



# The Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act

The SAFE Act prohibits slaughtering horses for human consumption and shipping American horses to other countries for that purpose. Horse slaughter is inherently inhumane, overwhelmingly unpopular with the public, and promotes a predatory industry that makes rescuing horses more difficult. Yet every year, tens of thousands of American horses are transported across our northern and southern borders and killed for human consumption. That is why we need the SAFE Act.

## Resources are shifting.

Positive changes are happening throughout the equine welfare community as industry, private owners, and rescue groups work together towards a common goal – good welfare for all equines. The ASPCA's Equine Welfare department is directly addressing welfare risks to horses, building programs to increase adoptions and keep horses in good homes.

Resources and investment in welfare initiatives mean that more American horses are being retrained, rehomed, and rehabilitated safely. Support from The Jockey Club, the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, and the U.S. Trotting Association signals mounting energy around programs to help horses. It is time to finally end the slaughter. This unnecessary industry has been a scar on the horse community for too long. As many more options for horses emerge, it is time to permanently protect horses from this fate by passing this bill.

## Homes are available.

More good news: More homes are available for horses in transition than previously thought. In 2017, Edge Research, commissioned by the ASPCA, published data showing that 2.3 million adults in the U.S. (1.2 million households) have both the desire and resources to immediately adopt a horse. This suggests there are more than enough homes available to provide a soft landing for horses in the slaughter pipeline. Our mission now is less about creating homes for horses, and more about connecting those homes with the right horses.

## Slaughter-related side effects are mounting.

The horse slaughter industry itself is a barrier to rehoming horses. Kill-buyers frequent auctions and actively outbid private buyers and rescue groups. Many of these horses would not need rescuing if a slaughter ban were in place. The slaughter industry prizes healthy, fit horses – USDA data showed that 92.3% of horses slaughtered in the U.S. were in good condition. These horses could find homes if given the chance. Instead, rescue groups are forced to divert scarce resources from other lifesaving work in order to compete with the predatory industry.

Also, the option of slaughter encourages horse theft, with kill-buyers posing as responsible adopters. Many distressed owners have contacted the ASPCA and the media, hoping to recover their horses from fraudulent buyers. Lastly, owners who can no longer provide adequate care for their horse often choose to hold on to them for too long, fearing that every horse is just one bad sale away from the slaughterhouse.

## A permanent ban is the solution.

Without a federal ban in place, American horses will go to slaughter. No matter how many we rescue, save from kill pens, and rehome, if the demand exists, so will the predatory industry.

Despite the equine community's new energy around welfare initiatives, horses will continue to go to slaughter, and the negative consequences of the slaughter industry will persist. Equine industry understands this, which is why The Jockey Club, the U.S. Trotting Association, the Stronach Group, and many others support this bill. A permanent federal ban is the only way to ensure that no more American horses meet this cruel fate.

## Did you know?

Approximately 0.3% of the total U.S. horse population (20,400 horses) went to slaughter in 2023.

2.3 million adults (1.2 million households) have the resources and the desire to immediately adopt a horse.

Every horse going to slaughter has a home waiting – if given the chance to find it.

## Support this bill – give horses a second chance.

