

# **HORSE SLAUGHTER: SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION**

## **Horse slaughter is not equivalent to humane**

**euthanasia.** In fact, it's a far cry from "euthanasia", which means a gentle, painless death provided to prevent suffering. Horse slaughter is a death fraught with terror, pain, and suffering. When no other option exists for horses that have reached the end of their useful lives, they should be humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

## **Slaughter is not a "necessary evil."**

Slaughterhouse operators want us to believe that all the horses they kill are old or injured, with no other options. In truth, USDA statistics show that 92.3% of all horses sent to slaughter are in "good" condition—meaning they are sound and in good health. Horse slaughter actually hinders rescue efforts; horse rescuers are routinely outbid at auctions by killer buyers seeking fat, healthy animals.

## **Transport to slaughter--and the slaughter itself—**

**are cruel abuses.** Horses are often shipped for more than 24 hours at a time without food, water, or rest. Pregnant mares, foals, injured and even blind horses must endure the journey. Crammed into overcrowded trucks, the horses fight, kick and trample each other, often resulting in serious injury or even death.

## **Ending horse slaughter won't lead to an increase in unwanted horses, abandonment or neglect.**

In the midst of today's difficult economic times, neglect and abandonment continue, even though the same number of our horses is still being slaughtered. These problems can be solved with a blend of rescue and sanctuary work, adoption and placement programs, and increased owner and breeder responsibility. But slaughter does not prevent them – and never has.



## **Foreign-owned plants in the U.S. are not a better alternative than horse slaughter plants over the border.**

The plants in the U.S. were prohibited from slaughtering horses for good reason. Undercover footage demonstrated how horrific these plants were: horses suffered repeated attempts to render them unconscious, and were sometimes still conscious when they were hoisted by a rear leg to have their throats cut.

## **Slaughter perpetuates the problems of over-breeding, neglect and irresponsibility.**

As long as slaughter is an outlet for people's excesses, they will be rewarded - and continue. Responsible horse ownership and breeding practices will stem the flow of horses at risk of being sent to slaughter.

## **Advocates should urge their members of Congress to pass the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (S. 1176/H.R. 2966), which will once and for all end the brutal slaughter of American horses in the U.S. and prevent their export to Canada and Mexico for slaughter.**

Calls should be made to the U.S. Capital switchboard @ 202-224-3121. For more information, please visit: [www.humanesociety.org/horse\\_slaughter](http://www.humanesociety.org/horse_slaughter)

