

*Presented by The National Humane Education Society*



# Horse Slaughter: Shameful Secret

**America** has always had a love affair with horses. Horses have a solid place in our country's history – always helping humans in one way or another. They provided transportation before the automobile, worked the fields to provide grains for food, hauled the heavy loads and always, horses provided unconditional companionship.



And for all of these good deeds, how do we thank horses in the U.S. today? In 2002, more than 55,000 horses were slaughtered in the United States. Thousands more were transported over the borders into Mexico and Canada for slaughter. In Europe and Asia, there is a high demand for horse flesh and this demand is supplied by the U.S. horse slaughter industry.

On their way to being killed, horses are crammed into trailers without food, water or protection from temperature extremes. Some of these poor creatures die en route, others suffer horrendous injuries. In the end, they all face the same fate – a cruel death by slaughter.

If you own a horse and for whatever reason MUST part with him or her, NHES cautions you to do an extremely thorough screening of the person(s) who wishes to adopt the horse. Slaughterhouses are easy dumping grounds for unwanted animals and the lure of money, however small the amount may be, is also an enticement for unscrupulous people. Many, many pet horses have died in the slaughterhouse unbeknownst to their former owners. As previously stated, there is a heavy demand for horsemeat overseas and so, the slaughter arena is always available to those who would sell an animal for monetary profit.

Some good news — in June 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a measure that will ensure that no federal tax dollars are used to slaughter horses for human consumption. A companion bill will soon be introduced in the U.S. Senate. NHES encourages all compassionate citizens to contact their legislators and to work toward this bill's passage and enactment.



*Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals*

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