

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

**VALLEY MEAT COMPANY, LLC,
RICARDO AND SARAH DE LOS SANTOS,**

Plaintiffs,

No. 2:12-cv-1265 GBW/SMV

v.

**HSUS,
FRER,**

Defendants.

**PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO DEFENDANT HSUS' MOTION TO DISMISS
FOR FAILURE TO STATE A CLAIM**

COMES NOW, the Plaintiffs, by and through their counsel, A. Blair Dunn, Esq., does hereby file this its Response to Defendant HSUS' Motion to Dismiss and does hereby state:

1. Upon review of the grounds for dismissal alleged by Defendant HSUS it became apparent from Defendant HSUS' own website that Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM), a party of significant contribution to the actions giving rise to Plaintiffs' complaint, had been incorrectly omitted. (*See Exhibit A*, screenshot from Defendant HSUS' web page)
2. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 15 and appropriately because no answer had yet been filed, Plaintiffs filed an Amended Complaint which included APNM, a New Mexico corporation, with is registered agent's location in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

3. Accordingly, this Court does not have jurisdiction to address the Motion to Dismiss or the case because the requirement of complete diversity of citizenship is not present as both Plaintiff and Defendant APNM are citizens of the forum state of New Mexico and this Court lacks jurisdiction.
4. Without addressing the merits of Defendant HSUS' Motion Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Motion be denied so that Plaintiff may begin its discovery of the evidence to support its allegation contained in its Amended Complaint in front of the Court of appropriate jurisdiction, Chaves County District Court for the 5th judicial district of the State of New Mexico.
5. It should be noted, as pointed by Defendant HSUS, that the pleading standard of Rule 8 does not require detailed factual allegations, but in this particular instance the basis for the allegations of the complaints can be readily seen in a short search of the internet yielding more than 50 pages of discussion concerning the efforts of Defendants with regard to this matter. (*See Exhibit B*) Going further, even though Hilary T. Wood (Registered Agent for FRER) has failed in her duties as a registered agent to be available for service of process, it has not stopped Defendant FRER in its continued campaign to harass Plaintiff through New Mexico state agencies. (*See Exhibit C*). Further, it is readily apparent that the specificity and the grounds Defendant HSUS' counsel is apparently unaware of are found in the "correspondence, verbal communications, offers to sue, press releases, public internet postings, in person meetings and other communications" alleged in the complaint and that Plaintiffs firmly believe will come to light once the discovery process is allowed to proceed in state court.

6. Because this case lacks the diversity of citizenship necessary to remain in the jurisdiction of the US Federal District Court, it should be immediately remanded back to New Mexico district court, so that case may proceed to discovery and so that the Court of the appropriate jurisdiction may hear motions such as this one filed by Defendant HSUS.

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request that Defendant HSUS' Motion to Dismiss be denied and the case be remanded back to state court so that discovery may proceed and so that the Court of appropriate jurisdiction may address motions such as Defendant's

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ A. Blair Dunn, Esq.
A. Blair Dunn, Esq.,
Counsel for Valley Meat Co., LLC
6605 Uptown Blvd. NE #280
Albuquerque, NM 87110-4233
(T) 505-881-5155
(F) 505-881-5356

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 19, 2012, Plaintiffs filed through the United States District Court ECF System the foregoing Response to be served by CM/ECF electronic filing on all counsel of record.

By: /s/ A. Blair Dunn
A. Blair Dunn, Esq.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

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APRIL 13, 2012

State Officials, Humane Groups Oppose Proposed Horse Slaughter Plant in New Mexico

ASPCA, Animal Protection of New Mexico, Front Range Equine Rescue

The Humane Society of the United States, the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), Front Range Equine Rescue and Animal Protection of New Mexico condemn plans to open a horse slaughter plant in Roswell, N.M.

The plans for the slaughterhouse were uncovered in an investigation by Front Range Equine Rescue, a Colorado-based equine rescue organization. The proposed facility would be operated by Valley Meat Co., LLC, a company in Roswell that has already applied with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service for inspection of the slaughter of equines for human consumption. According to Front Range's investigators, FSIS officials were scheduled to conduct a preliminary walk-through inspection of Valley Meat's facility last month. USDA temporarily suspended inspections of cattle slaughter at Valley Meat Co. in [February 2012](#) and November 2011 due to failure to comply with humane slaughter regulations.

"A horse slaughtering plant in Roswell is a terrible idea," said New Mexico Attorney General Gary King. "Such a practice, while not illegal, is certainly abhorrent to public sentiment, and I strongly suggest it be abandoned. I come from a ranching family but processing horses for food was never part of the plan for raising livestock. Horses are different and should be treated differently."

"As a veterinarian and someone who has had the great good fortune to grow up with and around horses, I am very saddened and angry about the recent revelations of mistreatment of horses in New Mexico," said New Mexico State Land Commissioner Ray Powell. "If a horse is hurt, terminally ill, or has no chance to find a loving home, then humane euthanasia is a realistic alternative. I am told New Mexico is entertaining the idea of a horse slaughtering facility in our state. Since we do not have the horses in New Mexico to make this economically viable, it means horses would be trucked in from surrounding states. This is a bad idea on every level, and I strongly oppose it. New Mexico can do much better by these intelligent and gentle creatures."

"Horse slaughter means tremendous suffering of horses, a proven history of environmental and waste violations,

and allowing a toxic meat product to enter the human food chain,” said Hilary Wood, president and founder of Front Range Equine Rescue. “Solutions to horse slaughter include stopping irresponsible breeding practices, more gelding and euthanasia assistance programs, re-homing and re-training options, and short-term owner assistance programs. Horse slaughter has no place in the U.S. or across our borders.”

“American horses are our partners in sport, work and recreation—not dinner,” said Keith Dane, director of equine protection for The HSUS. “The entire process of horse slaughter is filled with nonstop terror, pain and misery for horses, and it is proven to have a severe negative impact on surrounding communities. It would be irresponsible for the federal government to sign off on a predatory industry that has no regard for animal or human welfare.”

“New Mexicans have a deep and enduring appreciation for horses, especially given their important role in our state’s rural way of life. It’s an affront to our citizens to suggest bringing the cruel, dangerous and polluting enterprise of horse slaughter to New Mexico as we celebrate our state’s centennial,” said Elisabeth Jennings, executive director of Animal Protection of New Mexico.

“The overwhelming majority of Americans are intensely opposed to this cruel practice, and as more people learn that we are allowing our horses to be shuttled off to gruesome deaths all for the sake of foreign gourmards, they are outraged, and opposition to this grisly practice is growing,” said Nancy Perry, senior vice president of ASPCA Government Relations. “Horse slaughter plants abuse more than just horses as they have proved economically and environmentally disastrous to communities in other states.”

In November 2011, Congress chose not to renew a ban on funding federal inspectors at horse slaughter plants in the United States, even though a similar provision has been part of the agriculture department’s spending bill for the past five years. That action opened the door for a return of horse slaughter to American soil, including taxpayer funded inspections of horse meat destined to be sent abroad, despite broad opposition in this country to the practice. A January 2012 poll commissioned by the ASPCA confirms that 80 percent of American voters oppose the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

When the last three horse slaughter plants in the U.S. closed, the surrounding communities cheered. These communities had endured water pollution, an unending stench of rotting blood and offal, and a negative stigma that caused other businesses to leave the community. The slaughter plants employed no more than a few dozen employees in low-paying, dangerous, high-stress jobs. In their quest for higher profits, the foreign-owned companies did their best to avoid paying property taxes and the fines levied against them for environmental violations.

Additionally, it is unclear how Valley Meat Co. or the USDA would address the medications, vaccines and other substances that are routinely given to American horses and are known to be poisonous if consumed by humans. Earlier this year, The HSUS announced its intention to pursue legal action if the federal government failed to follow required protocols to ensure that food safety and environmental review requirements were observed.

Last month, The HSUS joined Front Range Equine Rescue in [filing a petition](#) with the Food and Drug Administration to declare the meat of former companion, show, and working animals to be unfit for human consumption due to the risk of the meat containing toxic residues. Last week, the two groups [filed a separate petition](#) with the USDA to ban the slaughter for human consumption of such animals for the same reasons.

Media Contacts: HSUS - Stephanie Twining, 301-258-1491, stwining@humanesociety.org
ASPCA - Rebecca Goldrick, 646-291-4582, Rebecca.Goldrick@aspca.org
FRER - Hilary Wood, 719-481-1490, info@frontrangeequinerescue.org
APNM - Elisabeth Jennings, 505-265-2322, lisa@apnm.org

The Humane Society of the United States is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to The Humane Society of the United States are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. The HSUS's tax identification number is 53-0225390.

The Persian Horse's Blog

The Magnificence of the Persians ...

NEW MEXICO Has Applied For Inspections Of Horse Meat For Human Consumption. Take Action Now.

Posted on **April 11, 2012**

The Persian Horse Blog is Dedicated to the Horses and Burros who have Shed their Blood, Lost their Freedom, and Given their Lives for BLM.

BACKGROUND | [FRONT RANGE EQUINE RESCUE](#)

FRONT RANGE EQUINE RESCUE DISCOVERS NEW MEXICO HORSE SLAUGHTER PLANT



April 10, 2012 (Larkspur, Colorado) — Through its own investigation, Front Range Equine Rescue (FRER) has discovered that Valley Meats Co., 3845 Cedarvale Rd., in Roswell, NM, has applied for inspection of horses to be “custom slaughtered” and “processed” for human consumption. According to the facts uncovered, the facility has been involved in extended discussions with the Denver office of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The FSIS inspects animals and meat in American slaughterhouses under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Horse slaughter for food is a national disgrace, given the iconic nature of American horses and the especially brutal methods used to kill them. FRER has mounted an extensive legal battle to keep American horses from being slaughtered for food, in or out of the country, in light of last November’s Congressional appropriation of funding for horse meat inspections. In the last three weeks

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with the Humane Society of the United States, FRER has filed two Petitions for Rulemaking [[hyperlinks](#)], asking the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the FSIS to enact rules and regulations which would prevent American horses from being slaughtered. The Petitions have gotten significant attention, and FRER intends to continue to amplify its legal strategy for as long as it takes to eliminate the possibility of horse slaughter in America.

