



## THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

September 30, 2012

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Mr. Klaus Biesenbach  
Director, MoMA PS1  
22-25 Jackson Ave.  
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Mr. Biesenbach,

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States, I am writing to express our concern that the Museum of Modern Art has decided to permit The M. Wells Dinette at PS1 to serve horsemeat on its menu. In addition to supporting an inhumane industry, serving horsemeat, raw or cooked, presents serious food safety risks for consumers.

Horses, whether wild or domestic, are routinely treated with common veterinary drugs and other chemical substances throughout their lives that are known to be dangerous to humans if eaten, untested on humans, or banned by the Food and Drug Administration for use in food producing animals. Horses are given wormers, "bute" and over 100 other commonly used substances that could cause serious harm to anyone who eats their meat. There is currently no adequate safeguard in place to ensure that U.S. horsemeat, regardless of where the animal is slaughtered, is safe for human consumption. There is no system for recording medications given to these horses over the course of their lives and therefore no reliable method of removal from the food chain once they have been given prohibited substances. Horses are administered painkillers, diuretics, sedatives, steroids, antibiotics, antibacterial compounds and a litany of other pharmaceutical substances that can have serious negative health impacts if ingested by humans. The HSUS has filed petitions with the FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which are included with this letter, to provide you with more information and greater details on the food safety risks posed by horse meat consumption.

Horse slaughter is not humane euthanasia and is a betrayal of our trusted companions. Horses suffer greatly once they are bound for slaughter, often shipped long distances in cattle trucks which are not tall enough for horses to fully stand up. Horses are flight animals, which often makes them difficult to stun and the slaughter process clumsy. The entire pipeline of horse slaughter, including auctions and transport in crowded trailers in excess of 24 hours in freezing cold or oppressive heat, is abusive. The slaughter process is horribly cruel and many horses suffer during the misguided and often repeated attempts to render them unconscious. In fact, a recent poll in the U.S. confirmed that 80% of Americans oppose horse slaughter for these very reasons. Americans do not eat their companion animals. We urge MoMA to reconsider The M. Wells Dinette's misguided proposal to serve horsemeat and to

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remove this dangerous and inhumane item from its menu to protect consumers and spare our equine companions pain and suffering.

The HSUS is available to assist you and your board of directors by providing additional information that may assist in your consideration of this matter, which, as you know, has generated much public concern and negative publicity.

Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience with questions or thoughts regarding this matter or with general questions about The Humane Society of the United States.

Sincerely,

*Brian Shapiro*

Brian Shapiro  
New York State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States