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## Cooperative Effort Shuts Down Irresponsible Racehorse Breeder

On May 18, activist Will Sayers executed and disposed of a racehorse breeder. Erica Peragallo, was led away in handcuffs after Greene County Judge George Faber arrested him to two years in jail and a \$10,000 fine. In fact, Peragallo had been found guilty of 28 counts of animal cruelty in a summary trial presided over by Judge Faber and prosecuted by Greene County District Attorney Tony Wilkins.

Though Peragallo apologized and his attorney pleaded for a light sentence, Judge Faber would have none of it. Addressing Peragallo, Judge Faber said, "Your sense of integrity, your code of conduct, your perception of right and wrong, was perhaps formed by your days on either mean streets or Wall Street. Money, the bottom line, and egotism in your mind, trump morality, honesty, and civility."

A hearing to determine the amount of restitution that Peragallo must pay to Equine Rescue Resources of Orange County and the Columbia Greene Humane Society will occur in July.

A chain of events, involving several agencies, brought this case to light and succeeded not only in ending the suffering



Working after the search is over.

of the horses on this particular farm, but also in providing better oversight of breeding farms across the state.

In April 2009, an opaque horse dealer purchased some horses the believed could be rehabilitated from a trailer who kept and then sells horses for slaughter. The horse dealer noticed another group of horses was contained in the stall - ones for slaughter. Upon by their appearance, the horse dealer assumed a Pennsylvania (PA) horse rescue group she brought and reached the riding barn in PA. Subsequently, it was discovered that the horses had belonged to Peragallo. Now that Peragallo had six contained horses in slaughter was "sold" as the horses.

Seeing the frightening report, a woman on Long Island who was breeding a foal and his mother in Peragallo's farm became concerned. She contacted the PA rescue for assistance, and they in turn reached out to Colleen Sagers of Equine Rescue Resources in Orange County. Sagers agreed to visit the Greene County farm and rescue the two horses. Shortly before Sagers arrived, the woman called the farm and advised them to give the horses to Sagers.

When Sagers arrived, she searched as some horses were being chased by a tractor. Shortly afterward, she was greeted

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Revised policy, revised a goal.