If it is allowed to open, the Roswell plant would be the first U.S. horse slaughterhouse opened since horse slaughter in the U.S. ended five years ago. A recent poll shows at least 80% of Americans oppose horse slaughter. Valley Meats and any other horse slaughterhouses must be stopped, and the USDA and FDA must see the danger and illegality of producing horse meat from American horses. FRER calls on all concerned citizens and groups, in and out of New Mexico, to support its efforts by contacting state, local and federal officials and voicing your strong objection to the resumption of this horrific practice in America.

TAKE ACTION PLEASE

For more information on how to help, contact info@fronrangeequinerescue.org

MORE CONTACT INFO:

Valley Meat Company

3845 Cedarvale Rd

Roswell, NM 88203-9020

COUNTY: Chaves

URL:

PHONE1: (505) 622-1214

PHONE2: (505) 622-0708

CONTACT: Rick Santos

TITLE: President

EMPLOYEES: (est.) Unavailable

REVENUE: (est.) Unavailable

SIC CODE: 201100

CATEGORY: Meat Packing Plants, Nsk

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This entry was posted in **ALERTS** by [thepersianhorse](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#) [<http://thepersianhorse.wordpress.com/2012/04/11/new-mexico-has-applied-for-inspections-of-horse-meat-for-human-consumption-take-action-now/>].

15 THOUGHTS ON "NEW MEXICO HAS APPLIED FOR INSPECTIONS OF HORSE MEAT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. TAKE ACTION NOW."

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shirley smith

on April 11, 2012 at 1:47 AM said:

No to horse slaughter anywhere in the USA the public has spoken and will continue to be the voices of the horses. NO TO HORSE SLAUGHTER!



Nola Ross

on April 11, 2012 at 2:10 AM said:

I get so frustrated over this atrocity. sometimes I just ask God to put a stop to it instantly . to not let one more horse suffer. but since there is sin in this world some will go on. but we hav e stopped some of it. there will come a day for these people to answer for what they have done.



Harriett Underwood

on April 11, 2012 at 1:52 PM said:

Excellent insight Nola. I agree with you. Roswell is surrounded by the racing industry. These animals are given so many different medications to keep them running... and frequently put down right on the track. People eating horse meat will be injecting whatever this horse has been given.



Freedom Lives

on April 11, 2012 at 6:15 PM said:

It's called the Law of Reciprocity. And they WILL reap the terror they have sewn. That is an immutable fact and law of the universe, the law of cause and effect, the law of karma. It's also called the boomerang effect. The wolf of recompense is coming and they will get what they deserve, rest assured.

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Barbara Griffith

on April 11, 2012 at 6:35 AM said:

I have put together a packet of information along with a CD showing what happens in the horse slaughter plants in Canada. I am sending it to the governor of New Mexico Susana Martinez, her address is: Office of the Governor, 490 Old Santa Fe Trail room 400, Santa Fe, NM 87501

All of you need to do this. I have sent this same information to at least 10 governor's in the past two years. The secret video was filmed at Bouvry horse slaughter plant in Canada. Go to.

[Http://defendhorsescanada.org/chambers of carnage.html](http://defendhorsescanada.org/chambers%20of%20carnage.html) if you don't know how to burn a CD ask someone that does know and send a copy to the Govenor. There is information all over the internet about horse slaughter and the drugs it contains put this information in the cover letter to the governor. If I can do it so can you. God is not going to help these horses but we can, get off you butts and make it happen.



thepersianhorse

on April 11, 2012 at 9:03 AM said:

Excellent Idea Barbara.



Michelle Freshteh Brown

on April 11, 2012 at 4:51 PM said:

Excellent Barbara, thanks for the link and address information ! We will keep fighting, NO TO SLAUGHTER !!!

Follow



Patricia Coffman

on April 11, 2012 at 7:21 PM said:

This is really great Barbara..I they better watch and open their ears to what we are saying and we are not stupid to what happens in those plants..Governors give We The People the respect..and better yet we want our horses left alone and NO HARM!



christine peniaranda

on April 11, 2012 at 12:18 PM said:

great job!God Bless you and thank you from Sundance, The Major, and Heavenly Holly-my sweet horses.



karenlyonskalmenson

on April 11, 2012 at 9:40 AM said:

manunkind,
NO animals belong
on your plates,
do not add horses
to the menu,
STOP
it is not too late!!!!



HWood

on April 11, 2012 at 8:54 AM said:

use info from our petitions and the chart of banned substances from <http://www.frontrangeequinerescue.org>, click on the link for "breaking news" off the home page.

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thepersianhorse

on April 11, 2012 at 8:58 AM said:

Thank you... I'll add the info to the alert also...



LINDA BADHAM

on April 11, 2012 at 2:28 PM said:

PRAYERS FOR THE BEAUTIFUL HORSES FROM THE UK X



Barbara Griffith

on April 11, 2012 at 5:42 PM said:

There is something else that can be done is send the same information to the Mayor of Roswell, NM

His name is Mayor Del Journey 425 N Richardson P.O. Box 1838
Roswell, NM 88202-1838

Keep in mind this man may be in cahoots with the slaughter plant managment. If he is he has been promised a lot of money coming to the town and in his pocket.



deb spanhake

on April 15, 2012 at 9:46 AM said:

No horse slaughter anywhere in this country- so wrong! the horses should be left wild and free or utilized for farm/ranch without abuse

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- [Canada Stops Accepting U.S. Horses for Slaughter](#)
- [BLM Mustangs Sold to Slaughter?](#)

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- [Ban Horse Slaughter NOW! Petition](#)
- [HSUS Horse Slaughter page](#)
- [Mary Nash's Horse Meat web site](#)
- [Petition: Overturn The Legalization of Horse Slaughter](#)
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[Predatory slaughter trade must stop, says HSUS boss](#)

 August 19, 2012 |  Author [admin](#)

By Horsetalk.co.nz

The horse slaughter trade has been branded predatory, disreputable and inhumane by the head of the United States Humane Society (HSUS), Wayne Pacelle.

Pacelle also rounded on high-profile slaughter advocate Sue Wallis and other proponents of the industry, saying they must face the fact that Americans don't reduce all decisions to sheer profit-making alone.

“Our values about horses and their welfare matter to the people of the United States,” he wrote in his blog, *A Humane Nation*.

“Nobody raises horses for food in the US, and no consumers want the product.

“We Americans shouldn't be catering to foreign gourmands by killing perfectly healthy horses, especially in light of the historic place these animals have occupied in our country.

“America was settled on the back of a horse — these animals have been helping us and serving us ever since, and what a betrayal it is to exploit them in this way.”

Pacelle said Wallis, a Wyoming state legislator, had been talking about opening a horse slaughter plant on US soil

for years, and began her crusade not long after the last plants were shuttered in 2007.

“Wallis has been aggressively venue-shopping in recent months.

“She found her opening when a group of federal lawmakers allied with the agribusiness lobby succeeded in blocking HSUS-backed language in the annual agriculture spending bill to bar USDA inspections of horse meat.

“The omission of that anti-slaughter language, Wallis thought, paved the way for a new plant to kill horses for human consumption.”

Wallis has claimed she has plans on the drawing board for slaughter plants in Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Washington, and claims to be on the cusp of starting one up in a couple of states.

But this week, Valley Meat Co. in Roswell, New Mexico, said it was suspending its effort to seek approval from the US Department of Agriculture for a plant in the state, where there was fierce opposition from Governor Susana Martinez and Attorney General Gary King.

Wallis has also found resistance elsewhere to her plant plans.

“These are good outcomes, because this is a predatory, disreputable, inhumane industry,” Pacelle said.

“But just stopping horse slaughter plants from ramping up does not stop the slaughter of American horses.

“They are now being exported live to Canada and Mexico, and more than 100,000 horses a year are suffering in this trade and meeting an ignominious demise.”

Pacelle said, ultimately, the answer was for the European Union to shut down the import of American horse meat, given that it is “adulterated with all sorts of substances not fit for human consumption”.

The society, along with Front Range Equine Rescue, had filed petitions with the agriculture department and the Food and Drug Administration to have US horse meat declared “condemned” and unqualified for human consumption for that reason.

The US Congress, he said, should pass the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act to stop the export of live horses for slaughter.

Reposted from: <http://horsetalk.co.nz/2012/08/16/predatory-slaughter-trade-must-stop-says-hsus-boss/#.UDJIL6A2dlt>

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Stop Valley Meat Co. from opening a horse slaughterhouse in NM

This petition is now closed.
Please take action on these important issues below.

Recommend 136 Send Tweet



signatures: 494

signature goal: 1,000

Target: Valley Meat Co.
Sponsored by: Marlene Stokes

The Humane Society, Front Range Equine Rescue and other groups are pushing the federal government to ban the export of American horses for the foreign meat market and to formally prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption in the United States.

"Horse slaughter for food is a national disgrace, given the iconic nature of American horses and the especially brutal methods used to kill them," Front Range Equine Rescue said in a statement.



