



Equine Warriors

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Dear Committee Members and Guests,

I am one of thousands of equine rescuers who work feverishly 24/7- 365 to outrun an antiquated industry of horror that the government has allowed to continue despite public outrage.

The export of American horses to slaughter for the purpose of human consumption has created an outdated industry of deceit, financial reward for irresponsible behavior and barbaric cruelty on the backs of an animal we hold in great esteem in this country.

Export for slaughter was once seen by some as a necessary evil for population control. In 2012 166,572 horses were exported to slaughter from the U.S. The message was clear to the equine welfare industry that we, not the government had to solve the problem.

We have! In 2021 that number decreased to under 24,000 horses according to the USDA and currently is on track in 2022, just a decade later to be well under 20,000! That's a 70% decline in 10 years!

Today there are over 500 501c3 equine rescues along with hundreds of farm sanctuaries and privately funded horses rescues. We have the means to absorb the meager number of horses still being exported for slaughter. The horse industry contributes well over \$50 BILLION dollars directly to the economy and employs over 988,000 people resulting in \$38 billion in direct wages, salaries and benefits, according to The American Horse Council. We want it to be known that even 1 horse slipping through the cracks is not acceptable!

The decrease in equine slaughter in recent years as the horse industry it's self has grown, can be attributed not only to more rescues , but to more education available, along with more resources for horses owners in need, from euthanasia assistance to low cost castration. More groups dedicated solely to safely networking horses in need of rehoming such as "The Maryland Equine Transition Service" are being created every day. Horse breeding is at an all time low as breeders take a more sensible, responsible approach to breed quality rather than quantity. The horse industry has taken the problem of the unwanted horse seriously.

But we need your help to get to the finish line!

One of the biggest financial road blocks for the equine rescue community is the " Slaughterhouse Pipeline" killbuyers (Meat men) who have contracts with foreign processing plants to deliver a predetermined number of horses on a schedule. They will stop at nothing to fill the contracts. Killbuyers are running up prices at auctions intentionally causing rescues to exhaust donor funding simply to get us out of the way. It's important to note that the average slaughter bound horse is not old, crippled, skinny or useless by any means. The average horse entering the slaughter pipeline is 4-14 yrs old, of good weight and most often previously had some training making them highly desired and adoptable! They are not unwanted! The simple fact that rescues and private buyers are bidding against killbuyers proves this.



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The side business in the killbuyer industry is the scam dealer. These people work with the killbuyers, advertising horses as " Shipping in x number of days(usually 5-7) " if not purchased online , sight unseen," as is." While these horses await a buyer in the killpens, there is no care given, extremely overcrowded conditions, insufficient food, and no medical care. This is where the majority of horses get injured or infected with everything from parasites, skin diseases, rotting hooves to deadly highly contagious viruses that run rampant in auction houses. Scam dealers and killbuyers drag many of these horses from auction to auction along their route to the border always looking to trade up for meatier horses that will bring better prices at the processing plants. Well meaning people see these poor horses online and whip out the credit cards. The thinner and sicker they can make the horse, the more money they reap preying on the hearts of the public. While it is a " buyer beware" world, this creates tremendous competition for rescues to recruit adopters. Often people looking for horses will think of rescue horses as safe for the moment, while these online purposely pitiful horses have an expiration date. They pay large ransom prices to get these horses out of the disease ridden cesspools! It's criminal!

The 3 main roadblocks for the horse industry CAUSED by the export of American horses to slaughter are-

1. Financial impact- Rescues spend far too much public funding and precious time outbidding killbuyers to save horses. This money would be better spend helping more horses get in good homes, assisting horses owners in need as well as developing more programs for the public, animal control and law enforcement to utilize. Private buyers offering good homes are run up as well for the sack of killbuyers filling contracts with processing plants. The scam dealer business has caused great competition for rescues as people try desperately to " save" a horse that could have gone to a rescue or family before it got in such poor condition. Without equine slaughter in our way the rescue community could do so much more!
2. Creates deception-Horses suffer in silence because people who actually need to surrender or rehome horses they can no longer care for are so reluctant to sell, give away, or reach out. They fear their beloved pet will end up in the slaughterhouse pipeline. It's a well known fact that killbuyers have " Trolls" who are always looking for free or cheap horses to fill the contracts. They will lie and promise good homes only to directly ship that horse to slaughter for a handsome profit.
3. Morally WRONG - It's a well know fact that 80% of Americans are appalled at the idea of horses being sent to slaughter. This country was founded on the back of of a horse. Most everything in modern society can be traced back to the labor of the horse! In addition, the government is KNOWINGLY allowing tainted meat to enter the world food chain! What does that say about us? Where's the America who lead the world in what is right? Have we sold out?

I'm a rescuer. I run a 501c3 horse rescue in Maryland. I stand on the auction floor and outbid killbuyers with funding from a community who believes horse slaughter is wrong. We restore the health and trust in horses and then adopt them to good families, riding schools and therapeutic programs where they are useful, precious gifts that give a lifetime of joy to their people.



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Sometimes, I stroke a horse's head while a veterinarian administers a lethal dose of drugs, telling him he is loved and apologizing that he suffered so much, so needlessly and was so traumatized before we found him. In my arms, he takes his last breath, sparing him the brutal trip to a slaughter house. This is my job. I'm asking you today to help me and the thousands just like me change the narrative. PLEASE, finally ban the export of American horses for slaughter and human consumption. PLEASE help us get H.R.3355/S.2732 passed NOW! Be assured, we will not stop until you do. We've done what you have asked, now please help us be the safety net for all American horses by getting the slaughterhouse pipeline shut down once and for all! .

Thank you for your immediate action on this urgent matter.

Best Regards,

Tina Snyder

Founder/ Executive Director

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A 501c3 Horse Rescue



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