

Senate Passes Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act

Date: November 3, 2006

Just before recessing in September, the Senate passed by unanimous consent the "Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act" (S. 3880). Introduced by Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), this bill amends the Animal Enterprise Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-346).

Specifically, the bill clarifies that it is a crime to damage or interfere with a legitimate, legal animal enterprise. As defined by the bill, "animal enterprise" includes commercial and academic enterprises that use or sell animals or animal products for profit, food, agriculture, education, research and testing. This definition also includes equine activities such as rodeo, horse shows and similar lawful equine events.

The bill expands the monetary and criminal penalties for these crimes and requires restitution for certain economic losses. The bill contains a provision noting that this bill does not prohibit expressive conduct (including picketing or other peaceful demonstration), which is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

A similar bill, H.R. 4239, was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Tom Petri (R-WI). The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing on the bill on May 23, 2006. H.R. 4239 does not include the First Amendment provisions contained in the Senate-passed version.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the American Horse Council at 202-296-4031.

To read the full text of the bill, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov> and enter the bill number, S. 3880

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More on the NAIS

By Marsha Achenbach

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In the USA, convicted sex offenders are required to register with authorities, and convicts on parole must register with authorities; but neither one is required to report their every movement.

If the USDA continues with the National Animal ID System (NAIS), every citizen who owns a horse and takes that horse off their property for any reason will be required to report all such movements to the federal government. The same will apply to all 4-H members who have any livestock, including rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs, etc., that go to exhibitions of any kind.

As a law-abiding citizen whose favorite recreation involves riding my horse off our property multiple times a week, I resent being burdened with more requirements than the criminals in our society are. The NAIS, as proposed, will be a vast burden on any livestock owner, a huge cost to the taxpayer, and add to the cost of purchasing one's meat. And all for very little gain to anyone but the USDA (job security), the manufacturers of the microchips and scanning equipment (large government contracts), and large agri-business concerns (pushing for this system to satisfy foreign buyers of USA meats).

The USDA has lately been trying to "sugar coat" the rulings as might apply to non-food animals; but the wording of the strategic draft plan has not changed. Registry of premises that contain livestock and the following microchipping (owners' expense, mind you!) of all livestock; and mandatory reporting of all movements is still "the word".

The full document can be read on the USDA website, at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml> Additionally, a very well-written article on the NAIS and its history, theory of need, and impact on us all, is on the Liberty Ark website, at <http://libertyark.net/>

Premise Registration/Identification in Iowa

<http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/premiseID.htm>

As of 5/31, 3692 Iowa premises have been registered

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has been working with the United States Department of Agriculture on the formation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The NAIS is a national program that is being developed to identify animals and track them as they move from one location to another. The purpose of the program is to create a database that will allow a rapid traceback in the event of a disease concern. When fully operational, the NAIS will be capable of tracking an animal, or group of animals, back to the original premises within 48 hours.

The first step in the NAIS process is to identify and register premises that house animals. Premises Identification Numbers (PINs) are necessary for any location involved in livestock commerce or the movement of animals or poultry. Allied agricultural operations and non-producer participants can also be assigned PINs. The Premises Identification process begins with the completion of a Premises Identification Number Application. You can download your Premises Identification Number form

<http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/pdfs/Vets/premiseIDapp.pdf>

You may also check out the USDA's NAIS homepage
<http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>



Voluntary Livestock Premises Registration in Illinois

www.agr.state.il.us

According to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, to protect Illinois' livestock industry, a database of locations where livestock are produced, raised and kept, will aid animal health officials with a system of proper trace back and trace forward capabilities, providing timely response to minimize the economic impact in the event of an animal disease outbreak. The discovery of BSE in the U.S. has emphasized the need for a 48-hour trace back system.

Provides basis for the National Animal Identification System ...

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) is implementing the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in Illinois. The NAIS is comprised of three major steps: premises registration, animal identification, and animal tracking. Premises Registration is the foundation for a national animal ID trace back system. Registering your premises or location does not obligate you to participate in the animal ID phase of the plan.

Protects your industry...

