

Support the Save America's Forgotten Equines Act (H.R. 3355/S. 2732)

Introduced by Reps. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Sens. Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Susan Collins (R-ME)

The number of American horses exported for slaughter has declined dramatically.

About 10 years ago, more than 160,000 American horses were being shipped abroad to slaughter for human consumption annually. In 2020, 36,885 American horses were exported for this purpose—a 42% decrease from 2019. This is the lowest number of horses exported for slaughter since domestic slaughter plants closed, and the lowest number of horses slaughtered within the U.S. or abroad in the 20 years for which we have this tracking data. This dramatic downward trend demonstrates that efforts to reduce the number of horses sent to slaughter are having a major impact, and that reducing that number to zero is entirely possible.

Horse slaughter is inhumane and cannot be made humane.

Slaughter is a brutal and terrifying end for horses and is not humane. Horses are shipped for more than 24 hours at a time without food, water or rest in crowded trucks in which the animals are often seriously injured or killed during transit. Horses are skittish by nature due to their heightened fight or flight response. The methods used to kill horses rarely result in quick, painless deaths; they often endure repeated blows to the head during attempts to render them unconscious and sometimes remain alive and kicking during dismemberment. Before the last domestic slaughter plant closed in 2007, the USDA documented rampant cruelty violations and severe injuries to horses, including broken bones protruding from their bodies, eyeballs hanging by a thread of skin and gaping open wounds.

Kill buyers trick and outbid horse owner and consumers.

Horses at auctions are purchased by individuals known as “kill buyers” who outbid legitimate horse owners and rescue organizations, robbing horses of ever having a second chance at life. Additionally, these kill buyers have been known to pose as horse dealers and rescues, thus tricking responsible horse owners into selling their horses into the slaughter pipeline. Horses have stood by us as our loyal companions throughout history, and we owe it to them to protect them from this abuse.

AT A GLANCE



Meredith Lee/The HSUS

THE BILL:

- Prohibits the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption.
- 80% of Americans support ending horse slaughter.
- The last horse slaughter plants in the U. S. closed years ago, and Congress has consistently voted to keep them shuttered by prohibiting funding for horse slaughter inspections within U.S. borders.
- There is currently no law that prohibits the export of American horses abroad to be slaughtered for human consumption.
- Both the House and Senate bills authorize fines and imprisonment for violators.

For more information, please contact Anna Marie Malloy at amalloy@hslf.org.



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