



New York State Humane Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Race Against Time: 25 Horses Saved From Slaughter as Coalition of Animal Advocates Strikes Blow Against Illegal Transport Through NYS

September 3, 2026, KINGSTON, N.Y. — In a high-stakes, late-night intervention, the New York State Humane Association (NYSHA) - in partnership with Animals' Angels, HORSEPOWER, Humane World for Animals, and the New York State Police - successfully intercepted a transport carrying 25 horses destined for slaughter in Canada. The operation, which halted a slaughter truck for the first time in state history, represents a monumental shift in the enforcement of anti-cruelty laws in New York.

The rescue unfolded shortly after 2 am on Wednesday morning when transporter Robert Seitz was pulled over on U.S. Highway 11 in DeKalb County, just 25 miles from the Canadian border. The horses were seized, and Seitz was charged with violating Section 385 of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law.

The herd - composed of draft horses and Standardbreds - is currently resting safely at a protected location, where they are receiving critical veterinary care. As the impounding organization, NYSHA will incur care-related expenses.

"This was a race against time, and today, 25 animals who have spent their lives in service to humans were spared a horrific death," said John Scheib, a NYSHA board member. "We have sent a clear message today: the era of operating in the shadows is over."

While the law makes it illegal "to transfer, transport, sell, buy, or import horses in the state with the intent that they be slaughtered for human or animal consumption," enforcement has historically been a challenge. NYSHA President Laura-Ann Cammisa notes that this intervention is just one piece of a much larger puzzle: "Horses from Shippensburg, New Holland, and other Pennsylvania auction houses are routinely shipped to slaughter through New York in defiance of the law. Today, we put horse traders on notice that they will pay a high price for violating state protections. This rescue is history-making and sets a powerful precedent for New York and beyond."

This success marks NYSHA's second major operation in less than two weeks, following the August 18 rescue of 59 animals - including horses, cows, goats, geese, and chickens - from two Washington County farms.

NYSHA continues to advocate for systemic change, focusing on strengthening anti-cruelty legislation, equipping law enforcement for cruelty investigations, and leading direct interventions throughout the state. As the organization manages the surge of rescue operations, the need for community support is critical.

Donations to support the ongoing medical and housing costs for these and other survivors can be made at nyshumane.org.

About the New York State Humane Association (NYSHA)

Founded in 1900, the New York State Humane Association (NYSHA) is the leading voice for animal advocacy in New York State. NYSHA is dedicated to ending animal suffering and eradicating cruelty by strengthening anti-cruelty legislation, educating communities, and providing law enforcement and the public with the tools needed to remedy suffering and cultivate a culture of compassion.

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