Farms, production sites, feed yards, and livestock markets can all be registered. According to the IDA, registering your premises does not increase your liability; instead it actually provides you with a level of protection for your investments. Also, your information will be kept private in a secure database. You hold control of your personal information by establishing your own user name and password.

Each premises registration brings Illinois closer to the day when the state's livestock industry will be prepared to respond within 48 hours in the event of an animal disease outbreak.

National Animal ID System - <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>
NAIS Fact Sheet - <http://www.agr.state.il.us/premiseid/NAISfactsheet.pdf>

More information can be obtained by contacting the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Health State Fairgrounds - P.O. Box 19281 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9281

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H.R. 503 - Horse Slaughter Issue - YOU Decide!

Many H.R.503-related articles appear on the next three pages.

H.R.503

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VICTORY FOR AMERICA'S HORSES

House of Representatives Passes Bill to End Horse Slaughter Over Horse Slaughter Industry Opposition

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Sept. 7, 2006): With overwhelming support, the House of Representatives voted 263 to 146 in favor of H.R. 503, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, to ban the slaughter of horses for human consumption and the domestic and international transport of live horses or horseflesh for the same purpose. The measure, which will now move on to the Senate, was adopted despite opponents' strident last-minute efforts - including numerous "poison pill" amendments and intense lobbying by the horse slaughter industry, led by former Representative Charlie Stenholm (D-TX).

In the debate leading up to the vote, bill sponsors Representative John Sweeney (R-NY), Representative John Spratt (D-SC), Representative Ed Whitfield (R-KY) and Representative Nick Rahall (D-WV) effectively argued the legislation's necessity. Showing graphic images of the horrific cruelty endured by horses being transported to slaughterhouses, the legislators exposed the inhumane

conditions inflicted on more than 92,000 of America's horses last year alone.

"What we are exposing today is a brutal, shadowy, and shameful practice," Sweeney stated.

There are three horse slaughter plants in the United States; one is in Illinois and the other two are in Texas. All are foreign owned and the profits and the meat go overseas. Horsemeat, considered a delicacy, is consumed in France, Belgium and Japan.

"Today we saw the very best of Congress by their overwhelming passage of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act," noted Chris Heyde, deputy legislative director for the Society for Animal Protective Legislation. "Once again they listened to the facts and responsible organizations and individuals dedicated to the welfare of horses in the country by rejecting the false claims presented by the few who profit from the suffering of America's horses."

Contact: Chris Heyde, deputy legislative director, Society for Animal Protective Legislation 703-836-4300

The Society for Animal Protective Legislation, the Animal Welfare Institute's legislative arm, is the unsurpassed leader in obtaining laws to benefit animals in need, including the protection of domestic and wild horses. More information is available at www.saplonline.org/horses.htm

Transportation Issues

Many opponents to horse slaughter say that horses bound for human consumption are not always treated with dignity and respect on their final journeys. Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, stated that what foreign parties who purchase the horse meat fail to acknowledge is the intense suffering the horses endure each step of the way to their fate, including transport.

On Wednesday, September 27, a truck loaded with horses headed for slaughter at the DeKalb, IL, slaughterhouse, overturned, killing sixteen of 42 horses on board. Reportedly, 26 of the 42 horses in the trailer were rescued. Seven died at the scene, and nine were euthanized because of severe injuries, according to the local Humane Society, who directed the rescue efforts. The 26 rescued horses were treated at the nearby St. Clair Saddle Club.

The driver of the overturned truck was taken into custody on outstanding warrants, and was allegedly in violation of USDA transportation regulations.

Horses are slaughtered at three foreign-owned plants—two in Texas and one in Illinois. In all, about 88,000 horses, mules and other equines were slaughtered last year, according to the Agriculture Department.

Jim Tucker, general manager of the Illinois processing plant, Cavel International Inc., stated that once at their plant, horses are "euthanized under the supervision of federal inspectors and USDA veterinarians." But they also stated that until the horses reach the plant, they are the property and responsibility of the horse trader who is sending them to slaughter. These owners also choose the transportation company and drivers; the slaughter plant does not have a say in this part of the process, and it is most often during transportation that horses are allegedly mishandled.



