



Summer 2022

## Greetings

Summer again, and once more we focus on equines and the need to change the public perception of horse racing, it & animal cruelty, pure and simple. But we have made some strides in legislation in New York State and increasing numbers of people are becoming aware of the horrific results in almost anything that commercializes horses. So once again we devote space here to this crucial issue. Let's hope we can all continue to influence minds and change hearts about the so-called sport of kings.



With fall approaching, NYSHA will continue concentrating on humane education issues to be able to reach learners of all levels in multiple venues. Each of us is an educator every day, so use your voice to speak up for animals. Several of our articles this month suggest many ways.

## Summer is Not Fun for Horses at RaceTracks

Look, I get it, I really do. The weather is gorgeous and we're human beings, so naturally we look for outdoor things to do. In the Capital Region, for so many, for so long, the centerpiece of summer fun has been world-renowned Saratoga Race Course – "the oldest," so they say, "sporting venue in the nation." What better way, the thinking goes, to spend a lazy July or August afternoon than to watch those beautiful, majestic animals doing what they love – run. Well, facts, as the great John Adams famously said, are stubborn things, and here are a few on "The Sport of Kings."



The typical racehorse is born from his mother as a mere foal, thrust into an intensive training regimen at 18 months – long before his body is even remotely mature – and first raced at two, the rough equivalent of a first-grader. From there, the incessant grinding – again, on an unformed skeleton – begins, because if he's not racing, he's not earning. He is kept locked – alone – in a tiny 12x12 stall for over 23 hours a day, conditioned by flogging, auctions, "claiming races", controlled (orbing