



New York State Humane Association

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Facts about Horse Slaughter and Support of NYS A3905/S4615

Horse Slaughter is not a humane form of euthanasia.

Euthanasia means a painless death. Horse slaughter involves striking a horse several times with a "captive bolt". Despite being struck by the captive bolt, sometimes the horses are not properly stunned, but rather remain conscious, requiring several blows before they are rendered unconscious. Many Canadian slaughter plants use gunshots instead of the captive bolt system, and often fire several rounds while the horses scream in agony before they are finally stunned in preparation for slaughter. USDA workers have attested to the fact that horses often remain conscious during butchering. In addition, they often suffer intense abuse during shipment. Killer buyers have been known to gouge a horse's eye out if he is kicking in the trailer to give him something else to think about. New York State I-87 should not be a direct pipeline for horses being trucked to Canada for the cruel act of slaughter.

Another concern is that horses trucked for slaughter do not require any health certificates. This lack of oversight allows horses to be trucked across our state from Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Virginia, Maryland and many other states without knowing what diseases they might be harboring.

Horse Slaughter will not solve the problem of neglect.

Just like dogs and cats, many horses are neglected due to their belonging to hoarders. Many individuals have been arrested for hoarding horses. Most hoarders who acquire horses allow them to breed, do not feed them adequately, and refuse to sell or give them up to horse rescue organizations who offer their assistance. Horse slaughter will not stop these people. NYSHA receives calls about horse hoarders almost daily.

It is not illegal to bury a horse in New York State.

Article 26 section 377 of the NYS Agriculture & Markets Law states that the carcasses of horses, cows, mules, sheep and goats which have died otherwise than by slaughter, shall be buried at least three feet below the surface of the ground. Thus, in most cases, a horse who has been humanely euthanized may be buried on the property of the owner or caretaker. Rendering is also an option.

Horse slaughter plants are a hazard.

Horse Slaughter plants in the US were found to be in violation of environmental laws related to the disposal of blood and animal waste, resulting in contamination of water sources and increasing rat and other pest infestation. Such environmental contamination has resulted in a decline in property values. These plants have also resulted in an increase in crimes in their local communities, including thieves stealing horses to sell for slaughter.

Horsemeat is not fit for human consumption.

Nearly every horse has been given drugs that are banned for human use by the Food and Drug Administration. The U.S. government has no method for recording medications given to horses. Phenylbutazone (bute) is routinely administered to every race horse and recreational horse if the horse has sustained an injury. Drugs used to make horses race faster include cocaine, Viagra, cobra venom, stimulants and even cancer medications. Many of these substances do not show up in lab tests.