Canada: End the Capture of Wild Animals for Public Display

signatures: 125,843

[sign petition](#)



Canada: Make A Plan to Coexist with Coyotes

signatures: 14,424

[sign petition](#)



Environmental Education: Our Kids Deserve Better

signatures: 149,129

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we signed "Stop Valley Meat Co. from opening a horse slaughterhouse in NM"

# 494	19:11, Aug 25, Ms. Jelica Roland, Croatia
# 493	10:26, Aug 25, Ms. Ilona Braune, Germany
# 492	09:57, Aug 12, Ms. Nicole Weschke, Germany
# 491	08:36, Aug 08, Ms. Helene Beck, Denmark NO Cruel Horse Slaughter, Please!!
# 490	21:56, Jul 28, Mrs. Kimiko Maeda, Japan
# 489	03:42, Jul 28, Ms. Ruriko Maeda, Japan
# 488	07:22, Jul 19, Ms. karin degen, Germany
# 487	06:15, Jul 09, Ms. Anna Kozakova, Russian Federation
# 486	09:34, Jul 06, Ms. Zorana Krsmanovic, Serbia And Montenegro
# 485	09:04, Jun 29, Mrs. ekaterina nik, Russian Federation
# 484	13:34, Jun 28, Ms. Irina Sinyapkina, Belarus
# 483	11:24, Jun 21, Ms. Evgenia Bubentsova, Russian Federation

# 482	10:29, Jun 20, Ms. Celesté Groenewald, South Africa
# 481	08:05, Jun 14, Mrs. C Tartaglia, United Kingdom
# 480	04:56, Jun 10, Mrs. helga hanske, Germany
# 479	09:41, Jun 06, Ms. Taylor D. Barnes, NC
# 478	00:08, Jun 05, Ms. kelly shea, CA
# 477	21:46, Jun 04, Name not displayed, CA
# 476	09:51, May 29, Ms. christine peniaranda, CA do you really want the 'Land of Enchantment' to be known as the 'Land of Horseslaughter'? is is bibically wrong and cruel to reward our faithful horses with cruel slaughter. horses built this great country and still serve us in many way. please do the decent thing by our nation's horses.
# 475	08:04, May 29, Ms. Nancy Gregory, CO
# 474	14:34, May 28, Ms. Leila Jackson, CA
# 473	10:37, May 28, Mr. Juan Carlos Suarez, Colombia
# 472	19:39, May 27, Mrs. Shannon Ratliff, TN
# 471	13:07, May 27, Ms. Diane and Syd Marcus, IL
# 470	12:57, May 27, Ms. Nina Hayes, FL
# 469	06:37, May 27, Ms. Sue schuemmer, Germany
# 468	02:05, May 27, Mrs. Slavica Vukelic, Serbia And Montenegro
# 467	22:16, May 26, Mrs. Melissa Hillen, WV
# 466	15:04, May 26, Mr. martyn bassett, United Kingdom
# 465	13:37, May 26, Mr. Andres Grijalva, United Kingdom
# 464	11:37, May 26, Michele Croft, United Kingdom
# 463	11:13, May 26, Ms. Ann Mond, AZ New Mexico will have cause to be very ashamed if Valley Meat company is allowed to open a slaughter house for horses.
# 462	10:28, May 26, Mrs. Pamela Benton, CO
# 461	09:20, May 26, Ms. Cynthia Curtis, TX
# 460	07:22, May 26, Mrs. Joyce waldie, NC
# 459	07:07, May 26, Ms. Jennifer Richardson, United Kingdom
# 458	05:53, May 26, Ms. Katherine Germano, CT
# 457	04:58, May 26, Mrs. sondra Allen, OK
# 456	04:09, May 26, Mrs. Judy Haile, AR
# 455	03:04, May 26, Ms. karen lyons kalmenson, NY
# 454	02:57, May 26, Mr. Virgilio Morichi, Australia
# 453	22:07, May 24, Dr. sam alve, MI rot in hell you murderers
# 452	13:13, May 24, Ms. Darlene Parish, AZ Horses are not food. This is a National disgrace, not to mention the horrific ways in which the horses are killed. We will not let this happen!
# 451	23:45, May 15, Ms. Dawn Ferro, CA
# 450	10:05, May 09, Ms. Yvonne Fast, United Kingdom
# 449	12:20, May 07, Janine Plimbley, United Kingdom
# 448	23:40, May 06, Mrs. Beng Lay Ooi, Malaysia

# 447	23:01, May 06, Name not displayed, MO
# 446	21:18, May 06, Mrs. Silvia Regina Opitz Cordeir, Brazil
# 445	16:36, May 06, Ms. Angeline Bussche, Belgium
# 444	04:17, May 05, Mrs. leanne gray, Australia
# 443	17:03, May 02, Ms. Janet Robinson, FL
# 442	13:01, May 02, Ms. Arja Vanttinen, Finland
# 441	08:33, May 02, Mrs. eileen tyler, United Kingdom
# 440	17:11, Apr 29, Ms. richa blue akasha, Nepal
# 439	11:33, Apr 29, Ms. Karen Nakamaki, FL
# 438	17:23, Apr 27, Ms. Olga Sokolova, MD
# 437	14:41, Apr 26, Mrs. Vivian Borick, TX
# 436	05:52, Apr 26, Dr. Cristian Prisacariu, Norway
# 435	18:31, Apr 24, Ms. Nancy Chismar, NJ
# 434	17:13, Apr 24, Mrs. DEBBIE HUSBAND, United Kingdom
# 433	07:21, Apr 24, Mr. Ludo Stassijns, Belgium
# 432	04:03, Apr 24, Ms. Judith Abel, Switzerland
# 431	22:05, Apr 23, Mr. Mark Landowski, NM Horses weren't put on earth to be slaughtered for human consumption. I'm appalled and ashamed of this happening in the state where i reside!!
# 430	05:02, Apr 23, Mrs. Karen Thomas, Germany
# 429	12:52, Apr 22, Ms. Barbara Bezjak, Slovenia
# 428	10:04, Apr 22, Mrs. Michelle Roesch, NY
# 427	23:48, Apr 21, Mr. Jeff Stephen, AB
# 426	20:56, Apr 21, Mrs. Shirley Weaver, PA
# 425	15:08, Apr 21, Ms. Olga Kisil, Ukraine
# 424	06:45, Apr 21, Linda McNamara, NY This is a disgrace! STOP IT NOW.
# 423	05:51, Apr 21, Mrs. Marie-Noëlle Valteau, France
# 422	23:47, Apr 20, Ms. Myra Morton, BC we don't eat horses!!!
# 421	22:38, Apr 20, Ms. Monique van Lamoen, New Zealand
# 420	18:34, Apr 20, Ms. Michelle Storace, CA
# 419	15:46, Apr 20, Ms. Alexandra Bell, Denmark
# 418	14:04, Apr 20, Mrs. Lynette MacLagan, WI
# 417	13:53, Apr 20, Ms. sharon corrigan, United Kingdom
# 416	10:43, Apr 20, Mrs. evelyne flament, France
# 415	09:11, Apr 20, Ms. Irina Koshkina, Ukraine
# 414	09:01, Apr 20, Name not displayed, United Kingdom
# 413	07:46, Apr 20, Ms. Marie-Rose Grasser, Luxembourg
# 412	06:51, Apr 20, Mrs. Mariacristina Daminelli, Italy

# 411	03:33, Apr 20, arlene miljour, NY
# 410	03:33, Apr 20, Mrs. Nathalie Devriendt, Belgium
# 409	02:42, Apr 20, Mrs. Wendy Forster, United Kingdom
# 408	02:05, Apr 20, Mr. nima noroozi, Iran, Islamic Republic Of
# 407	17:59, Apr 19, Ms. Donna Moore, IL Time to stop the brutal and UNNECESSARY slaughter of America's horses. When will the US government finally hear the 80% of Americans who oppose commercial horse slaughter?
# 406	13:04, Apr 19, Ms. simone FONTENEY, France Stop !
# 405	11:10, Apr 19, Ms. Tatiyana Yakunina, Russian Federation
# 404	10:26, Apr 19, Ms. Albina Sharipova, Russian Federation
# 403	09:49, Apr 19, Mrs. Erasmia Tsiafi, Greece
# 402	09:37, Apr 19, Mrs. Helga Etscheidt, CO
# 401	09:25, Apr 19, Mrs. Stella Nobrega-Garcia, PA

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Horse Slaughter

Horse Slaughter

BREAKING NEWS: 8/23/12

FRER RESPONDS TO WALLIS' ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY HORSE SLAUGHTER TO U.S. GOV'T: News release - [Click Here](#)

BREAKING NEWS: 8/16/12

Horse Slaughter Applicant Gives Up After Being Fined \$86,400 For Mountain of Dead Animals on Property

Roswell, New Mexico's Valley Meat Company Cited by New Mexico Environmental Board's Solid Waste Division for Years-Long Violations of State Law

Roswell, New Mexico, August 15 -- When the first applicant for an American horse slaughterhouse operation surfaced earlier this year, Front Range Equine Rescue (FRER) immediately investigated in order to determine the nature of the applicant's business. FRER discovered that the applicant, Valley Meat Company, had a fifteen-foot high pile of dead cattle rotting on its property, creating a health hazard for the community and placing into serious question the operator's ability to start up his new operation, slaughtering former American companion, work and competition horses for human consumption. Pictures of the pile taken by both state and federal officials showed a horrific sight. FRER determined that Valley Meat had been in violation of New Mexico law for years, specifically because its owners had been maintaining this massive public health and safety hazard on their property, without any proper or responsible abatement. FRER presented extensive documentation to the state Environmental Board, urging the state to take a careful look at Valley Meat's operation. In response the state Environmental Board, and its Solid Waste division, undertook a detailed evaluation which this week resulted in a finding that Valley Meat was in grave violation of the solid waste laws, and that it should be fined \$86,400 for what amounts to one of the highest penalties for a solid waste violation issued in New Mexico.

FRER and its partners are committed to preventing the inhumane and unsafe production of horse meat to ever start again in America, and to stop the slaughter of American horses outside of the U.S.. FRER and The Humane Society of the United States had also filed legal petitions with two federal agencies, demonstrating the dangerous nature of horse slaughter to horses and the environment, along with the dangers of horse meat consumption by humans. The groups urged the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration, to engage in extended consideration of the problems inherent in horse slaughter by any business, including one with as many red flags as Valley Meat.

Apparently, the groups' efforts have been a success. In a recent article, Valley Meat's lawyer stated that the company was "suspending any plans for the horse-slaughter plant," because "it doesn't look like anybody is going to get a grant of inspection for

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horse slaughter." The \$86,400 fine certainly helped make that decision as well. A clear victory has been won for the horses who would have been brutally killed if this plant opened.

