Senate Agriculture Appropriations bill and beyond as this measure is considered in Conference Committee, or alternatively, establish a “fee-for-service” basis for inspections that states and tribal nations can implement.

With the release of the GAO report, Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle will be able to consider this legislation, with this important study in mind, to make the right decision. The GAO report, in the section entitled “Matters for Congressional Consideration”, page 44, states:

**Congress may wish to consider allowing USDA to again use appropriated funds to inspect U.S. horses being transported to slaughter.**

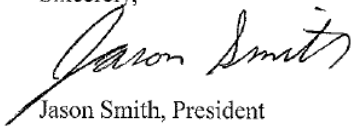
**Also, Congress may wish to consider allowing USDA to again use appropriated funds to inspect horses at domestic slaughtering facilities, as authorized by the Federal Meat Inspection Act.**

As we move forward to protect our tribal traditions and treaty rights, the NTHC understands the need to have a horse processing alternative as a viable and humane option to improve conditions for horses, our natural resources, and our tribal economy.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, please let me know.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Jason Smith, President  
National Tribal Horse Coalition  
Phone: (541) 460-3590  
Email: [jason.smith@wstribes.org](mailto:jason.smith@wstribes.org)

The National Tribal Horse Coalition began a few years ago with five tribes to have a voice on how to mitigate the effects of rapidly increasing numbers of unwanted horses on tribal lands in the Pacific Northwest: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (Oregon), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Oregon), Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Washington), Confederated Tribes of the Colville (Washington), and the Shoshone Bannock (Idaho). As the numbers of unwanted horses is also prevalent on other tribal lands, the NTHC is expanding to represent tribes in the Southwest and mid eastern regions of the United States. We are pleased that the both the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indian (ATNI) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) have passed resolutions at their regional and national meetings endorsing the positions of the NTHC.

## Yakama Letter



Confederated Tribes and Bands  
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the  
Treaty of June 9, 1855

May 31, 2011

Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman  
Honorable Norm Dicks, Ranking Minority Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Jack Kingston, Chairman  
Honorable Sam Farr, Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and FDA  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Kingston, Ranking Members Dicks and Farr and Committee Members,

It has come to the attention of the Yakama Nation that an amendment might be offered at this afternoon's full committee that will prohibit funds in the Department of Agriculture's budget from being used for overseeing the processing of horse meat. While perhaps well intended the amendment is ill advised and we ask that you oppose it.

The 1.4 million acre Yakama Reservation has quite literally been over-run with wild, or more accurately, feral horses. Our biologists estimate we may have over 10,000 of them. It is difficult to overstate the extent of the problem these animals are causing. Thousands of acres of land are now totally denuded of any vegetation. Due to overgrazing we have numerous hillsides that are now nothing more than dirt. When it rains we then have massive amounts of silt that run down the hills and fill in our streams; the very streams on which we are trying to restore salmon spawning grounds. A silted in stream cannot sustain wildlife such as salmon.

The lack of horse processing plants in this country has had a devastating impact on the horse industry. Many of my people know the industry well and many own and love horses. We also know the extent to which horses are cruelly starving to death because the slaughter option has been removed as a basic management tool. We don't understand why it is OK to slaughter all many of animals in this country but for some reason horses are sacrosanct. We should not manage these horses based on emotional arguments and story books or movies we all saw as children. There is a market for horse meat in many parts of the world (as was the case in this country before WW II) and if we can create jobs, humanely reduce overpopulated herds and feed others, it seems absurd to prohibit it. Surely a well regulated processing plant is far more humane than what is happening to many feral horses now.

Post Office Box 151, Fort Road, Toppenish, WA 98948 (509) 865-5121

Additionally, we know that the GAO will soon be issuing a report to Congress on this subject. We were pleased that staff for the GAO, recognizing the extent of the problem, came out to the Yakama Reservation and allowed us to give them a tour so they see first-hand what we are dealing with. When they were here they met with representatives of other tribes whose homelands are also being damaged by oversized feral horse populations.

Please oppose any amendment that would restrict the Department relative to this subject. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Harry Smitskin  
Tribal Council Chairman

## Tribal Horses

[Published in Range Magazine, written by Rod McQueary]

There are 530 American Indian tribes in the 48 contiguous states. Tribes control about 20% of the land mass in reservations. Most of the western reservations are overflowing with abandoned and feral horses. Left unchecked, excess horses will eat the white sage in Nevada, prairie grasses in Wyoming, high desert forage in Arizona. They will starve out the deer, elk, antelope, and sage grouse in Washington. They will destroy the salmon habitat, sacred ceremonial plants, all before they destroy themselves. When they do, and the feral horses are gone, what will be left?

For as well known as the horse market heartbreak is to RANGE readers, much less is known about the horse overpopulation devastating American Indian reservations. These are horses not reported in any national census, they are not included on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) counts, no horse industry organizations even attempt to keep track. If they aren't BLM horses, or privately owned horses, they are basically ignored.

Though no one is keeping any sort of scientific accounting of excess horses on tribal lands, there are startling numbers out there. Here are a few horse counts as reported to me:

Yakama Tribe, northern Washington, 16,000 head of feral horses

Warm Springs Tribe, central Oregon, 6,000 head;

Navajo Nation, Arizona, 60,000 -75,000 head.

Shoshone-Bannock, Idaho, 500-600 head

There are dozens more reservations, how many feral or abandoned horses on them is anybody's guess.