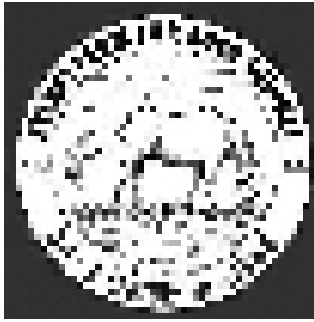
Few Options; High Demand

If H.R.503 comes to pass, what happens to the almost 90,000 horses that are currently sent to slaughter? Unfortunately, a great many will be neglected and "turned out to pasture," which in many cases is a slow death sentence. But there are options available to a small percentage of the horses.

More "serviceable" animals can sometimes be found a new home as a trail horse, or be donated to a therapeutic riding program where they'll only be ridden very lightly. Occasionally, owners may luck out and find someone in need of a companion horse on their farm.

But for some, a retirement facility may be the only option. This type of facility is few and far between, and there is a very high demand.

One facility, the 383-acre Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines [www.ryerss.com], in Coventryville, PA, currently houses almost 100 horses, and has a waiting list of 286 more. Founded in 1888, this is the oldest equine retirement facility in the country. For a one-time donation of \$3,500, president Joe



Donahue states that Ryerss will "take in any horse that's disease-free, current on its vaccinations and Coggins test, and over the age of 18. We'll keep the horse until it expires."

The Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation [www.trfinc.org] provides facilities for former racehorses. Here, they can be retired permanently, or adopted out to new homes.

The American Hunter-Jumper Foundation [www.ahjf.org], a non-profit group that provides programs for the horse show industry, has created the Retired Equine Placement Resource to assist members in finding an appropriate retirement home for former show mounts.

"There's a large market of people right

now who have horses that are 20 to 25 years old. They've had them for years, and don't want to just get rid of them," said Gayle Beller, of Summit, N.Y. She and her husband are about to open their business, Promises Kept Equine Retirement Farm. [www.promiseskept.org]. The facility will be devoted to retirees only. Stall, turnout, and basic care will run approximately \$250/month (other NY stables charge \$400-\$900/month—a huge amount to pay for a horse that is most likely not rideable.)

The Bellers even offer their guestroom for visiting owners, as well as a heated lounge next to the barn. "This way, they can come and spend time with their horse," Mrs. Beller said. She hopes they can take in six horses over the next year, and possibly expand to a total of 10 when her husband retires and can help with the farm.

But the grand total of horses housed in these facilities and others like them is only a small percentage of the number of horses annually sent to slaughter.

It's merely a drop in the bucket of the ocean of unwanted horses.

Pay Attention...

By Leslie Hall, Monticello, IA

The legislation passed to outlaw equine slaughter houses was apparently championed by pet owners. The minute horses became *pets* instead of *livestock*, most real horse owners should have been beating on the doors of their legislators. I don't think any of us realized what was going on or how much power the Soft and Fuzzy Save Everything Folks had. We need them to answer some questions for us:

What do we do with certain horses that are not re-claimable? Whether they are born nasty, are created by humans through trauma, - no matter the cause, they are dangerous and a threat to all around them. Some horses incur injuries that make them worthless to themselves and humans. Euthanasia is certainly an option, but do the Soft and Fuzzy Folks know what it costs to dispose of a 1000-1200 lb animal!?! I'm not sure on the vet charges - there will be a farm call, plus the highly toxic drugs and the vet's time. Let's guess \$100 bare minimum. The by-products truck that used to pick up dead horses for free now charges - last I heard it was \$300 or more. If you have the room to bury on your land, the hole has to be six feet deep, away from water supplies and will take a good-sized back hoe and operator to



tackle the project. I recently had to bury my best mare who'd been struck by lightning and a friend in construction charged me \$200 to excavate. You can't just let a euthanized carcass decay - the euthanasia drugs can kill anything that decides to taste the carcass. If that just happens to be an eagle or other protected species, you AND the vet are in trouble!! Ever tried to dispose of a dead animal by burning?? Let me save you from yourself - my experience says DON'T! The loose horse pen at local auctions have been a way for people to dispose of horses that are no longer usable and at least get back the cost of the gas involved in getting the horse there. Not being an accountant, I'd say you're now going to pay out around \$300-\$400 for a horse that you might have been able to get that much for at an auction.