The "dead pile" in Roswell is simply another in a long list of reasons why stopping horse slaughter is critical. "We are glad to have been a part of the team that stopped Valley Meat, which was eager to butcher American horses, and which was at the center of environmental and animal cruelty violations," said Hilary Wood, president of FRER. "Every time the horse slaughter industry has attempted to set up shop, it has made clear that it has no concern for the public, for the law, or for the horses. FRER will continue, along with its partners, to challenge anyone who tries to start killing America's for foreign (or domestic) food."

Facts:

- More than 100,000 American horses are sent to slaughter each year, mainly for consumption in Europe and Asia.
- The slaughter pipeline is horribly cruel, with many of the horses suffering immensely during transport and the misguided and often repeated attempts to render them unconscious. USDA has documented the abuse and misery horses suffered at slaughterhouses in the U.S.
- Virtually all the horses used for meat spend most of their lives as work, competition or sport horses, companion animals, or wild horses.
- During their lives, horses who end up at slaughter are given a constant regimen of drugs and other substances which are either illegal for food animals, or are potentially dangerous to people who eat them.
- Under the current rules and regulations, there is no safeguard in place that can protect against the consumption of unsafe toxins in horse meat.
- Consumers do not know of the inherent dangers because there is no control over the drug residues.

BREAKING NEWS: 8/15/12

Horse Slaughter Applicant Abandons Efforts

Roswell, New Mexico, August 14 -- Front Range Equine Rescue (FRER) discovered that Valley Meat Company was applying to be the first American horse slaughterhouse operation earlier this year, and it immediately jumped into action. Working with The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and other groups including Animal Protection of New Mexico, FRER embarked on a detailed investigation of Valley Meat, and turned up a years-long series of violations of New Mexico environmental laws, which involved, among other things, a mountain of dead animals rotting on Valley Meat's property. The fifteen-foot high pile of dead animals created a health hazard for the community and placed into serious question the operator's ability to start up his new operation, slaughtering former American companion, **work, and competition** horses to be turned into foreign dinners. FRER presented extensive documentation to the state Environmental Board, urging the state to take a careful look at Valley Meat's operation.

FRER and its partners are committed to preventing the inhumane and unsafe production of horse meat to ever start again in America, and to eventually stop the slaughter of American horses for meat everywhere. FRER and HSUS also filed legal petitions with two federal agencies, demonstrating the dangerous nature of horse slaughter to horses the environment, along with the dangers of horse meat consumption by humans. The groups urged the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration, to engage in extended consideration of the problems inherent in horse slaughter by any group, including one with as many red flags as Valley Meat.

Apparently, the groups' efforts have been a success. In an article today, Valley Meat's lawyer stated that the company was "suspending any plans for the horse-slaughter plant," because "it doesn't look like anybody is going to get a grant of inspection for horse slaughter." A clear victory has been won for the horses who would have been brutally killed if this plant opened.

"We are glad to have been a part of the team that stopped Valley Meat, which was anxious to take American horses and turn them into a toxic dinner, and which was at the center of environmental and animal cruelty violations," said Hilary Wood, president of FRER. "Every time the horse slaughter industry has attempted to set up shop, it has made clear that it has no concern for the public, for the law, or for the horses.

FRER will continue, along with its partners, to challenge anyone who tries to start killing America's for foreign (or domestic) food."

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-30-

Media Contacts:

Hilary Wood/FRER, 719-481-1490 info@frontrangeequinerescue.org

Front Range Equine Rescue is a 501c3 non-profit working to end the abuse and neglect of horses through rescue and education. Since 1997, FRER has assisted thousands of horses through its rescue and educational programs. Many of FRER's rescued horses are obtained directly from livestock auctions and feed lots, which without FRER's intervention would have shipped to slaughter. Dedicated to the horses – On the web at www.frontrangeequinerescue.org

BREAKING NEWS: 8/14/12

Family gives up on horse-slaughter plant in New Mexico By Milan Simonich / Texas-New Mexico Newspapers Posted: 08/14/2012 01:45:07 PM MDT SANTA FE - A family business in the Roswell area has suspended its plan to slaughter horses for human consumption in foreign markets, its attorney said today. Valley Meat Co. has received no response from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on its application to slaughter horses and process the meat, said A. Blair Dunn, the attorney who represents the business. It had been pursuing federal approval since April. Blair said the De Los Santos family, owner of Valley Meat Co., has no choice but to restart its cattle-slaughter business. That business was in abeyance while the family sought federal approval for its equine slaughter and processing operation. "They're suspending any plans for the horse-slaughter plant," Dunn said in an interview. "It doesn't look like anybody is going to get a grant of inspection for horse slaughter." A meat-processing plant cannot slaughter both cattle and horses simultaneously, Dunn said. Given what he called inaction by the federal government, the family has no choice but to resume its cattle-processing business to make a living, he said. Gov. Susana Martinez, a Republican, was among the officeholders who opposed the horse-slaughter plant. State Land Commissioner Ray Powell, a Democrat and a veterinarian, also was against horse slaughter in New Mexico. But people in the horse industry disagreed with opponents of the plant, saying there was no logical reason to fight the De Los Santos family's business venture. "Horses deserve better than to be abandoned, starved or transported long distances in crowded trucks to slaughter in foreign countries," the New Mexico Horse Council's president, Rusty Cook, said in a letter to the governor. His organization represents about 30 horse clubs. The De Los Santos family had to retrofit its 7,000-square-foot plant to prepare for the slaughter and processing of horses. Dunn said the family saw Europe as its primary market for horse meat. Horse slaughter has been a dormant industry in the United States. That was because Congress in 2006 did not fund the required USDA inspections of horses that would be killed for human consumption. The federal policy changed last year. Congress funded the inspections in an agriculture bill that President Obama signed.

Still, in a practical sense, nothing was different for the De Los Santos family, which could not obtain its grant of inspection, despite a persistent effort, Dunn said.

To read more- [Click Here](#)

BREAKING NEWS: Rockville, MO (6/5/12)

FRONT RANGE EQUINE RESCUE DISCOVERS DOCUMENTED EFFORTS TO BEGIN HORSE SLAUGHTER IN MISSOURI.

- News release - [Click Here](#)

BREAKING NEWS Roswell, NM (5/19/12)

Front Range Equine Rescue has discovered that, for years, 15-foot high piles of dead animals have been rotting on the premises of Valley Meat Company in Roswell.

Valley Meat has been in blatant violation of multiple New Mexico environmental statutes for that period, and has refused to stop its illegal practices, despite efforts by the state. FRER has written to the Solid Waste Bureau of the New Mexico Environmental Department, requesting appropriate sanctions. Valley Meat, which could not satisfy its legal obligations with respect to the slaughter of cows, is now attempting to start up a horse slaughter operation. It must be stopped, before there are 15-foot high piles of dead horses endangering groundwater and the surrounding community.

Front Range Equine Rescue wants to emphasize that regardless of whether Valley Meat is now just beginning to comply, and regardless of whether the state believes it is finally getting Valley Meat in compliance, the very serious concern remains about a company that is willing to act in violation of the law for literally years and years. Nothing that is happening now changes that. The question that does not go away, and the concern that will not be abated in the least by any compliance now remains this: Should an operator who has acted in blatant violation of important New Mexico laws for years be granted a new permit to engage in a new form of slaughter business, that as documented in the petitions for rulemaking, increases the dangers of noncompliance for all involved -- the community, the environment, and ultimately consumers? That answer must clearly be "no," and if the law is not enforced, it will only continue to be ignored by operators around the state. Attached is a chart ([Click Here](#)) that identifies just the known failures of Valley Meat, in the past two years, to comply with the law and to make good on promises made to comply. And since the 15-foot high piles of dead and rotting animals were present in January 2010, it is fairly well established that Valley Meat was breaking the law probably for as long as it was in operation, or however long it takes to pile up that many dead animals. The fact that it took the agencies until 2010 to notice it does not change the fact of Valley Meat's conduct threatening the environment and the community for as long as it was dumping animals outside in this manner. One final point. Even if Valley Meat is now finally moving some legacy waste, that does not change the fact that most of the rotting flesh on its premises is not legacy waste, and has not and is not being properly processed.

- Letter complaint filed with NM Environment Dept - [Click Here](#)
- NM Majority Whip Speaks Against Slaughter:- [Click Here](#)

BREAKING NEWS (4/14/12)

State Officials, Humane Groups Oppose Proposed Horse Slaughter Plant in New Mexico

Press Release - [Click Here](#)

- Albuquerque Journal (4/17/12) - [Click Here](#)
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- <http://horsetalk.co.nz/2012/04/14/new-mexico-firm-in-bid-to-open-horse-slaughter-plant/>
- <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/apr/13/new-mexico-firm-applies-first-horse-meat-slaughter/>
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[Front Range Equine Rescue](#)

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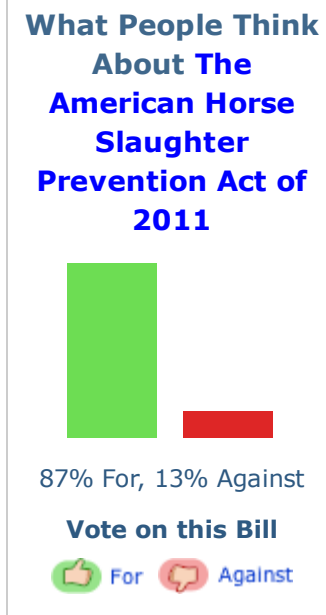
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[Ken Salazar](#)

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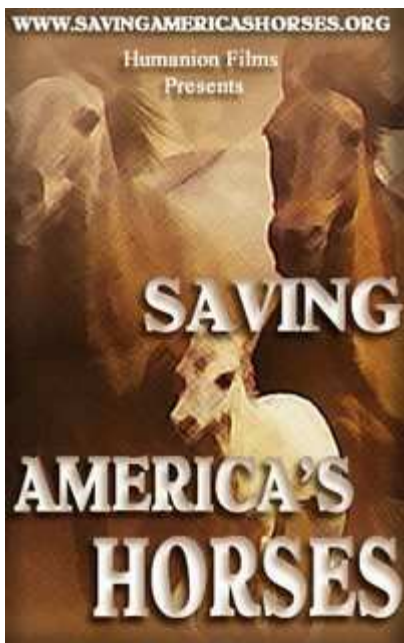
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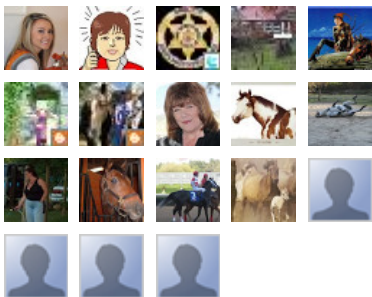


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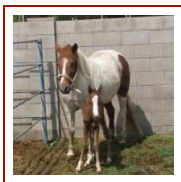
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CJ (POTLUCKY) GONE TOO SOON....

