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# It's as if they are saying "don't confuse us with the facts."

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Last year nearly 50,000 American horses were slaughtered in two foreign-owned slaughter houses (one French and one Belgian), and the meat from these slaughtered horses was sent to those two countries (among others) for human consumption.

Incredibly, these activities have their apologists, prominent among them the American Association of Equine Practitioners. The AAEP opposes legislation (HR 857) which would outlaw horse slaughter for human consumption and which now has enough co-sponsors (over 230) to pass the House of Representatives. However, they and those who share their opinions have been successful so far in keeping this legislation from reaching the floor of the House of Representatives, thus thwarting the will of the U.S. Congress and the American people.

We feel it necessary to clarify that we are not talking about veterinarians, many of whom are in the vanguard of those who want to stop slaughter. We are talking about the political organization which purports to represent them. We have well known veterinarians who support our cause and are on our board.

As a matter of fact, the companion Senate bill to ban slaughter was introduced by Senator John Ensign of Nevada after hearing out the arguments of the AAEP.

Senator Ensign is a veterinarian.

Here are the facts. These horses have served us all their lives. Condemning them to a horrible end is being deemed, incredibly, necessary because they may suffer if unwanted. This ignores the fact that they will inevitably suffer horrors if slaughtered.

The AAEP also ignores the fact that some of these horses are stolen and some bought under false pretenses ("We'll find a good home for him.").

From the time they are sold at a killer auction, these horses are hauled from sale to sale while the killer buyer builds a load, in vehicles where they are often unable to stand, some with fractures, without food or water for up to 28 hours. They end up in a terrifying place reeking of blood, where they are stunned by a captive bolt, and then slaughtered. Anyone who thinks the captive bolt device is handled by a horse lover, or that it always works the first time (or the second either) had better think again,

In the eyes of the AAEP this is the equivalent of humane euthanasia. We believe horse slaughter exists for one reason: money. It allows an uncaring, irresponsible person to walk away from a problem feeling just fine about it, and pocket a few hundred dollars along the way.

The justification of slaughter by a group representing healers is inexplicable.



Support the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (HR 857)

**To make a secure online donation or to learn more about this issue  
please visit: [www.horse-protection.org](http://www.horse-protection.org)**