

CCQHA
COW COUNTRY QUARTER HORSE
ASSOCIATION

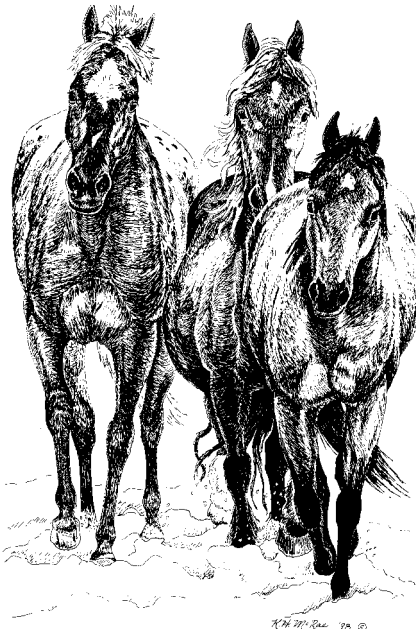
MAY NEWSLETTER

HORSE SLAUGHTER ISSUE

By the time this newsletter reaches you, it will most likely be too late to make any comment to lawmakers regarding the horse slaughter issue. There was a strong campaign via email urging horse owners to campaign against this bill however so you have probably received all the information that was distributed if you have an email address.

I am not going to address the same issues as everyone else already has however. There are aspects of horse slaughter that do bother me. However, there are also aspects of having government and animal rights activists thinking they know what is best for me that is similarly as disturbing. I did a little research on this topic and here is what I found.

Did you know that the consumption of horse meat in Europe has gone on for hundreds of years but recently heightened due to the outbreaks of food transmissible diseases such as BSE and FMD??



Did you know that the actual meat from the horse is but one product? Other products include baseball covers, shoes, leather products, pharmaceuticals used in open heart surgery, violin bows, pet food, fertilizer, and feed for zoo animals, some of which are endangered species dependent on horsemeat.

Did you know that horse slaughter plants have regular testing for equine infectious anemia with trace backs to herds of origin in order to prevent the further spread of this disease?

Did you know that many of the veterinary schools use specific horse parts for teaching purposes (legs, feet, reproductive tracts)?

Did you know that the equine pericardia is used in many lifesaving products including the equine pericardial patch, valve replacement, cardiopulmonary bypass, left-ventricular assist device implantation, and numerous other procedures?

Did you know that all three of the existing horse slaughter plants are Belgian owned companies? Although I don't have this verified, it is suspected that these companies operate at a loss here in the US and benefit significantly from the marketing of their products abroad—primarily in Europe and Asia. However, they still employ people, pay property taxes and generate significant offshoot revenues for businesses such as trucking.

Did you know that at present all three slaughter operations are effectively shut-

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *General Meeting at the Olive Hotel, Monday, May 7, 2007*
- *Consignments for CCQHA Horse Sale must be post-marked no later than July 2nd, 2007*
- *CCQHA Open Horse Show, EMHSC Circuit, July 9-10, 2007*
- *Open Ranch Horse Competition, August 4, 2007*
- *August 29-30, 2007, Futurities, Barrel Race, Roping, Horse Sale*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HORSE	2
SLAUGHTER (COTD)	3
CCQHA SALE	3
CCQHA STAL- LION & MARE NOMINATIONS	4

HORSE SLAUGHTER (COTD.)

down due to the fact that in March a U.S. district court in Washington ordered USDA to stop the fee-for-service horse meat inspections. Whether the slaughter ban is passed or not is a moot point. In late April, some 200 head of horses that were headed for the Dekalb, IL plant were diverted to Canada since the plant could not obtain inspections.

Did you know that many of the horses that end up at slaughter plants are not sick or old? In fact, those horses are the minority.

On a daily basis, I get emails and written correspondence urging me to contact lawmakers to express my concern about this issue. I guess I am concerned. My concern is that I do realize there are a lot of people producing horses with no concern for what their true end is. On rare occasions when I have a horse that is unusable, unsound or otherwise needing to be disposed of, I have an outlet for that and am lucky. A person in my area has mountain lions as pets and requires a large amount of horse meat annually since that is the preferred diet of these animals. Rather than hauling horses to a market where the end is being loaded on a truck and transported to slaughter some many states away, I haul my horse down the road a few miles and it is put down in a humane manner promptly by people who care about animals and treat them with dig-

nity. Then, the animal is utilized. I receive some monetary compensation. Albeit maybe not as much as a "weigh-up" horse, I am assured I know what the end was for my horse and it was utilized in a useful manner.

