

THIS HORSE WAS NOT RAISED TO BE SOMEONE'S DINNER



HOT BISCUIT, A DESCENDANT OF SEABISCUIT,
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“For over 200 years, Americans have had a romance with the horse. It is a sordid and shameful act to end such a relationship by butchering the object of one’s affection.”

— JOHN S. RAINEY

Over 90,000 American horses are butchered each year for human consumption overseas. When Americans learn about the way our horses are transported to the three foreign-owned slaughter houses in this country and then brutally slaughtered, we are horrified. But are we horrified enough to do something about it? There are powerful individuals and groups in this country who hope we are not. We won’t dignify the rationales they put forward for this deplorable practice by printing them here; let them do that on their own nickel. But if you believe that our horses hold a special place in our culture and in our hearts, here are five things that must happen now:

“Here are these exquisite, immensely powerful creatures, who willingly give us their labor in return for our stewardship. They have attended us throughout history, bearing us across frontiers and into battle, pulling our plows, thrilling us in sport, warming us with their beauty. We owe them more than we can ever repay. To send these trusting creatures to slaughter is beneath their dignity and ours.”

—LAURA HILLENBRAND, AUTHOR OF SEABISCUIT

1. END THE SLAUGHTER: Special interest groups are secretly thwarting the will of Congress and the American people. Legislation doesn’t seem to work. In 2004, when there was a bill to stop the slaughter of horses for human consumption with enough co-sponsors to pass the House without even a hearing (228), Representative Bob Goodlatte held the bill hostage in committee. It couldn’t get to the floor where it would have been passed in a bipartisan vote. In 2005, in yet another attempt to honor the will of the people, an amendment was added to an Agricultural Appropriation Bill that was passed by both Houses of Congress making it illegal to use federal funds to inspect the horsemeat, thereby stopping horse slaughter. However, special interest groups reached out to Representative Henry Bonilla and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, seeing to it that the amendment was nullified and ensuring that the slaughter would continue. This action successfully subverted the intent of the amendment, completely ignoring the will of the people and the Congress, even though this amendment had been passed by astounding margins, in a truly bipartisan effort and signed into law by the President.

2. END THE HORROR: The entire process, from transport to slaughter, is unspeakably brutal. Dr. John K. Griggs, a respected equine practitioner in central Kentucky for over four decades and the only veterinarian to have ever bought, owned and trained an Eclipse Award winner, has this to say: “From the time a horse is picked up by the killer buyer he is meat on the hoof, and that is the way he is treated. In a journey which can take days, or occasionally weeks, he is jammed into trucks, often where he cannot even stand, and left to fend for himself among the load of other terrified horses. Some of these horses actually have fractures and are in great pain. USDA regulations state that they can go 28 hours without food and water (bad enough) and even this is unenforceable. (It would require a USDA representative on every truck to enforce it.) When the horse reaches the slaughter house, death is by captive bolt and if anyone thinks this always works the first time, we have a film they should see. As a veterinarian I realize the inevitability of euthanasia in certain cases, but to equate the slaughter process with humane euthanasia is the height of hypocrisy.”

3. END THE LIES. Horses are often brought to slaughter under false pretenses. Many of the horses brought to auction are sold to “killer buyers,” and their owners have no idea that their beloved animal will be sent to a slaughterhouse. Some owners are assured that their horse will end up in a “good home.” Some are actually stolen. All deserve a better end, administered by caring hands, in peaceful surroundings.

4. END THE IGNORANCE. The vast majority of Americans are unaware of this horrific practice. In four independent polls, 66% to 75% of Americans who were unaware of this practice were horrified and disgusted when they learned about it. It continues because most Americans are still unaware and because the proponents of horse slaughter want to keep it that way. In Texas, where two of the three slaughterhouses flourish, 89% of the people in that state didn’t know what was going on.

5. END THE IRRESPONSIBILITY. The decision must be in the hands of the American people. Let your feelings be known. Contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives and tell them you support the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (S. 1915 and H.R. 503) banning the slaughter of American horses. For more information, contact www.horse-protection.org. You can end the slaughter.



www.SaveTheHorses.org

Horse Rescue, Relief and Retirement Fund, Inc. (HRRRFI)

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