What will happen when an older person that has horses can't take care of them or a family loses their income due to layoffs, etc.? Before this law, the horses could always be taken to a loose horse auction and at least be given a chance to not starve. Just because horses go through as "loose horses" doesn't mean they necessarily go to the kill. Anybody can bid on them and many often do.

I was told that if California passed the no kill law, the kill buyers had plans to go to Nevada and set up pens just across the border, in the desert.

Yeah, that helps the horses, doesn't it?

I feel there will be more abuse in the form of neglect than ever before now. An animal that may have been marketable in some form will now be worthless. There are those folks that will just look the other way and let nature take her course. Money is a motivator for many people - take that away and you will get neglect.

One last thought - if dogs and cats are being disposed of because there's too many of them, and if horses are now "pets" and there's too many of them as well, what is the difference? Do we spay and geld everything for the next ten years? Then we are back to the money issue and the circle continues...

I wish I would have paid more attention and I wish the subject would have been given more press from the horse owner's standpoint.



Unwanted Horse Coalition

Press Release

October 2006, Article #7820 - www.thehorse.com

In October, the Unwanted Horse Coalition elected Tom Lenz, DVM, to serve as Chairman, and it named Katy Carter as the Coalition's Coordinator.

A past president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), Lenz is well known and highly regarded for his 30 years of work in the veterinary and horse community. Active in the equine industry, Lenz is a member of the American Horse Council's Animal Welfare Committee and serves on the Research Committee of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA). Lenz has been involved in the Unwanted Horse Coalition since its inception.

Katy Carter has served in both Legislative and Press capacities in the House of Representatives, most recently for former Congressman Jack Quinn of New York. She holds a bachelors degree in Political Science from Syracuse University and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Public Administration at George Mason University. A lifelong equestrian, Katy competed hunters and jumpers for 15 years and has more recently taken up three-day eventing. She owns two Thoroughbreds, both ex-racehorses.

The mission of the Unwanted Horse Coalition is to reduce the number of unwanted horses and to improve their welfare through education and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety, and responsible care of the horse.

"The Coalition has already begun collecting materials that might be considered helpful in reducing the number of horses that slip into the 'unwanted' category each year. Papers or booklets regarding the responsibilities of horse ownership, costs associated with ownership, appropriate care, welfare issues, alternative uses of horses, sale and placement options, rescue and retirement facilities, euthanasia and disposal would be very helpful," Lenz said.

Should your organization have such materials, please forward them in hard copy to:

Katy Carter, American Horse Council
1616 H Street, NW - 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

GET THE FACTS ON HORSE PROCESSING...

www.commonhorsesense.com

HR 503 and S 1915's ban on processing horses for human consumption will close down the three processing plants, according to plant owners, and result in:

- Elimination of the only option that provides salvage value to the horse owner for an animal that is no longer serviceable, useful or desired.
- Elimination of the only USDA-inspected source of equine protein, an essential element in the diet of U.S. zoo animals.
- Elimination of the only large-scale equine research venue for leading schools of veterinary medicine.
- Elimination of the only U.S. source of equine pericardium sacs used in human heart surgeries.
- Elimination of the service plants provide to horse owners by preparing the horse carcasses for acceptance by rendering plants
- a time consuming procedure that the slaughter plants now provide at no cost to the owner.

After Euthenasia, Then What?

Contact: Dr. Brent Auvermann, 806-677-5600

Dr. Lance Baker, 806-651-2561, lbaker@wtamu.edu

The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act could leave thousands of horses with no final resting ground. But some researchers think that composting may be an environmentally friendly option.

With approximately 90,000 horses, or one percent of the U.S. horse population, slaughtered annually, other options are being explored.

For horses that are euthanized, the options for dealing carcasses are burial, rendering, landfill disposal, incineration, composting or bio-digesting. Many of these are costly, and a horse owner often has to pay to put the horse down and for its disposal.

Large-carcass composting is a growing and accepted practice among feedyards and dairies, said Dr. Brent Auvermann, a Texas Agricultural Experiment Station agricultural engineer who has researched the process for about five years.

