

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES.

OFFICERS

David O. Wiebers, M.D.
Chair of the Board

Anita W. Coupe, Esq.
Vice Chair

Amy Freeman Lee, Litt.D.
Secretary

Paul G. Irwin
President, CEO

Andrew N. Rowan, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President/Chief of Staff

G. Thomas Waite III
Treasurer, CFO

Patricia A. Forkan
Executive Vice President

Roger A. Kindler, Esq.
Vice President/General Counsel

STAFF VICE PRESIDENTS

Martha C. Armstrong
*Senior Vice President
Companion Animals
and Equine Protection*

John W. Grandy, Ph.D.
*Senior Vice President
Wildlife Programs*

Wayne Pabelle
*Senior Vice President
Communications and
Government Affairs*

Michael C. Appleby, B.Sc., Ph.D.
*Farm Animals and
Sustainable Agriculture*

Katherine Benedict
*Administration, Information
Services, and Technology*

Richard M. Clugston, Ph.D.
Higher Education

Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.
Research and Educational Outreach

Steve Putnam
*Business Development and
Corporate Relations*

Robert G. Roop, Ph.D., SPHR
Human Resources and Education

Melissa Seide Rubin, Esq.
Field and Disaster Services

Martin L. Stephens, Ph.D.
Animal Research Issues

Richard W. Swain Jr.
Investigative Services

Gretchen Wyler
Hollywood Office

DIRECTORS

Patricia Mares Asip
Peter A. Bender

Donald W. Cashen, Ph.D.
Anita W. Coupe, Esq.

Judi Friedman
Alice R. Garey

David John Jhirad, Ph.D.
Jennifer Leaning, M.D.

Amy Freeman Lee, Litt.D.
Franklin M. Loew, D.V.M.

Eugene W. Lorenz
Jack W. Lydman

William F. Mancuso
Patrick L. McDonnell

Judy J. Peil
Joe Ramsey, Esq.

Jeffery O. Rose
James D. Ross, Esq.

Marilyn G. Seyler
Maurice F. Strong, P.C., C.C., LL.D.

John E. Taft
David O. Wiebers, M.D.

Marilyn E. Wilhelm
K. William Wiseman

John A. Hoyt
President Emeritus

Murdaugh Stuart Madden, Esq.
Vice President/Senior Counsel

NGO in general consultative status
with the Economic and Social Council
of the United Nations

Printed on recycled paper.

April 26, 2005

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 503, H.R. 297 AND S. 576

I am writing to support the efforts of The Humane Society of the United States and other animal protection groups working to protect our precious American wild horses and burros. This week's news of 41 wild horses being sold to buyers who then immediately resold them directly or indirectly to the horse slaughterhouse in Illinois is heartbreaking, but not unexpected.

If the American people knew that their wild horses are now being auctioned off to the highest bidder, the ubiquitous "killer buyers," they would be appalled. The best hope for those who stand to profit by sending our horses to slaughter and for the politicians responsible for this travesty is that voters never learn the fate of these public treasures. Thankfully, U.S. Representative Nick Rahall (D-WV), U.S. Representative Ed Whitfield (R-KY), and Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) have taken action to prevent wild horse slayings by introducing H.R. 297/S. 576, bills to prohibit the commercial sale of wild horses and burros. I also commend U.S. Representatives John Sweeney (R-NY) and John Spratt (D-NY) for their leadership in sponsoring H.R. 503, a bill banning all horse slaughter in the U.S., long overdue as there is no domestic demand for horsemeat and our horses are currently killed and shipped to Europe and Japan for consumption. I write in support of this legislation and to express my shock and dismay over the news of the first blood shed under the Burns amendment. I stand with the bills' sponsors, animal protection groups, and the American public in demanding that this legislation be passed without delay. We cannot afford to wait another day while our horses' lives hang in the balance.

Sincerely,

Promoting the protection of all animals

2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037 ■ 202-452-1100 ■ Fax: 202-778-6132 ■ www.hsus.org