

Together Let's Pass The SAFE ACT

(The Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act-U.S. H.R. 113/ S. 1706)

to Ban Horse Slaughter

What exactly is The SAFE Act? It is a ten year old federal bill introduced by the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate in 2017.* When passed, it will prevent the underground horse slaughter industry from establishing and maintaining U.S. operations and will outlaw the sale and transport of America's horses to Mexico, Canada and overseas for slaughter.

Why are horses shipped out of the US for slaughter? First, you need to know the word "SAFE" is an acronym for "Safeguard American Food Exports." America's horses are largely slaughtered for human consumption abroad. Not only is horse slaughter grossly inhumane but the meat is not safe for human consumption due to the high amount of toxic residue in the flesh from medications.

What else do I need to know? Until the bill passes the House and the Senate and the federal ban is enforced, no American equine is safe - not your horse, not your friend's horse, not the cute little pony at your kid's summer camp and certainly not the race horse you enjoyed watching or bet on at the race track. Horse owners frequently unknowingly trade or sell their beloved steed to a local horse sales barn, trainer or trader who will in turn frequently will send the horse to auction. There it stands roughly a 50% chance of being purchased by a predatory kill buyer for shipping to slaughter. Once at the kill lots these horses are often abused, starved, deprived of water and rest. They catch horrific illnesses and suffer extreme injuries that go untreated. Many have had their teeth knocked out, their mouths wired shut or an eye gouged with a screwdriver or pipe to make "quiet them down". At the very least, they are terrified, confused and wonder where their owner is.

If a mare delivers a foal in the kill lot it will be pulled away from her and left to die, sometimes thrown into dumpsters alive! Equines not fortunate enough to be rescued out of these lots are squeezed in to overloaded stock trailers and shipped very long distances, frequently for days, without food, water or rest. It is not uncommon for a horse (or 2 or 3..or 4) to fall during transport and, unable to stand back up due to crowded conditions, die or are seriously wounded from being trampled by the others. In their final moments these horses will be eviscerated alive...MOST will be conscious! US HORSE WELFARE AND RESCUE WANTS TO END THIS!!!

Who is on board to pass The SAFE Act? In addition to support from the ASPCA and the Humane Society of the U.S, there are now 218 co-sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives! Since there are 435 House members, we now have support from just over half of our Congressmen. This means that if we can get this taken to the floor it SHOULD pass. But, that is a narrow margin. We need more Representatives onboard and we need either Paul Ryan, the House WHIP or the House Majority Leader to bring it to the floor.... Those in the know feel our best chance is to get House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of CA to bring it to the floor. You can write to him as follows; **Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Leader, 2421 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.** Or call his office at (202) 225 2915, Fax(202)225-2908. Hours M-F 9-6. Since CA already has a ban on the sale and transport of horses for slaughter it makes sense to push for Kevin McCarthy to get it to the floor.

Once passed in the House our work is not done, for we must pass it in the Senate too. Every week that we fail to pass this bill sends 2000 to 3000 American horses to slaughter. So, we must reach out to all of our Senators, thank those who support it and put pressure on those Senators who do not support the bill. **WE MUST BE THEIR VOICE!**

This is what YOU can do!

Knowing the facts is crucial! We at US Horse Welfare and Rescue frequently hear the words “*I didn’t know.*” Become educated on the topic, become an Ambassador for the horses, an Advocate helping to educate others and a voice for the voiceless! Do this by talking to friends, family, equine owners and anyone else you can get to hear you for 2 minutes. Give them a copy of this and our tri-fold brochure or send them to our website. Most Americans have no idea that this underground horse slaughter pipeline, well hidden from the average individual’s view, is a multimillion dollar a year business at the expense of these horses.

Take action immediately! We need to pass this in 2019. Reach out to your Congressmen and Senators. Politicians give each personally hand written letter the same weight as 200 phone calls. If handwritten is not possible then send an email, tell your personal story as to why passing this bill is important. Perhaps your story is just that you did not know and how it impacts you to think of these voiceless trusting horses, once loved by someone, succumbing to slaughter and being hung up and cut up alive and conscious. If nothing else make a phone call, clearly the horses appreciate your efforts, whatever they may be! Please ALWAYS be polite. Urge your politician to join in supporting the bill, be a co-sponsor and push to the floor for a vote. **The Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act – U.S. H.R. 113/S. 1706.** Or if your member of Congress is already a co-sponsor of the SAFE Act bill, say thank you!!