Inside and outside of Indian country, the U.S. horse market as we knew it is in the tank. No part of the industry, or its satellites, have been spared. Horse ranchers, livestock auction owners, veterinarians, horse rescue missions, trainers, rodeo contractors, and horse enthusiasts throughout America are well aware of the dismal market for horses. Tragic stories include 7,000 horses abandoned on the Appalachian Trail, 350 in the hills east of Los Angeles, some eastern states posting guards on state parks to ensure no horses are left within. The numbers of abandoned and abused horses increases yearly as financially strapped families lose their homes and corrals.

Since 2007, when the last horse processing plant closed, horse owners have faced a perfect storm of the market crash and depressed economy, and no legal way to dispose of valueless horses. This downturn results in 460,000 direct horse industry jobs lost, and over a million jobs in manufacturing, sales, and service at feed stores, saddle shops, and horse-related services, nationwide. At a time when record unemployment is a national concern, these are jobs America cannot afford to lose.

“All our models of dealing with abandoned, feral, or stray (undetermined ownership) horses, were based on the horses having a value,” says Chuck Jacobs, a Sioux from South Dakota. “Without that value, we have a huge problem, and no tools.”

This national man-made disaster has hit tribes hard. This past January, at the South Point Casino in Las Vegas, the United Horsemen (a 501c3 non profit educational and charitable organization devoted to the well being of horses and horse people) hosted an international forum to address these problems. At least a dozen tribes were represented, and many members were invited to speak. It was a lively and spirited discussion, but not a debate. Every attendee agreed that something needs to be done to alleviate the damage that equine overpopulation has done to America.

At the Summit we heard from Jason Smith, Warm Springs Tribes, who talked about their efforts to utilize local feral horses, and create local jobs. Warm Springs has petitioned the Bureau of Indian Affairs for funds to study the creation of a horse processing plant--perhaps a module type that could be disassembled and moved from tribe to tribe.

Dr. Glenda Davis, Program Director, Navajo Nation Veterinary and Livestock Program, had to tell us twice--60,000 to 75,000 feral horses? That is a hard number to imagine. A thousand corrals full, a thousand truckloads. During long, cold winters, hot dry summers, these starving, defenceless animals draw predators like a magnet. Once the die-off is over, the next thing on the menu will be Navajo chickens, sheep, goats, calves, and colts. “Navajos, beware.”

Jim Stephenson, Big Game Biologist and Wild Horse Project Leader for the Yakama Nation Wildlife Program describes for us a traditional system of horse management that has been abruptly eliminated by the loss of a market for slaughter horses. What he describes in reference to the Yakama Nation can probably be overlaid on just about any other land-based tribe in the country...especially in the semi-arid grasslands of the West.

“Wild horses are an integral part of Yakama tradition and culture. In the early days horses were used for transportation and packing. In this modern age horses are still used by Yakama cattlemen, as well as for hunting, rodeos and parades.

In the earlier period horses herds were managed by individual families and their numbers were generally kept in balance with the available forage. Historic evidence indicates that Yakama people were capturing horses for the slaughter market at least as far back as the first part of the last century. For many years the slaughter market as well as the market for saddle stock was what kept horse numbers at more or less a sustainable level.

For the past few years fewer and fewer horses were being captured and sold and for the last 4-5 years almost no horses have been gathered due to loss of viable markets. During the last four years horse numbers have doubled from approximately 6000 to over 12,000 head. This is at least 10-12 times the carrying capacity of the land and most of the forage is completely gone on the majority of the 400,000 acre range area. On a condition scale of one to ten most of the horses fall at or below a three.

This situation has created an ecosystem breakdown that has impacted game animals including deer, elk and bighorn sheep, game birds including the recently re-introduced sage grouse, cultural food and medicine plants, and fish and other aquatic resources including endangered salmonids. There is already a considerable loss of native plants and if the situation isn't resolved soon recovery will take decades and in many areas the landscape won't recover without a substantial effort at restoration."

"It has created what I call a broken spoke within the wheel and the wheel is beginning to wobble within the ecosystem. Which in fact is on the verge of collapsing!" says Arlen Washines, Yakama, "A resource going unchecked is the sound of death to other resources that rely on the same or identical food sources, not to include the damage to the soil and water. The loss of traditional ceremonial foods and medicines is and would be devastating to tribal members when all of our ceremonies rely on them for subsistence. The question is, do we sacrifice all of our sacred foods and medicines to protect the very source that is damaging them?"

Washines speaks for the tribes, and for the rest of us impacted by too many feral horses without a slaughter market to sell to when he says, "unless a management control method is created, including humane slaughter, within the next five years, our Yakama Herd will grow to enormous size uncontrollably. At some point in time, all will be lost! Remember, it is a human problem, not a horse problem. And we as humans can change our ways--but, the horse cannot!"

The day is not far away when the tribes who care about their land, their sacred plants, their wildlife, and their livelihoods will have to not only contemplate, but have to implement drastic measures to eliminate thousands and thousands of feral horses to protect the ecological balance of native lands. How much better that would be if it were not a total waste, if that good meat could be used to feed starving children? If the tribes could receive good value for their excess horses? Re-employ their traditional horse catchers, and provide new jobs in modern state-of-the-art processing facilities?

What HSUS/PETA did when they closed the horse slaughter plants was to take one fairly responsible and workable solution, and turn it into a plethora of nasty, unsolvable, expensive problems. For the sake of the tribes, their horses, their homelands, and their long-term futures we need to restore the markets for horse meat, and allow them to return to their traditional methods of management. We need to help fix the broken spoke in Arlen Washines' wobbly wheel.

