

NYS HORSE COUNCIL EXTERNAL POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

HUMANE TREATMENT AND HORSE SLAUGHTER: The issue of equine handling and slaughter evokes strong emotions on all sides of the discussion. There is one perspective that equine are farm animals and slaughter is part of farm management. Another perspective views slaughter as a necessary way to deal with unwanted animals. Yet another perspective of equine owners consider slaughter as inhumane and totally unnecessary. The NYSHC has members who support each of these three positions.

NYS Horse Council members generally agree that dealing with unwanted equine is an important issue. The actual issue of slaughter is more divisive. What we can agree on is:

- The NYSHC supports the position that equine are livestock and should be treated with the care, respect and handling as afforded all other livestock.
- The primary focus of the NYSHC is to provide the best possible solution for equine care of all animals.
- The NYSHC supports the right of equine owners to make decisions they feel are best for their own animals as long as the health, safety and welfare of the animal is considered.
- The NYSHC believes the use of rehabilitation facilities, rescues and alternative placement for unwanted horses should be considered as a primary disposition method if it leads to a better outcome for the animal, the owner and is economically viable.

The NYS Horse Council believes health, safety and welfare should be the driving consideration for all equine decisions. All alternatives should be explored for placing an unwanted horse before any consideration is given to destroying an animal.

ENDORSEMENT OF AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE

The New York State Horse Council reaffirms its support for the American Horse Council's National Welfare Code of Practice.

We are committed to the safety, health and welfare of all equine in our State and strongly advocate that position to our legislators and the general public.

As a member of the American Horse Council, we would like to go on record for this support and ask to be listed among all organizations currently endorsing this Code.

**NEW YORK STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC. STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY CARRIAGE HORSE/CARRIAGE HORSE INDUSTRY**

It is not a question of whether the carriage trade is necessary to New York City or not. The carriage horses are an iconic symbol of NYC; they are part of the cultural heritage not only of NYC, but also of America. They provide economic benefits to the City through tourism and tax revenues. Today's carriage horses provide a presence and exposure to rural animals not available to many anywhere else.

Some people have labeled the carriage horse industry as "inhumane." It is not. While the word "inhumane" is not mentioned in the law, cruelty is. NYS Agriculture & Markets Law, Article 26 and more specifically, Section 353, defines cruelty as "failure to provide proper sustenance, such as food, water, shelter and veterinary care.

All the NYC carriage horses are well taken care of and have better than average stabling available to them. Each horse is provided food and water (each carriage carries food and water for the horses so they may eat/drink during working hours); the stables are warm, well ventilated and have spacious stalls for resting during non-working hours; Veterinary care is required and provided annually and on call; each horse also has a mandatory minimum of 5 weeks' vacation annually at nearby farms. The NYC carriage horses are probably the most regulated horses in the country, if not the world. They are covered by approximately 144 pages of regulations; they are watched over very closely by multiple city agencies, including the Health Department and the NYPD.

It is the opinion of the Board of Directors of the New York State Horse Council that the NYC carriage horses and their owners should be allowed to continue to operate their small businesses without fear of reprisal or loss of livelihood. The horses are a great tourist attraction because they ARE horses not cold, impersonal pieces of metal.

The NYS Horse Council hereby calls on all other State Horse Councils and all concerned horse groups and horsepersons throughout the country to come to the support of the New York City carriage horses and the carriage industry. The world is watching to see what happens here; the outcome could affect YOU!

“The mission of the New York State Horse Council, Inc. (NYSHC) is to create a strong, unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State. “

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