

Fact Sheet

Support H.R. 6598 Conyers-Burton “Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008”

On July 24, 2008, the Conyers-Burton Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008 (H.R. 6598) was introduced to protect our horses from slaughter. So far in the 110th Congress, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503/S. 311) has not yet been enacted because it has been blocked by House committee leaders.

H.R. 6598 Prohibits the Slaughter of Horses for Human Consumption in the U.S., and the Export of Horses for Slaughter (as does H.R. 503). It was introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) and Representative Dan Burton (R-IN), and will be considered by the Judiciary committee. We believe H.R. 6598 has a much stronger chance of passage than H.R. 503, as its lead sponsor - Rep. Conyers - is the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, while H.R. 503 is stuck in committees whose leadership is unfriendly to the issue, despite its majority support in the House.

Horse Slaughter is Inherently Cruel. H.R. 6598 addresses the inherent cruelty in allowing the slaughter of our horses for human consumption. The inhumane transport over unbearably long distances, coupled with the horrifying methods of killing and difficulty of stunning horses prior to slaughter, are unacceptable to the American people and must be halted.

H.R. 6598 Prohibits the Export of Horses for Slaughter. In 2007, Texas and Illinois shut down the last three remaining horse slaughterhouses (which were all foreign-owned) under state law, but now American horses are being shipped even longer distances to Mexico or Canada for slaughter. The same numbers of horses have been slaughtered so far this year, indicating that the problem is very serious and requires a federal solution. H.R. 6598 will stop American horses from being sent by the truckload over the borders for slaughter.

H.R. 6598 Only Affects Horses Going to Slaughter. Paperwork at the borders already requires all horse transporters to clearly identify whether horses are going to slaughter. Any misinformation on these forms carries stiff penalties under the False Claims Act.

It is Time for Congress to Finally Pass this Ban. Past congressional actions on horse slaughter have demonstrated an overwhelmingly strong, bipartisan desire to prohibit killing horses for human consumption. In the 109th Congress, legislation to stop horse slaughter passed the House of Representatives numerous times by a margin of more than 100 votes, and passed the Senate by a more than two-to-one margin. Unfortunately, Congress has failed to enact a permanent ban.

***With your help we can finally protect our horses from this cruel fate.
Please urge your U.S. Representative to cosponsor H.R. 6598.***



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2100 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20037

t 202.452.1100 f 202.778.6132 humanesociety.org