## Policy Resolutions



## National Congress of American Indians – Resolution

Resolution #NGF-09-017

### **TITLE: Opposition to Any/All Horse Slaughter Acts, Also Supporting a Tribal Amendment Allowing Tribes to Establish Horse Slaughter Facilities within Their Jurisdiction**

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the Northwest have for many years spent countless man hours and funding protecting and re-establishing the ecosystem from degradation; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the Northwest are home to over 20,000 head of unclaimed/feral horses that are overgrazing and destroying the rangeland of the northwest reservations that are damaging spring developments, stream bank restoration, fish habitat and culturally significant plants; and

WHEREAS, various political co-sponsors have introduced and reintroduced legislation into the House of Representatives (HR 503) and Senate (S 727) amending the 1970 Horse Protection Act (HPA) to prohibit the showing, transport or sale of horses that have been subject to any painful process to accentuate their gate; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has a trust responsibility to protect the interests of Tribal Nations as well as a duty to implement laws passed to benefit those Tribes, yet it failed to consult or communicate with any Tribes prior to taking position on HR 503; and

WHEREAS, the horse market represents a significant market that reservation horse producers need to sustain their livestock operations, in the productive utilization of tribal and allotted lands; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Tribal Horse Coalition (NTHC) is adopted as a subcommittee of Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) and requests the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs provide a funding source for horse management practices.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports a tribal amendment to any legislation pertaining to horse slaughter, authorizing Tribes to establish horse slaughter facilities within their jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports a request for development of a line item specific for management of overpopulation of horses from the Department of Interior; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls on the Department of Interior/Federal Government to support the Tribes position opposing legislation that bans the slaughter of horses for human consumption; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

## State Agriculture and Rural Leaders - Resolution on Reasonable Regulation of Equine Processing

### 2012 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit

Whereas, the State Ag and Rural Leaders, (SARL) is comprised of agriculture and rural leaders of state and provincial legislative bodies from the US and Canada; and

Whereas, the agriculture budget appropriations riders that prevented the U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection of horse processing plants have now been removed from the federal budget; and

Whereas, companies seeking to create jobs and restore the economic viability of the entire horse industry are organizing enterprises nationwide; and

Whereas, the federal government has failed to respond to European Union and other foreign governmental bodies in a manner that would allow commerce in equine products to recommence without delay; and

Whereas, there may be other areas as yet undiscovered that would impede the use of equine products for export, or for domestic use; and

Whereas, animal activist groups continue to use propaganda and misleading campaigns to prevent the ethical and responsible use of horses, and seek to compromised the private property rights of horse owners; now therefore be it

Resolved, that State Agriculture and Rural Leaders urges all governmental agencies to use sound science and responsible regulation in addressing this newly emerging industry in order to work in partnership with private companies to implement a world class system that ensures quality, safety, and proper handling of livestock; and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Chair and Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate and House Agriculture Committees, and to others as deemed necessary and advisable.

Approved by members of State Agriculture and Rural Leaders

Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit

January 8, 2012 - Arlington, Virginia

## National Association of Counties – Policy Platform

Property Rights of Horse Owners: NACo calls for the humane treatment of horses in the ownership, raising, transporting, and processing that is carried out under the supervision of USDA.

NACo opposes efforts to curtail the property rights of horse owners and specifically opposes S. 727 and its House companion, H.R. 503, which propose to "amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes". The only three remaining horse processing plants in the United States were shut down in 2007 by state laws. This federal legislation will make it illegal to transport horses to a packing plant or to release any horses to any Canadian or Mexican packing plants, thereby totally shutting down the "harvest" market for used and unwanted horses.

There are currently 60,000 to 90,000 horses originating from the United States that are slaughtered annually in Mexico and Canada. The meat is shipped to Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, and Japan.

In addition, only about 6,000 spaces are available nationwide for horse rescue facilities and the vast majority are already full. Unwanted horses are detrimental to county governments. Horse owners release their unwanted horses into the wild, thus making it the county's responsibility to collect and dispose of them. Not only is this a public health issue, but it will also be quite costly.

This is also a property rights issue. Horse owners who wish to seek an additional value for their spent horses by sending them to slaughter should have the right to do so. Those who wish to retain them to die of old age, or euthanize and bury them on the farm or ranch should have that right as well.

## **Policy Position of the American Association of Equine Practitioners in regards to Horse Processing**

The AAEP advocates the humane treatment of all horses and believes the equine industry and horse owners have a responsibility to provide humane care throughout the life of the horse. However, a small percentage of horses are ultimately unwanted because they are no longer serviceable, are infirm, dangerous, or their owners are no longer able to care for them.

The AAEP recognizes that the processing of unwanted horses is currently a necessary aspect of the equine industry, and provides a humane alternative to allowing the horse to continue a life of discomfort and pain, and possibly inadequate care or abandonment. The AAEP encourages, fosters and provides education regarding responsible ownership and management that will reduce the number of unwanted horses. In addition, the AAEP supports and commends the efforts of equine retirement facilities and adoption groups.