CAROLINE JAFFE
HORSE WARRIOR
JANUARY 16, 1942- OCTOBER 25, 2009

TUESDAY'S HORSE:

IN MEMORIAM: CAROLINE JAFFE

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Few are in a position to speak for the animals like Wayne Pacelle. As President and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, he leads 11 million members and constituents in the mission of celebrating animals and confronting cruelty. [See Wayne Pacelle's profile»](#)





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AUGUST 15, 2012

Horse Slaughter Plan Withdrawn in New Mexico

Wyoming state legislator Sue Wallis has been talking about opening up a horse slaughter plant on U.S. soil for years—and she began her crusade not long after the last plants were shuttered in 2007. Wallis has been aggressively venue-shopping in recent months. She found her opening when a group of federal lawmakers allied with the agribusiness lobby succeeded in [blocking HSUS-backed language](#) in the annual agriculture spending bill to bar USDA inspections of horse meat. The omission of that anti-slaughter language, Wallis thought, paved the

way for a new plant to kill horses for human consumption.

Kathy Milani/The HSUS

[Take action to help horses here.](#)

Wallis has claimed she has plans on the drawing board for slaughter plants in Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Washington, and says she's on the cusp of starting one up in a couple of states. But yesterday, Valley Meat Co. in Roswell, N.M., said it was suspending its effort to seek approval from USDA for a plant in the state, where there was fierce opposition from Gov. Susana Martinez and Attorney General Gary King. The HSUS, along with Front Range Equine Rescue, discovered mountains of dead animals illegally left on Valley Meat's property and filed a request for an enforcement action, which resulted in an \$86,400 environmental fine issued by the state on Aug. 2. One town in Missouri, Mountain Grove, ran out Wallis and her allies on a rail. And things seem to be stalling in Rockville, Mo., which was her backup location in the Show-Me State. It's been quiet in a number of other states that once seemed, according to Wallis at least, that they were sure-bets for horse slaughtering operations.

These are good outcomes, because this is a predatory, disreputable, inhumane industry. Nobody raises horses for food in the U.S., and no consumers want the product. We Americans shouldn't be catering to foreign gourmards by killing perfectly healthy horses, especially in light of the historic place these animals have occupied in our country. America was settled on the back of a horse—these animals have been helping us and serving us ever since, and what a betrayal it is to exploit them in this way.

But just stopping horse slaughter plants from ramping up does not stop the slaughter of American horses. They are now being exported live to Canada and Mexico, and more than 100,000 horses a year are suffering in this trade and meeting an ignominious demise.

Ultimately, the answer is for the European Union to shut down the import of American horse meat, given that it's adulterated with all sorts of substances not fit for human consumption. The HSUS, along with Front Range Equine Rescue, have also filed petitions with USDA and FDA to have U.S. horse meat declared "Condemned" and unqualified for human consumption for just that reason. And the U.S. Congress should pass the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act to stop the export of live horses for slaughter.

Sue Wallis and other proponents of horse slaughter must face the fact that Americans don't reduce all decisions to sheer profit-making alone. Our values about horses and their welfare matter to the people of the United States.

You might also like:

[Another Step to Crack Down on Horse Slaughter Abuses](#)

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horses have a wonderful life here now, but it could have been much different had they been inextricably caught in the slaughter pipeline.

The slaughter journey: a grim fate



— Maddie

The typical slaughter journey starts when an owner sends their horse to auction, or sells their horse (knowingly or not) to a meat buyer. Buyers gather horses from private owners and auctions and collect them in feedlots, where they will often be subject to more inhumane treatment before being loaded on a truck headed to the slaughter plant. Legally the horses can be hauled for more than 24 hours without a break for food or water. All sizes and sexes of horses mixed together, causing atrocious injury and even death in the trailer. We've documented plenty of [photo and video evidence](#) of these injuries and deaths.

“Our horses, our trusted companions and friends, deserve better than the slaughter house...”

Once at the slaughter plant, horses are run up a chute into a kill box where they are shot with a penetrating bolt gun to render them unconscious prior to being hoisted by a hind leg and having their throats slit. Sometimes the bolt gun fails, and the horse is not unconscious. Sometimes it takes multiple shots, or a rifle is brought in to shoot the horse with a bullet. All of this inside a loud, blood-spattered metal box with other horses waiting in line and screaming in terror.

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Warriors ! Choose Your Weapon. Win THIS Battle.

Posted on [May 26, 2012](#)

The Persian Horse Blog is Dedicated to the Horses and Burros who have Shed their Blood, Lost their Freedom, and Given their Lives for BLM.



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Warriors, we NEVER know which signature will tip the Scales. This is an Easy Battle to fight in the War Against Horse Slaughter, Abuse and Neglect. SO....pick your weapon (your computer) and Sign These Petitions Please.

~

- Ban Horse Slaughter in Canada <http://thepersianhorse.wordpress.com/2012/04/30/ban-horse-slaughter-in-canada-2000-more-signatures-will-make-a-difference/>
- NO MORE MEAT-MEN AT MOUNTAINEER RACETRACK!: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/no-more-meat-men-at-mountaineer-racetrack/>
- Stop #Horse #Slaughter Plant from Opening in New Mexico #NM – ForceChange <http://forcechange.com/18957/stop-horse-slaughter-plant-from-opening-in-new-mexico/>
- Oregon Governor: Stop equine slaughter from coming to oregon http://www.change.org/petitions/oregon-governor-stop-equine-slaughter-from-coming-to-oregon?share_id=iTswLKtlaM&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=twitter
- Darrell Mowat -horse killer and torturer: More jail 4 man-tortured/killed 2yr old horse. Make an example!
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- THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT: Pass Bill C-322 and End Horse slaughter in Canada http://www.change.org/petitions/the-canadian-government-pass-bill-c-322-and-end-horse-slaughter-in-canada?share_id=DIeOtPIHWS&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=twitter
- Tell Interior Secretary to Dump Pro-Wild Horse Slaughter Appointee: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/tell-interior-secretary-to-dump-pro-wild-horse-slaughter-appointee/>
- Petition Americans Against Horse Slaughter http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/endhorseslaughternow/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=button
- End Horse Slaughter <http://www.petitiononline.com/trotaway/petition.html>
- Stop Horse Slaughter for Good! Petition <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/horse-slaughter-for-good.html>
- Just Say NO to Horse Slaughter Petition <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/just-say-no-to-horse-slaughter.html>
- Horses' Gentle Spirits Should be Respected, Not Broken – ForceChange <http://forcechange.com/16655/horses-gentle-spirits-should-be-respected-not-broken/>
- Stop Drugging Race Horses: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/401/901/650/stop-drugging-race-horses/>
- Action Needed!!! Horses need u! <http://www.causes.com/causes/487549-action-for-the-protection-of-northern-animals/actions/1602166>
- Appleby Horse Fair...Ban Britain's festival of Animal Abuse: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/appleby-horse-fairban-britains-festival-of-animal-abuse/>
- Champion Charlie's Cause: Charge Abusive Horse Owner with Animal Cruelty – ForceChange <http://forcechange.com/12183/champion-charlies-cause-charge-abusive-horse-owner-with-animal-cruelty/>
- Horses Should Not be Exploited and Treated Cruelly in the Racing Industry – ForceChange <http://forcechange.com/12681/horses-should-not-be-exploited-and-treated-cruelly-in-the-racing-industry/>

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- Ban Horse Drawn Carriages in Rome: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/3/ban-horse-drawn-carriages-in-rome/>
- TAKE ACTION: HORSE SLAUGHTER IS UNETHICAL & UNCIVILIZED BEHAVIOUR: <http://bit.ly/uxR67o>
- Plz Ask Your Senators & Representative to Co-Sponsor the Horse Slaughter Prevention Act: <http://bit.ly/vYQAmz>
- Action Alert: Senate Bill S-1176 to PERMANENTLY BAN HORSE SLAUGHTER <http://wp.me/P1tPj6-4a>
- Let's help our horses! UR tax dollars R paying for the White House fax paper. Send faxes now for Horses.: <http://wp.me/pYypJ-5oR>
- Stop Horsemeat Slaughterhouses From Reopening – ForceChange <http://bit.ly/tomImq>
- Overturn Obama's Legalization of Horse Slaughter for Human Consumption <http://chn.ge/u5Heio>
- The President: Do not allow the butchering of horses for Human Consumption <http://chn.ge/txLP5z>
- Sign to Ban Horse Slaughter: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/2/sign-to-ban-horse-slaughter/>
- THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT: Pass Bill C-322 and End Horse slaughter in Canada <http://chn.ge/unJjYT>
- PLEASE HELP THE VIRGINIA RANGE WILD HORSES!!! <http://chn.ge/vTIUk9>
- Please Ban Tax Dollar Funding of Horse Slaughterhouse Inspections in FY12 Agriculture Appropriations Bill <http://bit.ly/shqGet>
- Stop the Use of Animals in Palios and festivals-Stop all'uso di animali nei palii e nelle feste popolari <http://bit.ly/uaf5q5>
- Here's an easy action: Vote YES in online poll to make the mustang the official state animal of Nevada. Mustangs... <http://fb.me/16SJUcQF6>
- Plz sign: 2 petitions helping horses & burros sponsored by @FreeWildHorses <http://bit.ly/tjcwvF>
- STOP THE SLAUGHTER OF OUR AMERICAN HORSES AND PASS S.1176 <http://www.petition2congress.com/5049/stop-slaughter-our-american-horses-pass-s1176/>

