

**T**s blood money influencing reputable horse organizations to oppose the bill banning horse slaughter for human consumption? After reading the arguments these organizations use to oppose the bill, the question must be asked. Why on earth would the National Turkey Federation and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association oppose this bill? Enormous sums of money are coming in to defeat this legislation. What is the agenda of these huge agri-corporations?


The arguments against the bill all run along the same position. Organizations opposed to the bill claim that the status of the horse will change from a livestock animal to a companion animal. The bill makes no such provisions for a change in status and any knowledgeable person would know that as long as horses have hooves they will continue to be classified as livestock animals. These organizations presume that animal rights activists will use the bill as a precedent to ban us all from eating livestock animals. This is a blatant scare tactic that is totally without merit. These organizations use an issue that doesn't exist to alarm and influence their constituents.

In Colorado, the bill is opposed by the Colorado Horse Council, and the American Youth Horse Council. A newsletter spelling out the position of the AYHC states that the bill places restrictions on forms of euthanasia that are considered acceptable and humane. The bill allows for gunshot in cases of emergency and extreme suffering, and lethal injection. What other humane and acceptable ways of putting down a horse are there?

The position paper goes on to say that knowledgeable horse owners are questioning whether there is a link between the introduction of the slaughter ban bill and the increased numbers of reports of abuse and neglect. The paper then follows with: "a clear relationship has not been established." If it hasn't been established then why is it a concern? The fact of the matter is that there has been no documented rise in abuse or neglect cases in California since the state banned horse slaughter for human consumption in 1998. Horse theft also dropped by 34% in that state. That's hardly the case in Texas, where the only two slaughterhouses processing horses are located. Horse abuse and theft in that state are rampant. Horse slaughter PROMOTES abuse and theft.

Let's revisit the ridiculous and false claim from those groups in favor of horse slaughter, that it will lead to a ban of the slaughter of food producing animals such as cows, pigs or sheep. Horses are NOT food animals. Put aside for a moment these false and misleading claims. Do these horse butchers have any sense of decency or guilt in sending contaminated meat to unsuspecting consumers in Europe or Asia? Because horses are NOT food animals, they receive VERY POTENT DRUGS, such as dewormers, painkillers, hormones, anti-inflammatories, and not-for-human-use antibiotics and vaccines. These drugs become resident in the flesh and are not only very strong carcinogens but also extremely toxic when consumed by humans. These drugs are already banned on food animals! If you don't care about the welfare of the horse, how about a fellow human being? It's unconscionable to allow a food product to be exported for human consumption that is not safe.

Horses were critical in the formation of this country. They helped us build roads, clear forests, and plow and plant our fields. They hauled lumber to build our towns, and carried our presidents to their final resting spots. They deserve better than to be shot in the head with a bolt and then hung up in a slaughterhouse to bleed out. Demand that your horse organization tell you the truth as to why they are opposed to the horse slaughter for human consumption ban bill. Do yourself and your horse a favor by checking out the bills, there are two, and then write your congressman telling him to support this legislation. For more information go to [www.horse-protection.org](http://www.horse-protection.org)

To be continued... 



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