Regarding the care of horses destined for processing, the AAEP's position is that these horses should be:

- Treated humanely and with dignity;
- Transported to the production facility according to the guidelines approved by the United States Department of Agriculture in 2002;
- Euthanized in a humane manner in accordance with the guidelines established by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

In addition, the AAEP recognizes that the human consumption of horsemeat is a cultural and personal issue and does not fall within the purview of the association, whose mission is the care of the health and welfare of the horse throughout its life.

Approved by the AAEP Board of Directors - May 2002.

## **Facts and Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

## **FACTS Refuting Anti-agriculture, Anti-horse Slaughter Activist Rhetoric:**

### ***Horse slaughter is inherently inhumane...***

The processing of horses for meat can only occur in USDA inspected facilities which are governed by the [U.S. Humane Methods of Slaughter Act](#) (2) requiring instantaneous insensibility from a single shot. Government inspectors are required to be present and to inspect the animals prior to, and during the kill process. Horse slaughter is exactly the same, and is held to the same high standard as for every other species of meat animal. There is no record of violations or citations issued for the mistreatment of any horses in U.S. horse processing facilities prior to 2007. Much touted mistreatment combined with graphically manipulated and out of context images show either injured horses that were hurt in transport or prior to arrival at the plant—(those injuries resulting from transport violations were prosecuted appropriately)—or they depict alleged events in other countries where U.S. authorities have no jurisdiction over the process.

### ***Horses are not livestock, they are pets and companion animals...***

While some people may consider their horses to be pets, the vast majority of people who actually make their living with horses, and who breed, train, and use horses in their everyday life consider them to be livestock. Both federal law and the state law of practically every state specifically designate horses as a livestock species. Horses do not live in homes, or sleep with their owners as generally accepted pet animals like dogs and cats do...and on the other side of this picture many typically regarded livestock animals like pigs and chickens are kept as pets by many Americans.

### ***Horses are sensitive flight animals that smell death and are traumatized at slaughter facilities...***

Horses, like other animals commonly used for meat such as elk and bison may respond differently than traditional livestock such as cattle or hogs, but modern facilities are designed and managed for these characteristics. There is no screaming, no abuse, no being “butchered alive” this is all the worst sort of fallacious propaganda. Horses are killed quickly and cleanly after calmly walking into the chute at a facility designed for the unique characteristics of horses, by professionals trained to use equipment designed especially for the purpose, and under the scrutiny of government inspectors charged with both humane handling and food quality. It is a far better fate than any of the alternatives.

### ***Americans don't eat horse meat and we shouldn't be supplying those who do...***

Many Americans do appreciate nutritious and delicious horse meat, and more would do so if it were available at meat counters. It is 50% higher in protein, 40% lower in fat, high in iron, and has up to 18

times the Omega-3 fatty acids of beef. China is the largest consumer, followed closely by Mexico, then other countries in Europe, Asia, Middle East, Russia, and the Americas. There are more meals served every day worldwide than there are McDonald's hamburgers. Horse meat kept the troops from starving in World War II, and fed most of the people at home because it was readily available, government inspected, and not rationed like every other form of meat. Today criminals in Florida and elsewhere are butchering stolen horses and selling the meat at black market prices out of coolers on the street. Obviously, the U.S. is full of people from ethnic traditions around the world, three-quarters of those cultures appreciate horse meat and consider it a high quality food source. Choosing to eat horse meat, or not, is a cultural choice best left to individuals, and not heavy handed government intervention or radical animal rights groups.

***Only foreigners and foreign owned companies benefit from horse slaughter...***

It is true that today the primary market for horse meat is in Europe and Asia, and that the companies operating in the U.S. prior to 2007 were foreign owned, as are many companies in practically every other industry in the nation. They operated on U.S. soil, governed by U.S. laws and regulations, employed U.S. citizens, paid U.S. taxes, and purchased the horses they processed from U.S. citizens by paying fair values for otherwise unusable, unwanted, and unneeded livestock. The U.S. exports more than [10 Billion dollars worth of livestock and meat every year](#) (25) providing tremendous value to U.S. farmers and ranchers of every other form of livestock, except horses. The inability for any return, and the roadblocks to domestic or export market access for otherwise unwanted, unneeded, unusable, and excess horses is a severe economic hardship unrightfully imposed on the horse industry alone.

***Removing the appropriations rider will require the appropriation of over \$5 Million dollars to support the required USDA inspection of horse meat and should not be considered when Congress is looking for all possible cuts...***

The removal of the previously attached annual riders to the ag appropriations bill takes it back to the original statute that has been on the books for many years which includes equine as an amenable species and requires USDA to provide inspection for food safety and humane handling. The return of humane and regulated equine processing means hundreds of jobs are made possible in hard hit state and tribal economies, and allow the entire horse industry to begin to recover as the overall economic condition of the country begins to improve. On a side note, the U.S. taxpayer foots the bill for the entire cost of inspecting traditional meats like beef, pork, and lamb—over \$10 Billion dollars worth of which is exported to other countries and is not even consumed by U.S. citizens.