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- End the Exportation and Slaughter of American Horses – ForceChange <http://forcechange.com/6104/end-the-exportation-and-slaughter-of-american-horses/>
- Support the ban on horse slaughter <https://www.whitehouse.gov/petitions/%21/petition/support-ban-horse-slaughter/q30gJg1k#thank-you=p>
- Top Owners in Horse Racing: Demand that slaughter can not be an option or leave the sport <http://chn.ge/mUey97>
- Help stop the abuse and slaughter of horses for human consumption! http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5154/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=8237
- Sign Petition: PETA Undercover Investigation: Juvenile Racehorses Forced to Run in Deadly Speed Tests <http://bit.ly/nHkFOT>
- Urge Congress to Protect Horses in Racing Industry <http://bit.ly/omjlli>
- STOP THE SLAUGHTER OF OUR AMERICAN HORSES AND PASS S.1176 <http://bit.ly/oZFU6X>
- Oppose BLM Plan to Remove 283 Wild Horses from Three Nevada HMAs:<http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/6931/p/dia/action/public/index>
- Act Now to Save Horses From Slaughter! <http://bit.ly/npfqyX>
- Stop the Australian Government slaughtering our brumbies Petition <http://www.gopetition.com/petition/38790.html>
- Petition Congress to have Ken Salazar Removed as the Secretary of the D.O.I ! <http://www.petition2congress.com/2710/ken-salazar-secretary-blms-resignation/?src=widget>
- Director of BLM: The BLM is not exempt from humane treatment of mustangs <http://chn.ge/nuXiAe>
- Plz sign! Horrible abuse of horses-Gegen Premarin (PMU) Farmen / Against Premarin (PMU) Farms: <http://bit.ly/qcJKW3>
- STOP CRUELTY TO PREMARIN HORSES – Please Sign Petition: <http://bit.ly/q6lpnJ>
- Stop wild Horse Roundups, protect Horses from Cruelty and Slaughter <http://t.co/3PU9r3h>
- RETURN THE WILD HORSES & little BURROS TO THEIR LANDS AS DESIGNATED BY 1971 ACT OF CONGRESS <http://t.co/s7fpfav>

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- Most absolute Cruel & horrific abuse imaginable!!! CLOSE MERCADO DE SAN BERNABE' – THE SHAME OF MEXICO <http://t.co/LQtR91D>
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- PLEASE HELP THE STARVING PYRAMID HORSES OF CAIRO: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/401/793/585/>
- Ask NBC Today Show to broadcast an educational episode about the Calèches in Montréal <http://t.co/mmffxdN>
- Ban Horse Fighting in the Philippines. <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/ban-horse-fighting-in-the-philippines.html>
- Save 'Retired' Racehorses From a Painful Death in Slaughterhouses <http://t.co/2aIB0D9>
- DEMAND THE U.S.D.A. TAKE HORSE MEAT OFF THE MENU NOW http://www.change.org/petitions/demand-the-u-s-d-a-take-horse-meat-of-the-menu-now?share_id=NKFTexQQcr&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=twitter



— PH

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New Mexico is getting a New Vision for

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Horses ~ Thanks to Mary Jane Garcia

Posted on **May 26, 2012**

The Persian Horse Blog is Dedicated to the Horses and Burros who have Shed their Blood, Lost their Freedom, and Given their Lives for BLM.

BACKGROUND | [MARY JANE GARCIA](#)

CLICK [HERE](#) to contact Mary Jane. Give her your Moral Support and ask her what YOU can do to help her save the horses in New Mexico from Slaughter.



Since serving in the New Mexico Legislature starting in 1988, I've considered it my duty to stand up for our state's many vulnerable populations, particularly children and animals. The common denominator in the challenges I've faced has been the predictable and tired refrain of those who can't picture things being different. The pushback has always been fierce. This is especially true with the systematic cruelty being inflicted on horses today.

Thanks to heart-wrenching but honest exposés that have recently uncovered one after another tragedy involving horses in our state, the public wants

change. One thing is clear: even though some of us have heard these concerns in one form or another for decades, we are on the edge of a shift in thinking regarding horses. That's why plenty of people are fighting back against that shift.

Is it really that hard to understand that horse slaughter is not and cannot be humane? No matter where it's done, saying horse slaughter is less cruel in one country compared to another is missing the point. Simply put, horses flee when they're frightened, and those who defend U.S. horse slaughter should watch videos of it that are easily available online. The panic, fear and pain are unbearable to watch.

The phrase, "if we build it, they will come," would have severe unintended consequences as a horse slaughter plant anywhere in New Mexico would encourage uncontrolled over-breeding of horses. The obscene incentives to breed, ship and kill would be substantial.

Eighty percent of Americans are opposed to slaughtering horses for food. Add to that the fact that American horses are routinely injected with drugs such as "bute," (a horse medication known to be unfit for human consumption) makes me very apprehensive with horse meat being used as a food source.

Furthermore, establishing New Mexico as a horse slaughter haven will do irreparable damage to the unique brand of our state. We all can agree that New Mexico's brand is remarkably unique with all of the heritage and c **Follow**

that make up our beautiful state. Yet, a horse slaughter plant is likely to be an unwanted distraction from what our state genuinely has to offer. Do we really want to be known as the epicenter of something so inhumane? One economic step forward might mean two steps back if our state becomes renowned for such appalling treatment of the noble American horse.

Like other New Mexican leaders and so many of my constituents who have contacted me about the horse slaughterhouse proposal, I know we can use our God-given intelligence and imagination to create lasting and humane solutions for horses. A system already exists to help our communities' dogs and cats. It is more than possible to do the same for horses. Model programs already exist that provide feed assistance, shelter, adoption and yes, humane euthanasia.

Horses are suffering; I see it when I travel around New Mexico. I know that we as New Mexicans can do better than this. Please join the strong chorus of individuals opposing cruel treatment of horses and let's create solutions for horses that will make us all proud.

Mary Jane Garcia is a state senator representing District 36 and is majority whip.



— PH

Posted in [ALERTS](#) | [7 Replies](#)

Good News From New Jersey ~ Horse Slaughter Banned

Posted on [May 25, 2012](#)

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS April 13, 2012, 3:41PM ET

NM governor asks feds to stop horse slaughterhouse

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez said Friday she is asking federal officials not to allow a southeastern New Mexico company to open the nation's first slaughterhouse for horses since 2007.

Martinez plans to send a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture asking it deny a Roswell meat company's request for inspections that would allow it to operate.

"Despite the federal government's decision to legalize horse slaughter for human consumption, I believe creating a horse slaughtering industry in New Mexico is wrong and I am strongly opposed," Martinez said in a statement.

Valley Meat Co. has filed an application with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for its 7,300-square-foot plant outside of town. Documents obtained by the Humane Society of the United States and Front Range Equine Rescue show that horses would be "custom slaughtered" and processed for human consumption at the plant, the Albuquerque Journal reported (<http://bit.ly/1lnrcB>).

Valley Meat didn't immediately return calls from the Associated Press on Friday. USDA officials said they were preparing a statement.

Horse slaughter has effectively been blocked since Congress withheld funds for USDA inspections of horse meat plants in 2006. But a recently passed agriculture bill provides the money.

The last horse slaughterhouse closed in Illinois in 2007. Since Congress renewed inspection funding, several plants are under consideration, including one in Missouri that would process up to 200 animals a day.

More than 100,000 American horses are shipped out of the country to plants in Canada and Mexico for slaughter each year, and their meat is bound for markets in Europe and Asia, according to the Humane Society. Although there are reports of Americans dining on horse meat as recently as the 1940s, the practice is virtually non-existent in this country.

A spokesman for New Mexico Attorney General Gary King said his office so far has found no legal basis for stopping the

plant, but a lawyer has been assigned to continue looking into the matter.

"A horse slaughtering plant in Roswell is a terrible idea. Such a practice, while not illegal, is certainly abhorrent to public sentiment, and I strongly suggest it be abandoned," King, a Democrat, said in a written statement.

"Horses are different and should be treated differently," he said.

The Humane Society, Front Range Equine Rescue and other groups are pushing the federal government to ban the export of American horses for the foreign meat market and to formally prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption in the United States.

"Horse slaughter for food is a national disgrace, given the iconic nature of American horses and the especially brutal methods used to kill them," Front Range Equine Rescue said in a statement.

Pro-slaughter activists say the horse slaughter ban had unintended consequences, including an increase in neglect and the abandonment of the animals.

Details about the extent of the proposed horse slaughtering operation were unavailable, but the application obtained by the groups says the plant would only handle horses, not cattle or chickens. The plant would operate eight hours a day year-round, according to the application.

Front Range's lawyer, Bruce Wagman, said Valley Meat first filed an application for USDA inspections in December, and then a second application in March.

The groups said it has obtained email correspondence showing that company representatives have been talking for months to officials from the Denver office of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, which inspects animals and meats in American slaughterhouses.

According to Front Range, one January email from an FSIS official said, "Public wants assurances there is no way for horse meat to get into their beef products."

Critics also contend former companion, working, racing and wild horses should not be used as human food because drugs routinely given to such horses are potentially dangerous to people.

Elisabeth Jennings, executive director of Animal Protection of New Mexico, said residents of a state with roots in cowboy culture "have a deep and enduring appreciation for horses, especially given their important role in our state's rural way of life."

"It is an affront to our citizens to suggest bringing the cruel, dangerous and polluting enterprise of horse slaughter to New Mexico as we celebrate our state's centennial," she said.

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State Officials, Humane Groups Oppose Proposed Horse Slaughter Plant in New Mexico

April 13, 2012

[Governor and Attorney General Blast New Mexico Plant](#)



WASHINGTON, (ASPCA —The Humane Society of the United States, the ASPCA American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), Front Range Equine Rescue and Animal Protection of New Mexico condemn plans to open a horse slaughter plant in Roswell, N.M.