Auvermann, Lance Baker, PhD, MS, West Texas A&M University associate professor of animal science; and West Texas A&M graduate student Laurie Brown began conducting a composting trial on horses last winter, using dead horses that would otherwise have gone to the landfill. The horses were provided by area veterinarians.

The trial tested three different "recipes" of composting material designed by Auvermann, all of which showed merit.

They found that a large carcass will take from seven to nine months to compost completely, at which point it can be used as a fertilizer on agricultural ground.

Both Auvermann and Baker said the small individual horse owner might not see composting as an option, but a large, centrally located ~~commercial composting operation would offer a service to area horse owners and veterinarians.~~

"Without renderers to go to, this could become a big market," Baker said. "If you look at it environmentally and politically, it [just plain] works."

- The euthanasia method used at each of the three U.S. horse processing plants occurs before processing, and this method is humane, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the USDA, which regulates the practice. The method meets specific humane requirements set forth by AVMA's Panel on Euthanasia, the U.S. Congress, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) Statement on Euthanasia because it results in instantaneous brain death.
- Not only is humane treatment the law, it is good business practice. Treating the horses well and minimizing their pain and stress keeps the plants operating smoothly and efficiently.
- If the right to send a horse to slaughter is taken away from horse owners, authors of "Unintended Consequences of a Ban on the Humane Processing of Horses for Human Consumption horses in the U.S" [www.animalwelfarecouncil.com/html/pdf/consequences.pdf] owners earn between \$25,000 and \$75,000 per year.

If these owners are forced to pay \$300-\$2,000 to dispose of a horse, instead of being able to receive value for their property (\$300-400 for processing), the report says that some owners will have no other option but to abandon the animal, slaughter it themselves and prepare the carcass for rendering, or simply neglect it by not adequately feeding the horse. Concerns regarding the effects of BSE and other diseases on rendered products have resulted in a decreasing number of rendering facilities in the U.S., so horse owners are finding it increasingly difficult to find a renderer. Horse burial is illegal in many areas.

- The American Quarter Horse Association (largest U.S. horse organization), the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture (which has jurisdiction over the legislation), and 190 other horse, veterinary, cattle, and agriculture organizations OPPOSE this horse slaughter ban based on fundamental economic, humane and public health issues. Many horse owners support keeping the horse processing option, even if some choose not to use it.



Are Wild Horses & Burros in the United States Affected by H.R.503?

Title: To amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. John E. Sweeney [NY-20] (introduced 2/1/2005)

Related Bills: H.RES.981, H.RES.1011, S.1915

Latest Major Action: 9/21/2006

Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 631.

House Reports: 109-617 Part 1

On May 19, 2006, the House voted in favor of an amendment to prohibit the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from selling wild horses and burros to commercial entities.

An amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill bars the BLM from using funds to sell wild horses or burros at auction, which, in turn could be sold to slaughter, according to Nancy Perry, vice president of the Humane Society of the United States. Under the current adoption policy, BLM retains ownership of wild horses and burros for one year before the adoptee can be resold.

"The House had a unanimous vote in favor of the amendment that states wild

A Horses-for-Sale poster - BLM horses can not be sold to slaughter," Perry said. "Horses 10 years old or older or those that have been put up for adoption at least three times are required to be sold (under current legislation). This (the amendment) says you can't do that."

A similar amendment was proposed

last year, but it was removed by U.S. Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT) before the bill's final approval. Perry is concerned that when this year's amendment goes to the Senate for a vote, Burns will strip the amendment from the bill again.

As for domestic horses, earlier this year, the USDA announced a fee-for-service system that would allow horsemeat processing plants to pay for post-mortem inspections that are required to process the meat. According to the USDA, the system was necessary because an amendment to the Agricultural Appropriations bill removed funding for the inspections.

Anti-slaughter advocates are pushing a separate bill, **HR 503**, which would provide a more permanent end to horse slaughter.

There are several organizations that oppose a ban on horse slaughter if there isn't a plan for managing the influx of unwanted horses. In May, the Animal Welfare Council published a white paper that discusses the possible consequences of a ban on horse slaughter without having first addressed the issue of unwanted horses.

For the full paper, please see: www.TheHorse.com/viewarticle.aspx?7074