***Horses are not raised as food animals, and most have been given toxic drugs deadly to humans...***

As for every form of meat there are rigorously enforced rules and regulations preventing the contamination of horse meat for human consumption. Activists are particularly trying to make the case that phenylbutazone (“bute”), an NSAID commonly used in horses and dogs, but banned in humans, makes treated horses permanently unsuitable as food animals. However, bute is one of the drugs that is most quickly eliminated from a horse's system with 90% of the dose being eliminated in the first 24 hours, and another 90% of the remainder being eliminated each and every day thereafter. In spite of this fact, and the fact that [there has NEVER BEEN a documented case of a single serious health effect from residues of ANY SUBSTANCE in meat or poultry in the last 20 years \(6\)](#), there has been increased public concern and regulatory restriction particularly on horse meat. It is now required that all horses processed in Canada must be held for a minimum of 180 days prior to processing. Processing companies routinely test meat with laboratory tests accurate down to parts per trillion. If a government inspector pulls a sample of meat that has a higher than acceptable level of any substance, the entire lot of meat in the plant at the time is condemned at substantial economic loss to the processor. In [European Union Audits \(26\)](#) of both Canadian and [Mexican horse processing plants \(27\)](#) there has not been any finding concerning unacceptable levels of any prohibited substance in horse meat.

On a side note, more than 18,000 kids starve to death every day around the world. The 38,000 and counting excess unadoptable wild horses that the U.S. taxpayer is supporting on privately owned property because they cannot be left to overpopulate and denude the BLM rangelands would be much better used to provide much needed protein to starving people. In one fell swoop you could cut three-quarters of the Wild Horse and Burro Program funds that are now being spent to manage horses that are off of federal lands AND greatly enhance U.S. sponsored hunger relief efforts...a win/win all around! Those who object to others eating horse meat have never been hungry.

***There are no excess horses in America, and what there are would be eliminated if horse owners would quit “over-breeding”...***

The GAO report on [HORSE WELFARE: Action Needed to Address Unintended Consequences of Domestic Slaughter Cessation \(21\)](#) clearly documents the increase of excess horses since the closure of the plants. Activist claims that reports of huge increases in abandoned and neglected horses are “anecdotal” and “not based in fact” are belied not only by the GAO (which interviewed state veterinarians among others—state officials reporting official statistics for their state are hardly “anecdotal”), but by [the huge increase in media reports all over the country \(28\)](#), the [problems that the Tribes are facing as a result of no market and their herds increasing by 20% per year \(see NCAI resolution in Appendices\)](#), the fact that [the few available horse rescues are full and overwhelmed \(29\)](#) at exactly the same time as every horse sale in the country is flooded with low value, unmarketable horses. The prominent American breed registries (American Quarter Horse, American Paint Horse, Arabian, Thoroughbreds) for quality horses are universally reporting decreases in excess of 70% in the number of horses being bred per year.

It is worth noting that the U.S. government with its out of control wild horse and burro management is without question, by many thousands of percent, the biggest offender in terms of irresponsible “over-breeding.”

***Closing the slaughter plants did not increase abandoned horses – it is all because of the economy...***

The strongest proof against this fallacy is a comparison between the effect on the equine economy during the severe economic downturn in the 1980s and this one. In the 1980s the number of horses that were sold and processed more than doubled to over 300,000 head because horses are, for the most part, luxury items that are the first things to go in tough economic times. The price of horses at that time were, however, quite high especially in comparison to the current extremely depressed prices. There were no increases in horse abandonment or neglect because all horses had value. When the recession was over the horse industry recovered in record time.

***Horse slaughter is a predatory business where killer buyers outbid people who only want to save horses...***

Horse auctions and horse buyers are in the business of finding the highest value for every horse. In a normal market situation that means that a horse that is wanted for any other purpose will be worth more than one that is only suitable as a meat animal. Anyone with the resources and desire to do so can bid on and acquire horses at whatever the market price is on that particular day. The reality is that most rescues will not bid on old, lame or otherwise undesirable horses that they will be unable to adopt out and turn a profit on.

***Horse owners often don't understand that a horse they sell at auction might be slaughtered...***

While it is commonly understood that horses sold at horse sales and auction barns are sold without restriction, the seller always has the right of “no sale” if their animal does not bring the amount they want or if they do not wish to sell to the individual who is the highest bidder. Killer buyers are not hidden and the seller can always ask the auctioneer who the buyer is. Sellers unfamiliar with common agricultural practices are responsible for doing their own investigation, and if they are uncomfortable with selling under the terms of the horse sale, should choose a private treaty or some other method of selling their horse.

***Horses are often stolen and sent to slaughter...***

Every state in the Nation has livestock laws around the transfer of legal ownership of livestock, and procedures such as brand inspection before horses can be legally sold to any buyer including a

processing plant. Sale barns, brand inspectors, and livestock law enforcement around livestock auctions are acutely aware of the possibility of stolen livestock, and use all possible means to prevent the inadvertent sale of stolen livestock. In addition, the horse industry has developed a fail safe method that is available to any horse owner concerned about this possibility. An Equine Owners Assurance Program has been established and the horse processing companies operating in North America have agreed to scan every horse before their buyers purchase them in the U.S. This scan will immediately identify any horse that has been stolen, or one that has been entered into the registry.

***Slaughter horses are inhumanely crammed onto trucks and are routinely tortured and beaten...***

Horses bound for slaughter are the only species of livestock that are regulated during transport by the federal government. [USDA-APHIS Slaughter Horse Transport \(30\)](#) is the agency charged with the responsibility of enforcing these laws and regulations which include a ban on transportation in double-deck trucks, separate compartments for stallions and aggressive horses, prohibition against transporting horses that cannot put weight on all four legs, or who are blind, etc. Neither horses nor any other form of meat animal are routinely “tortured and beaten” because animals that are slaughtered while in excessive pain or unduly stressed result in very poor quality, often unusable meat—what is known in the trade as “dark cutters.” For economic and meat quality reasons, as well as the obvious moral and ethical reasons, horses being transported to slaughter are taken very good care of, fed well, watered often, and handled as quietly and calmly as possible. Good livestock hauling practices includes making sure that there are enough horses in each compartment so that they are able to lean on and support each other as the truck sways and rocks going down the road, but not so many that a horse who might slip and fall could not get back up. Trucks are required to have non-slip footing to help prevent this from happening.