The plans for the slaughterhouse were uncovered in an investigation by Front Range Equine Rescue, a Colorado-based equine rescue organization. The proposed facility would be operated by Valley Meat Co., LLC, a company in Roswell that has already applied with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service for inspection of the slaughter of equines for human consumption. According to Front Range's investigators, FSIS officials were scheduled to conduct a preliminary walk-through inspection of Valley Meat's facility last month. USDA temporarily suspended inspections of cattle slaughter at Valley Meat Co. in February 2012 and November 2011 due to failure to comply with humane slaughter regulations.

"A horse slaughtering plant in Roswell is a terrible idea," said New Mexico Attorney General Gary King. "Such a practice, while not illegal, is certainly abhorrent to public sentiment, and I strongly suggest it be abandoned. I come from a ranching family but processing horses for food was never part of the plan for raising livestock. Horses are different and should be treated differently."

"As a veterinarian and someone who has had the great good fortune to grow up with and around horses, I am very saddened and angry about the recent revelations of mistreatment of horses in New Mexico," said New Mexico State Land Commissioner Ray Powell. "If a horse is hurt, terminally ill, or has no chance to find a loving home, then humane euthanasia is a realistic alternative. I am told New Mexico is entertaining the idea of a horse slaughtering facility in our state. Since we do not have the horses in New Mexico to make this economically viable, it means horses would be trucked in from surrounding states. This is a bad idea on every level, and I strongly oppose it. New Mexico can do much better by these intelligent and gentle creatures."

"Horse slaughter means tremendous suffering of horses, a proven history of environmental and waste violations, and allowing a toxic meat product to enter the human food chain," said Hilary Wood, president and founder of Front Range Equine Rescue. "Solutions to horse slaughter include stopping irresponsible breeding practices, more gelding and euthanasia assistance programs, re-homing and re-training options, and short-term owner assistance programs. Horse slaughter has no place in the U.S. or across our borders."

"American horses are our partners in sport, work and recreation—not dinner," said Keith Dane, director of equine protection for The HSUS. "The entire process of horse slaughter is filled with nonstop terror, pain and misery for horses, and it is proven to have a severe negative impact on surrounding communities. It would be irresponsible for the federal government to sign off on a predatory industry that has no regard for animal or human welfare."

"New Mexicans have a deep and enduring appreciation for horses, especially given their important role in our state's rural way of life. It's an affront to our citizens to suggest bringing the cruel, dangerous and polluting enterprise of horse slaughter to New Mexico as we celebrate our state's centennial," said Elisabeth Jennings, executive director of Animal Protection of New Mexico.

"The overwhelming majority of Americans are intensely opposed to this cruel practice, and as more people learn that we are allowing our horses to be shuttled off to gruesome deaths all for the sake of foreign gourmards, they are outraged, and opposition to this grisly practice is growing," said Nancy Perry, senior vice president of ASPCA Government Relations. "Horse slaughter plants abuse more than just horses as they have proved economically and environmentally disastrous to communities in other states."

In November 2011, Congress chose not to renew a ban on funding federal inspectors at horse slaughter plants

in the United States, even though a similar provision has been part of the agriculture department's spending bill for the past five years. That action opened the door for a return of horse slaughter to American soil, including taxpayer funded inspections of horse meat destined to be sent abroad, despite broad opposition in this country to the practice. A January 2012 poll commissioned by the ASPCA confirms that 80 percent of American voters oppose the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

When the last three horse slaughter plants in the U.S. closed, the surrounding communities cheered. These communities had endured water pollution, an unending stench of rotting blood and offal, and a negative stigma that caused other businesses to leave the community. The slaughter plants employed no more than a few dozen employees in low-paying, dangerous, high-stress jobs. In their quest for higher profits, the foreign-owned companies did their best to avoid paying property taxes and the fines levied against them for environmental violations.

Additionally, it is unclear how Valley Meat Co. or the USDA would address the medications, vaccines and other substances that are routinely given to American horses and are known to be poisonous if consumed by humans. Earlier this year, The HSUS announced its intention to pursue legal action if the federal government failed to follow required protocols to ensure that food safety and environmental review requirements were observed.

Last month, The HSUS joined Front Range Equine Rescue in filing a petition with the Food and Drug Administration to declare the meat of former companion, show, and working animals to be unfit for human consumption due to the risk of the meat containing toxic residues. Last week, the two groups filed a separate petition with the USDA to ban the slaughter for human consumption of such animals for the same reasons.

Tags: [aspc](#), [hsus](#), [new mexico](#), [slaughter](#)

22 Responses to "State Officials, Humane Groups Oppose Proposed Horse Slaughter Plant in New Mexico"



1. Denise on April 14, 2012 at 10:43 am

Silence is golden.....thanks Joe, Anotherfauxhorseman, Wallis and Duquette.



- o Gene on April 22, 2012 at 1:29 am

I wonder why hsus has failed to register as a lobbyist.

<http://thecalvarygroup.blogspot.com/>



2. marjorie hughes on April 14, 2012 at 11:31 am

Texas, the Land the Law Forgot...



- o Denise on April 14, 2012 at 3:26 pm

This is about New Mexico; granted it is next to Texas and they have some fairly disgusting feedlots/export pens and operators that are associated with Texas.



- Joe on April 15, 2012 at 5:36 am

The man that wants to open a plant in New Mexico defends horse slaughter. There are several articles printed about his reasons. I think he is right in saying that it would be more humane for the horses to be processed in America, then the meat shipped to Mexico. A lot less stress and a better and humane slaughter. It is too bad when our government officials use their powers for their own agenda. In the case of the Governor Suzanne Martinez used her power to contact the USDA to reject the plants inspections. Here is a legal business being stopped because the governor does not approve horse slaughter!! More than likely HSUS helped get her elected.. Below is one of the articles with the quote from the Governor, there are several on the internet.

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/NM-meat-plant-owner-defends-horse-slaughter-plan-3482292.php>



- admin on April 15, 2012 at 11:20 pm

Correction again, Joe. Horse slaughter is not a legal business anywhere in the United States.



- lisag on April 16, 2012 at 6:49 am

admin, except where states or local laws prohibit it, horse slaughter is legal. The prohibition was on USDA funding for inspectors which meant the horse meat couldn't be transported across state lines to reach markets in other countries.

What "Joe" conveniently overlooks is that this New Mexico slaughterhouse has been cited three times by the USDA for animal cruelty. And if the USDA is actually citing

him that speaks volumes about the conditions at his plant. Sounds like a nasty place.



Denise on April 16, 2012 at 6:38 am

Joe:

You cannot post on a public forum that "More than likely HSUS helped get her (Martinez) elected...." and not provide a factual statement that proves that "feeling" from you.

You have just as many of "Our government officials" supporting your side of this issue. I would hardly call Gov Martinez supportive of the antislughter advocates.

You think human consumption horse slaughter is less stressful here. Wrong, it is the same as Canada and Mexico based on inspections by US and EU inspectors. (I cite Dr Lenz's glowing reports on his Mexico tour reported in newspapers and on the AVMA/AAEP website) Also there are notorious holding lots and transfer points throughout the Southwest for export to Mexico....seems the governors of those states don't agree with you either (worse in Mexico, that is) AND they allow it, along with Obama to continue.

As to legal (Editor/admin mentioned), all aspects of HCHS are legal here EXCEPT for killfloor inspection operations for HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

You can sell your equine for meat anytime and anywhere (yep, CA too because they don't enforce the law) you want. You can kill, butcher and eat your own horse any day of the week.

You really need to start researching what you cite and form an INformed opinion. Right now, you just seem to tote the proslaughter party line no matter what and repeat nonsense just because YOU WANT HCHS. Sorry, but that isn't rational or realistic.

You can always vet chem or qualified gun shot, compost, bury, render or landfill your dead equine albeit at YOUR cost.....and that is what bugs you. You want to get paid for relinquishing your responsibility for that animal (or you're in the biz and a full blown profiteer).



Suzanne Moore on April 16, 2012 at 9:17 am

Right, Denise. Who cares about cruelty and food safety issues anyway?

Joe, if this guy can't even handle cattle humanely, what the heck is he going to do with 1000 lbs. of threshing, panicked horses? And, after 2013, who is he going to sell them to? Without a passport system of our own, the EU has been warning for three years that they will cut us off in 2013. What then?

Also, in another article, this guy claims the won't be seeking local investors because "foreign interests" will be involved with that. Does this sound familiar? Isn't this very thing what Wallis tried to sell to the people of Missouri?

<http://www.box.com/s/e583k0gkqgc9nvf132ky>



Karla on April 16, 2012 at 10:20 am

This plant has been closed twice before for cruel and inhumane treatment of animals. If you think there is a way to slaughter horses that is humane please think again maybe you should watch a video of horses being butchered while they are still alive and see how humane it really isn't. Horse slaughter plants are not only cruel to the animals but they are cruel to the environment also. Horses are not suppose to be for human consumption.



Joe on April 16, 2012 at 12:34 pm

Karla

Could you show the proof that this plant was closed before. I think you are making claims that you can not prove. It is strange how the press makes people guilty.

Are you saying that horse slaughter in America is as bad as the ma and pa plants in Mexico. The plants in Mexico that ship to the EU are done humanely. There is more meat shipped to other countries than the EU countries put together. China alone consumes more horse meat.. As far as food safety goes it is inspected the same as beef, looking and testing for residue.



Denise on April 17, 2012 at 7:02 am

Here ya' are, Joe (re shut down):

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/FOIA/07299M_Suspension_022912.pdf

And I'm still waiting for your FACTUAL source that Gov Martinez is in HSUS's pocket.

The rest of your post is even more nonsensical.



lisag on April 16, 2012 at 5:03 pm

Joe,

why are you defending this guy? He has been quoted in other articles as saying his business shut down due to the price of cattle. This letter from the USDA shows otherwise. His slaughter line was halted by the FDA, inspectors pulled, and his company SUSPENDED from operating per this Feb. 29, 2012 letter from the USDA

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/FOIA/07299M_Suspension_022912.pdf



Denise on April 17, 2012 at 6:58 am

Thank you lisag.

