



New York State Humane Association

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On July 15, the New York City Council will hold a hearing on Romanch's Law (formerly Ryder's Law, Intro 943) —sponsored by NYC Councilman Christopher Marte and co-sponsored by NYC Council Majority Leader Shaun Abreu. This law will introduce legislation that would permanently end the horse carriage industry, send the horses to loving sanctuaries, and help drivers transition to new employment.

NYSHA has joined the many other animal rights organizations coming together to voice their support of this Law by issuing a Memorandum of Support.

Are you a resident of NYC? Follow this link to find out who your representative is and make your voice heard. [NYC Council Districts](#)

If you are not a resident of NYC, you can still help! Reach out to friends and like and share posts to bring awareness to the movement.

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

TO: The New York City Council

FROM: The New York State Humane Association

DATE: July 7, 2026

SUBJECT: STRONG SUPPORT for Bill # 0943-2026 (Prohibiting Horse-Drawn Cabs)

The New York State Humane Association—one of the oldest animal welfare organizations in the United States—**strongly supports Bill # 0943-2026**, sponsored by Councilman Christopher Marte. This critical legislation will permanently prohibit horse-drawn cab operations in New York City effective June 1, 2028. Crucially, the bill mandates that the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection administer

Founded in 1900, the New York State Humane Association promotes compassion for animals and works to prevent cruelty through advocacy, education, and advancing the enforcement of New York's animal cruelty laws. NYSHA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

a comprehensive workforce development program to seamlessly transition industry drivers and workers into stable, safe alternative fields of employment.

The Inherent Public Safety Crisis: Prey Animals in Urban Centers

NYSHA Issues Memorandum to Support the End of Horse Drawn Cabs in NYC

July 8, 2026

Horses are biologically hardwired as flight animals. When startled, their instinct is to bolt.

- **Uncontrollable Triggers:** Heavy city traffic, sirens, motorcycles, and sudden horn blasts easily trigger a horse's flight response.
- **Zero Operator Control:** Once a horse enters a panic-driven flight response, a human driver cannot physically control the animal or the multi-ton carriage attached to it.

A Century-Long History of Preventable Tragedies

New York City's dense urban environment has never been, and will never be, a safe space for horse-drawn transportation.

- **Historical Danger:** As early as 1867, horse-powered transit caused an average of four fatalities per week and injured 40 pedestrians in the city.
- **The June 17, 2026 Tragedy:** This inherent danger was horrifically demonstrated by the preventable death of Romanch Mahajan, an 18-year-old tourist from India. After a carriage horse bolted in Central Park, Mr. Mahajan was killed when he was thrown to the pavement while trying to protect his mother. Public safety demands that this tragedy never be repeated.

Severe, Inhumane Animal Welfare Concerns

Official records confirm that dozens of carriage horses have died directly on New York City streets.

- **Documented Mortality:** Advocates have recorded at least 30 carriage horse deaths since 1985 alone.
- **Recent Casualties:** Recent tragedies include the death of Deniz, a 16-year-old horse in Central Park, and Lady, a 15-year-old mare.
- **Environmental Abuse:** Forcing horses to stand on blistering, hot asphalt while inhaling toxic urban smog for hours on end is overtly inhumane and biologically detrimental.

Conclusion

Many of our organization's long-standing members possess expertise in equine behavior and safety. Based on our extensive evaluation, continuing this antiquated practice likely constitutes a direct violation of **NYS Anti-Cruelty Laws**. State law explicitly defines animal cruelty as *any* act, omission, or neglect whereby unjustifiable pain, suffering, or death is caused or permitted.

To protect public safety, fulfill the city's ethical obligations, and shield workers via a just transition program, the New York State Humane Association urges the NYC Council to **pass Bill # 0943-2026 immediately**.

Thank you for caring and taking action!

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