Please note that one of the primary findings of the GAO report on HORSE WELFARE was that the Slaughter Horse Transport agency charged with enforcement is hampered in their duties by appropriations riders that prevent the inspection of live horses.

***Horse slaughter is a barbaric practice that is unneeded, and there are better solutions...***

However, the only solutions that are offered are anything but...and only compound and exacerbate the problems already so devastating to horses and horse people. Should the only solution to an excess, unusable, unwanted horse be either the establishment of a full-blown animal welfare entitlement program that requires the U.S. taxpayer to foot the bill to care for every horse until they live out their 30+ years of natural life, or to have the taxpayers pay for a very expensive, veterinarian administered lethal drug overdose? Should Congress and the American people have to figure out how to pay for the chemical euthanasia and disposing cost of up to \$600 per horse, and then dispose of the environmentally toxic large animal carcasses averaging more than 1,000 lbs. each, and then figure on doing that for more than 300,000 carcasses per year which is less than the number of horses that were sold for good and valuable meat during the economic downturn of the 1980s? On top of that Congress

should be prepared for an economic bailout of all of the equine businesses that are denied a legitimate market for unusable livestock by government restrictions.

***Captive bolts are not suitable for horses, a horses skull is different and requires multiple attempts to properly kill a horse...***

Both the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), who are the veterinarians who best know horses, have determined that a penetrating captive bolt, which is a penetrating object into the brain that causes instantaneous insensibility is humane. A carefully placed bullet under safe and controlled conditions as is found in a processing facility is the other acceptable and humane method, and is, in fact the method used in most horse processing plants. While a horse's skull is shaped differently than a cow's skull, the brain is actually higher in the skull, and protected by less bone, thus a horse is more reliably killed with a single shot from either a captive bolt or a gunshot than is a cow or a bison.





## Unified Equine – Facts

*[Unified Equine is one of several companies currently in the process of opening horse processing facilities.]*

- Unified Equine is a privately held company formed for the purpose of developing humane meat processing options for the horse industry.
- Facilities are in the process of being developed in Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Wyoming, with other potential projects in varying stages of feasibility determination elsewhere.
- Unified Equine works with local, state, and tribal economic development and regulatory entities to ensure success, and to provide humane and economically feasible horse management and land resource solutions.
- Unified Equine specializes in equine and other alternative, high quality protein products.
- Animals will be procured from a variety of sources that will be processed at the facilities.
- Unified Equine partners with international and U.S. based companies with domestic and worldwide markets for horse meat. Product will be distributed to domestic ethnic, specialty, and gourmet markets, in addition to global customers in the protein industry.
- Plants will be equine processing facilities capable of processing equine, beef, and bison. The primary species is intended to be equine.
- Unified Equine plants will pay competitive salaries with full benefits, and will primarily employ and fully train local workers.
- The plants will operate as “humanely certified” processing facilities under the auspices of the International Equine Business Association.
- Humane handling systems will reduce animal fear and stress providing a higher quality product and allow the use of a humane designation in marketing programs.
- Plants will comply with all local, state, tribal, and federal regulations, will be environmentally sound, will mitigate all negative impacts to the community, and will work proactively with local, state, tribal, and regional stakeholders to ensure the sustainable economic and social benefits brought by a successful and well-managed enterprise.

## Unified Equine - Frequently Asked Questions:

### *What kind of product will be produced?*

- The primary product will be fresh and frozen meat.
- The various cuts of horse meat are similar to beef or bison, ranging from high-end roasts and steaks, to ground meat, and specialty meats.

### *Is there a market for horse meat in the United States?*

- Yes. There was a fairly robust niche market for horse meat in the United States into the early 1990s.
- This is a protein valued by three-quarters of the world's cultures, and there are, according to Bouvry Exports, one of the leading horse meat companies in the world, more meals of horse meat served every day, worldwide, than there are MacDonald's hamburgers. China is the largest consumer, followed closely by Mexico, which uses 50% of its production of horse meat at home, the other half exported. Horse meat is available throughout Canada. It is used in the Caribbean and South America. There is a thriving market in Asia. Argentina is now the largest exporter of horse meat in the world, and their largest customer is Russia. Obviously, the U.S. has citizens from all of these cultures, and ethnic communities in major cities are welcoming the re-introduction of horse meat. These groups include the Tongan population in Salt Lake City, the Mongolians in Seattle and Washington D.C., and others.
- You could buy a horse steak at the dining room at Harvard in the 1980s, and there was a successful horse meat business on both the East and West Coasts throughout that decade. The U.S. is currently importing nearly 400 tons of horse meat from Canada for zoo and circus animal diets today.
- There are essentially three reasons why consumers choose horse meat:
  1. **Gourmet** - Horse meat is a delicious meat prized by culinary aficionados that is often described as dark red, sweet, and similar to elk or bison.
  2. **Health Conscious** - Horse meat is a lean, nutritious meat containing up to 55% more protein (55% more for ground meat/20% more protein in steaks and roasts), 40% less fat, high in iron and other nutrients, and has up to 18 times the Omega-3 fatty acids of beef. Because of its nutritional density and high protein it is sought after by athletes. It is prized by mothers as baby food in places like Japan and Italy.
  3. **Value Conscious** - In every country where horse meat is commonly used today it is generally 40% less in cost than beef and represents a good value for those seeking to feed their families on a tight budget.