Maybe Joe will take the time to read it! And note, this was revealed via a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. I went to fsis.usda to find their Quarterly Reports regarding non-compliance, withdrawal of inspection, etc. I couldn't find squat. I suspect it is a FOIA requirement issue.

Don't you just love the transparency of our food system!?!?



3. [Anna](#) on April 16, 2012 at 12:53 pm

an activity is either humane, or it is not. Horse slaughter, in and of itself, is inherently inhumane. That the horror and pain inflicted on the animal before he succumbs is entirely unnecessary makes it even more cruel. We don't eat our horses here. Then you have all the other associated issues, including increased crime in the area.



4. [Carole](#) on April 16, 2012 at 2:06 pm

Doesn't the fact that so many low end auction houses, kill buyer transports, feed lots, and slaughter house owners have broken the law and continue to ignore current regulations raise enough of a red flag that this shouldn't even be an issue anymore? Thank goodness that public awareness and revulsion from the corrupt horse slaughter industry is on the rise.



o [Suzanne Moore](#) on April 17, 2012 at 10:46 am

Absolutely! I think one of our problems in getting through to the public is that they picture the horse slaughter business like they picture the cattle business, and the two industries couldn't be more different. Cattle aren't acquired one by one by petty criminals who have no qualms about lying, stealing or just about anything else. Cattle aren't purchased fraudulently from individual owners who would never knowingly sell them for slaughter.

Then, there are the food safety issues. Cattle are raised for human consumption from the moment they are born. They get permanent ID, meticulous records are kept and usually the one that bred them is the one who sells them. WE all know how totally different the scenario is for horses.

It is appalling to me that a few special interests can force our government to not only ignore the overwhelming will of the American people, but also continue to knowingly sell tainted meat to people in other countries. What would the govt. do if it were Americans eating this stuff?



5. [Denise](#) on April 17, 2012 at 9:49 am

Joe is not responding to FACTUAL statements again....lisag posted and I reposted link information via FOIA from USDA (no less).....NO response.

I earlier asked Joe to cite campaign contribution data that Gov Martinez is a shill for HSUS....NO response.

Suzanne Moore brought up the most important issues regarding HCHS....food safety for humans AND cruel handling/slaughter of US equines; also, bovines ARE NOT INSPECTED the same as equines. Some regs (handling, etc) are but what is inspected for and tested for are NOT.



o [Suzanne Moore](#) on April 18, 2012 at 9:41 am

Does Joe – or any of the others – ever respond to FACTUAL statements?



Denise on April 19, 2012 at 8:41 am

No...they don't, but at some point because they DO NOT RESPOND FACTUALLY, they lose their right to credibility and therefore, the right to speak because they lack that credibility (FACTS).

If he wants to post his OPINION, that is another thing and I'll tolerate the noise.

Hey Joe, get your side to stop throwing around terms like Communists, terrorists, radicals, Nazis and socialists. You might get more street cred.



Gene on April 20, 2012 at 12:43 pm

Dennise

Sorry I can not fix stupid



Suzanne Moore on April 21, 2012 at 5:51 pm

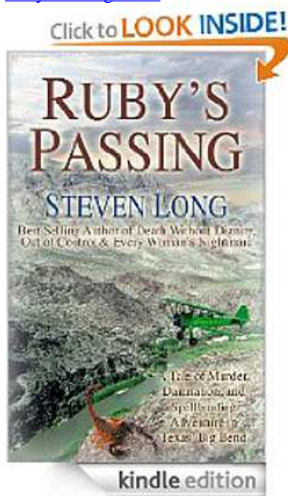
Obviously, Gene.



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THE HUMANE SOCIETY
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MARCH 27, 2012

Humane Groups Petition FDA to Block Companion, Working and Show Horses from Being Slaughtered for Human Consumption

Meat From Horses Not Raised For Food Presents Public Health Hazard
Front Range Equine Rescue

Front Range Equine Rescue and The Humane Society of the United States filed a legal petition with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to prevent former companion, working, competition and wild horses from being used as human food. The petition alleges that the drugs given to these horses throughout their lives are banned by FDA and/or potentially dangerous to humans. Using these horses for human consumption creates an unacceptable and illegal public health threat under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

Current FDA rules do not require sufficient testing or documentation to ensure that former companion and other non-livestock horses slaughtered for human food do not contain or have not been administered prohibited substances. The “killer-buyers” who acquire these horses typically have no concern or knowledge about the horses’ prior history before shipping them off to inhumane deaths in slaughter facilities. Unlike cattle, pigs, poultry, and other livestock, which are raised on the farm, horses are swept up by a predatory industry from a variety of sources—former race horses, carriage horses, family ponies, and others which are routinely given drugs and medications not fit for human consumption.

“The slaughter of American horses for meat is an unnecessary and tragic end for these icons of our nation’s history,” said Hilary Wood, president of FRER. “Horses are treated with many different drugs throughout their lives because horse owners don’t expect they could end up as meat. Horses often have many uses during their lives, from show rings to trail riding to therapy programs. Their lives should not end with an arduous journey to a terrifying death to be turned into an expensive and potentially toxic dinner.”

The petition requests that FDA certify all horses and horse meat from American horses as “unqualified” for human consumption. This action is especially timely because in November 2011, Congress authorized the inspection of horses for slaughter in America, something that had been prohibited since 2006. Businesses looking to start up American horse slaughterhouses have been actively promoting horse meat, even though the animals were never intended to be food. These businesses and their misguided investors are proceeding despite their awareness that virtually every U.S. horse who ends up at slaughter has been exposed to a plethora of dangerous drugs, many of which are specifically outlawed for animals intended for food.

The FDA does not adequately regulate this flow of potentially toxic meat, despite the human health and animal welfare risks associated with it. The petition documents more than 110 examples of drugs and other substances which are or should be prohibited in food-producing horses, describes the horrible way in which horses die at slaughterhouses, and outlines the environmental devastation caused by horse slaughter plants in local communities.

Facts

- More than 100,000 American horses are sent to slaughter each year, mainly for consumption in Europe and Asia.
- The slaughter pipeline is horribly cruel, with many of the horses suffering immensely during transport and the misguided and often repeated attempts to render them unconscious. USDA documented the abuse and misery horses suffered at slaughterhouses in the U.S.
- Virtually all the horses used for meat spend most of their lives as work, competition or sport horses, companion animals, or wild horses.
- During their lives, horses who end up at slaughter are given a constant regimen of drugs and other substances which are either illegal for food animals, or are potentially dangerous to people who eat them.
- Under the current rules and regulations, there is no safeguard in place that can protect against the consumption of unsafe toxins in horse meat.
- Consumers do not know of the inherent dangers because there is no control over the drug residues.

-30-

Media Contacts:

Hilary Wood/FREER, 719-481-1490 info@frontrangeequinerescue.org

Stephanie Twining/HSUS, 301-258-1491 stwining@humanesociety.org

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The Humane Society of the United States is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to The Humane Society of the United States are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. The HSUS's tax identification number is 53-0225390.

November 29, 2012

TO: Melissa Y. Mascareñas
Inspection of Public Records Officer
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive, Ste. N-4050
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Email: melissa.mascarenas@state.nm.us

FROM: Adam Diederich
Schiff Hardin LLP
233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 6600
Chicago, IL 60606
adiederich@schiffhardin.com
Tel: (312) 258-5686

Sent By Email

Re: *Renewed New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act Request for Information
Regarding Valley Meat Company*

Dear Ms. Mascareñas:

Please accept this letter as a request under the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act, N.M. STAT. ANN. § 14-2-8.

On behalf of Front Range Equine Rescue (“FRER”), I request any and all documents that the New Mexico Environment Department Solid Waste Bureau (the “SWB”) has concerning Valley Meat Company (also known as Pecos Valley Meat Co.), 3845 Cedarvale Rd., Roswell, New Mexico 88203, pursuant to N.M. CODE R. § 21.33.2.20(F). In particular, please send the following:

- Any documents or correspondence regarding the August 2, 2012 Administrative Compliance Order, No. SWB 12-16 (CO) issued to Valley Meat Company, LLC;
- Any documents or correspondence regarding Valley Meat’s request for a public hearing and Answer;
- Any documents or correspondence regarding Valley Meat’s abatement plan; and
- Any documents or correspondence regarding settlement of the Administrative Compliance Order.

As the SWB’s response to our previous request (sent October 24, 2012) led to the production of documents available to the SWB prior to that request, please supplement your response by only producing documents not included in your prior response.

Melissa Y. Mascareñas, Inspection of Public Records Officer
New Mexico Department of Environment
November 29, 2012
Page 2

If you deny any part of this request, please cite each specific reason that you believe justifies your refusal to release the information and notify me of appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Records responsive to this request can be mailed or emailed to me at the addresses listed above. I request that any responses be provided by email. If the charges to respond to this request will exceed \$100 please call or email me to discuss.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Adam Diederich

Adam Diederich

On behalf of Hilary Wood
President/Founder
Front Range Equine Rescue

Ashley-Marx, Auralie, NMENV

From: Ashley-Marx, Auralie, NMENV
Sent: Monday, December 03, 2012 12:34 PM
To: 'elynych@schiffhardin.com'; Diederich, Adam (ADiederich@schiffhardin.com)
Cc: Mascarenas, Melissa, NMENV
Subject: Public Information Request
Attachments: Public Records Request 2012.11.29.pdf.pdf

I have reviewed the attached request. The Solid Waste Bureau has nothing further that is responsive to the first three bullets in your request, as we previously provided you with everything from the file that pertained to those items. It is my understanding from Misty Braswell, Attorney from NMED's General Counsel office that she provided Mark Wagman a copy of the executed Valley Meat Settlement Agreement via email last week. Mr. Wagman is also employed a SchiffHarden, and he should be able to provide you with a copy of the agreement. SWB has no other documents that are responsive to the request.

From: Lynch, Erika [<mailto:elynych@schiffhardin.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2012 2:55 PM
To: Mascarenas, Melissa, NMENV
Cc: Diederich, Adam
Subject: Public Records Request

Please see the attached request. Thank you.



Erika Lynch
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