

# Fact Sheet

## Please support the **Landrieu Amendment to the FY10 T-HUD Appropriations Bill** **to Ban Double-Decker Trailers for Horse Transportation**

### **Double-deckers are Not Designed for Horse Transport.**

- Double-decker trailers can have ceiling heights as low as 5' 7", but the industry standard is between 7 and 8 feet. **Horses need at least an 8-foot ceiling.** According to the USDA, an equine can be 8 feet tall when standing on all four legs and close to 12 feet tall when rearing. Without an 8 foot ceiling, horses cannot maintain their balance and may fall and be injured or killed during transport.
- These trailers are made for livestock such as cattle and pigs, animals that do not use their heads and necks for balance. Horses also routinely throw their heads and rear, unlike cattle and pigs.
- USDA has stated that, "We do not believe that equines can be safely and humanely transported on a conveyance that has an animal cargo space divided into two or more stacked levels." (9 CFR Parts 70 and 88)

### **Double-deckers When Used for Horse Transport are Dangerous.**

- Several catastrophic accidents have occurred because this dangerous practice has been allowed to continue:
  - In 2006, a double-decker truck hauling 41 horses in Missouri crashed and resulted in the death of 16 horses.
  - In 2007, a double-decker carrying 59 horses in Illinois struck another vehicle after blowing through a stop sign. It took five hours to rescue the horses from this mangled truck, resulted in the death of 9 horses and 6 died later due to injuries sustained.
  - See photographs from these accidents below. Note that the design of the trailers caused horses to lose portions of their legs, break their backs and others were crushed under the weight of other horses falling on top of them.

### **Only a Uniform Federal Law can Prevent this Cruel Form of Transport .**

Six states have banned the use of double-deckers for any type of horse transport: Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Other states, including Arizona, California, Minnesota, and Virginia have various state laws regulating their use. A uniform federal law is needed to eliminate confusion from a myriad of state laws on horse transport.



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**USDA Only has Authority to Ban Horse Transport to Slaughter, NOT for All Purposes.**

→In 1996, the Commercial Transportation of Horses for Slaughter Act was passed. This Act gave the Secretary of USDA the authority to regulate use of double-decker trailers used in the transport of horses on their way to slaughter. This is a very narrow authority and does not give the Secretary the ability to regulate double-decker trailers used for horse transport for other purposes other than slaughter.

**Warning: Graphic Photos of Double Decker Trailer Accident (MO, 2006)**