***How will waste be handled?***

- Unified Equine is works with leading nation-wide environmental firms and industry experts to incorporate state-of-the-art waste handling systems.
- According to experts, an equine processing plant will have less demand on the waste water treatment system than a standard livestock processing facility because an equine carcass has much less fat, that component of animal processing most subject to collection and disposal .
- Initial facilities are existing meat processing plants with lagoon systems that have already been permitted and approved by the state environmental agencies.
- Residual bones will be marketed for reprocessing for use in porcelain production and other purposes.
- All blood will be collected through a blood collection/processing system for various industrial, consumer product and agricultural applications.
- Remaining waste will be collected by regional licensed rendering companies.

***Will there be odors or other troubling aesthetic problems?***

- Horses are naturally clean animals with less smell than other forms of livestock, and all corral and pen odors from manure will be mitigated by good livestock handling procedures that keep odor minimized.
- The plant itself will not produce any odors that would bother even close neighbors.
- The pens and corrals are covered, as are all chutes leading into the plant. Casual passers-by will observe well cared-for horses standing in a corral or small pen.
- Plants will be located in rural areas away from housing and traffic.

***Where will your employees come from?***

- We expect all employees will come from the local area.
- Every employee will undergo an extremely detailed and rigorous pre-employment background check.
- Once hired, employees will receive a competitive salary with benefits, and upon becoming vested, also have the opportunity to acquire an ownership share in the company.

***Will the local community and the state benefit from this company?***

- Management and employees will be residents and active members of the community.
- Employees will be encouraged to be involved in civic projects and organizations.

- Economic opportunity afforded by a well-managed company will provide revenue to support local governments, and will provide a much needed boost to the local economy.

***Will the community experience a sudden rise in crime?***

- There's no reason to expect any impact on local crime rates. All employees and contractors will be carefully and thoroughly screened, and most will be established area residents. These will be employees who are well compensated and fairly treated by management.
- In the case where the plant has been a meat processing facility for many years, there is no reason to expect any sudden change of demographics as a result of a switch from cattle to horses as the species being processed.

***Will a meat processing facility in our community increase or decrease the property values of our homes?***

- If there is any correlation at all between the presence of a well managed meat processing facility and area home values, it is likely an increase in value because of lower community unemployment and more economic investment and opportunity for the community at large.

***What sort of horses will be processed?***

- Unified Equine will primarily procure mature horses that are in good shape, and free of any veterinary medicine residues. We will verify their eligibility for processing through a rigid testing protocol. These horses will be purchased from a variety of sources where the sellers are assured they will be humanely euthanized in a government-regulated facility that is designed for the unique characteristics of the equine species -- although the plant will be capable of processing beef and bison as well.
- Horses that have prospects for other purposes because of training and temperament will be provided to **United Horsemen**, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, that will market those horses for appropriate uses, or provide them to charitable organizations, such as equine therapy programs.
- Unified Equine plants will be set up to primarily provide the high-quality well-processed meat sought by the international marketplace, as well as by domestic gourmet, specialty, health-conscious, and value-seeking customers.

***Will horses be cloned, or will horses be bred specifically as food animals?***

- Cloning is a very expensive procedure that is only used for the most high quality breeding and performance animals, and costs many thousands of dollars per head.

- Horses are bred specifically for certain specialized markets in both Canada and Europe. Individual U.S. producers may decide to participate in that, but it is not likely.
- Generally, in the U.S., the processing of horses has always been and will likely continue to be a secondary use for horses that are otherwise unwanted or unusable for other purposes, and allows for the good and valuable use of the animal.

***Isn't horse processing cruel and inhumane?***

- No. All horses moving to processing facilities must be transported under U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Humane Transport of Horses to Slaughter Act regulations.
- Horses, like all other species of livestock used for food, are regulated by USDA's Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS), which provides all federally trained and supervised in-plant inspectors. All livestock must be euthanized and processed following regulations under the [U.S. Humane Methods of Slaughter Act](#), one of the highest standards for humane handling in the world. This law requires all animals be handled with a minimum of stress, and that they be humanely killed in a manner that ensures instantaneous insensibility.
- There are two approved methods of stunning horses in order to ensure instantaneous insensibility, either gunshot, or penetrating captive bolt.
- USDA FSIS inspectors are required to be present when any animal is processed for food. This inspection requires examining the live animal prior to processing (ante mortem inspection), ensuring complete and total insensibility before the animal is processed, and examining the carcass afterwards (postmortem inspection).
- Unified Equine, LLC will be utilizing the "[Recommended Handling Guidelines and Animal Welfare Assessment Tool for Horses](#)" developed by the Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada (HWAC) and adopted by the International Equine Business Association (IEBA). This system provides progressive, comprehensive and consistent animal welfare standards for the handling of horses at processing. The system will be utilized for third party audits and by the company for guidance, education and in-house assessments. These guidelines offer detailed information about equine behavior and handling, facility design, transport, compromised animals, effective stunning and willful acts of abuse. The system is based on the understanding animal behavior is key to humane livestock handling. When proper handling techniques are used the animals experience less fear and stress, and the job of moving animals is easier. Reduced stress also provides for a higher quality end product.
- Just as is done in leading Canadian horse meat facilities, Unified Equine will be utilizing video surveillance throughout the facility.

***"It is our belief that these tools developed for the welfare of horses will set the standards for the meat processing industry. The program will provide our management and employees with the training and guidance they need to ensure all horses are handled properly. The guidelines, along with video surveillance, will bring confidence to our producers and our customers."***

*Claude Bouvry, Bouvry Exports, Alberta, Canada.*



**UNITED Horsemen**  
*Horsepeople working for horse welfare - and to restore the health of the horse industry.*

**TED ROBINSON**  
"Today horses are the most neglected/abused animals you will find. Something has to be done to remedy the situation. It will take an organization like United Horsemen, working on all fronts, to bring about a common sense solution. This is an organization that I believe needs the support of everyone in the horse industry."

**BOB LOOMIS**  
"The banning of horse slaughter in the U.S. has had a major negative impact on our entire industry. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of horses have been neglected and starved as a result. United Horsemen is working logically to reinstate humane slaughter, something that will benefit not only our industry, but the economy overall. What they need is for all of us to join with them. Numbers make a difference. We all need to stand up and be counted."

**JD YATES**  
"We are currently in a situation where there are far more horses unattended to than ever before. As an industry, we need to develop programs that will address the best interests of those horses. I believe United Horsemen is taking a common sense approach to help us reach that goal. In order to properly care for those horses and further the well-being of the horse industry, I would urge everyone who truly cares about horses to support United Horsemen in their efforts."

[www.united-horsemen.org](http://www.united-horsemen.org)

**We need your help now! Time is of the essence. Please visit our website to join United Horsemen today.**

**STAND UP. SPEAK OUT. TAKE BACK THE REINS OF YOUR INDUSTRY!**

 **Find us on Facebook** For more information please visit the website [www.united-horsemen.com](http://www.united-horsemen.com) phone 541.571.7588 

United Horsemen Facebook Group - [http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_121597937924741](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_121597937924741)

## The Truth About Kaufman, Texas, and the Dallas Crown Horse Plant

*[Facts provided by Kaufman resident and attorney, Mark Calabria, to counter common misinformation used by animal rights organizations using biased and unprofessional statements.]*

The slaughtering of horses in the town of Kaufman began more than 25 years ago by the former owner of the plant. The business from the beginning provided numerous jobs and injected millions of dollars into the local economy.

The business for many years enjoyed an excellent relationship with the community with no complaints. It was only in the last couple of years prior to closing that the company came under attack, and this was primarily from sources outside the City of Kaufman.

When the attacks began against the Dallas Crown the same individuals and groups began their attacks against the two other horse slaughtering plants in existence at the time. Although certain individuals with the city of Kaufman jumped on the band wagon and manufactured complaints against the company this was mainly brought on by the media attention. The mayor, Paula Bacon, was able to get her 15 minutes of fame on Nightline and was subsequently defeated at the polls.

None of the alleged complaints brought by the city were ever prosecuted to a conclusion.

When the company shut down hundreds of individuals and families suffered financially and the City of Kaufman had nothing to offer them.

The meat processing business has often been unfairly criticized for its treatment of animals and this seems to play well to the media.

However this type of business has always been regulated and inspected by the USDA and numerous other state and Federal agencies.

While Dallas Crown was in operation there was a full time licensed Veterinarian who worked for the USDA on the premises and the company had an excellent record with this agency and others.

This type of business is not only necessary for many practical reasons it is an industry that is capable of supporting many jobs and producing home grown American made products.

The horse processing business supports and regulates the fair and humane treatment of animals more than any so called animal rights organization.

When the horse processing industry was forced to close in the United States the country suffered economically, but tragically, the horse population has suffered even more.

## Euthanasia Facts

“Euthanasia” is Latin for a „good death,” that is defined by equine veterinarians as quick, painless, and as stress-free as possible.

There are 3 methods approved by the American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA), and the Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP)—the veterinarians who best understand equine physiology and behavior:

1. A bullet—when properly done—death is instantaneous—and this method allows for many carcass disposal and/or utilization options.
2. A captive bolt—is the same as a bullet—instantaneous death is caused through brain penetration. A captive bolt in a processing facility under regulation is the most certain, controllable, and effective method of euthanasia, and it allows for all of the same carcass disposal and/or utilization options as gunshot.
3. Overdose of barbiturates—death may be prolonged, and some horses struggle and suffer. There are even documented cases of it not working, at all. The lethal drug cocktail is quite thick and viscous, and requires a substantial amount—generally two full syringes, which must be injected slowly because of the thickness. Some horses have violent reactions when only part way through the process. In addition, carcass disposal options are limited because toxic drugs cannot be rendered, and may leach into water tables, or linger in soils if composted or buried. Carcasses left in the open can kill scavengers, leaving owners liable for death of endangered species and pets.

**Once euthanasia has occurred, all legal, moral and ethical responsibility for the well-being of the animal ceases.**

It is the position of the International Equine Business Association, that what happens to the carcass in terms of disposal options such as burial, or cremation—or utilization of the carcass such as rendering to reduce to essential oils and byproducts, or processing for human food or animal diets—are entirely the right, prerogative, and responsibility of the owner.



INTERNATIONAL  
EQUINE  
BUSINESS  
ASSOCIATION

---

***<http://IEqBAssn.org>***

---