I don't produce horses for the intent of slaughter. I realize there is an impact to the horse industry and maybe other slaughter industries if these plants are closed. But maybe there DOES need to be some adjustment to the production levels of these animals. Technology, pride, prestige, competition, greed, laziness and even ignorance all lead to the production of more and more horses. And, horses don't all have a wonderful life. Many never receive necessary basic care let alone expensive health items such as vaccinations. Foals are produced indiscriminantly and accidentally through poor management. There is little education to teach people that the initial cost of the horse is minute compared to the ongoing cost of caring and maintaining one. I have seen horses come through a ring as "weigh up" horses when they were injured or had previous injuries assuring me that the most humane end for them would have been to receive a quick and painless bullet in the head at home in their pastures.did the person who owned them need the \$150 they got at the sale yard so bad they had to subject that horse to the pain of getting

him there and then riding long distances to a slaughter plant on a truck?? They haul them in to the sale yards with expensive pickups and trailers and pay for expensive gas to get them there. I don't think the \$150 was going to make or break them.

We as horse owners need to take on more responsibility in this issue. We should evaluate our own levels of supply and demand. Maybe we need to research more outlets for our unusable horses and establish channels for them. Even without selling the horses overseas for human consumption, how many viable markets are there for horse meat in the US? And can some form of slaughter/rendering plant still exist that can supply these demands without USDA inspection? For instance, if there is a demand among the carnivore market (exotic animals in zoos, etc), how strong is that demand on an annual basis and is there really a need for that meat to be inspected?

Undoubtedly among all the different facets of the horse industry, there will always be unusable horses. But just like the dog and cat world, we cannot encourage or condone the "puppy mills" of the horse world as it only heightens the problem. Every person who produces a horse needs to take moral responsibility for the ultimate end of that horse. In otherwards, if you produce a horse, you must be prepared also to care for the

HORSE SENSE IS
A THING A
HORSE HAS
WHICH KEEPS IT
FROM BETTING
ON PEOPLE!

W.C. FIELDS
(1890-1946)

Horses change lives. They give our young people confidence and self esteem. They provide peace and tranquility to troubled souls—they give us hope!

Toni Robinson

HORSE SLAUGHTER (COTD.)

horse even if that means ending the horse's life if need be. And as producers we should be looking to make our profit from high quality breeding stock or from our training expertise, not the slaughter of the horse. I know of no horseperson who likes to see the end of a horse's life. Many times, this is why those horses that should be put down end up in the sale ring. People dump their problems off on someone else to deal with.

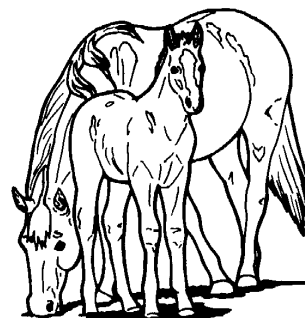
All in all, if this slaughter ban is passed, I would like to see some proactive movement in regard to what other options there are to deal with unwanted or unusable horses. I

don't think that there is a person in this world that can surmise there is any possible way to care for some 90,000 horses annually in any type of rescue facilities. I love horses and care for them very much but run approximately 30 head of horses on 1,000 acres and find that the feed and vet cost and pasture management can sometimes eat my lunch! It is expensive, time consuming, and requires forethought if done properly. I don't think there are enough financial resources to care for the multitude of unwanted horses. Conversely, if horses are worth very little in a slaughter market or it costs owners to dispose of them,

perhaps fewer would be produced or purchased by ill prepared prospective owners.

Could it be that there are some economic opportunities here for existing meat processors to expand their product lines? What if they could enhance their profit by selling to carnivore markets and other buyers of horse byproducts?

Maybe the best answer for the problem is to find a new solution. It may not look exactly like the old solution but may get the job done just as effectively if not more.



CCQHA HORSE SALE UPDATE

The CCQHA Horse Sale is approaching fast.

Remember that any CCQHA member is eligible to consign a horse although all consigned horses will go through a selection committee. Consignments that are not selected for the sale will receive their

consignment fee back.

The consignment form will be posted on the website, www.ccqha.com, by May 10th. You may access it there or call Sandy Wilson at (406) 557-2766 to have a copy sent to you.

Consignment forms must be postmarked by July 2, 2007 in order to be considered for the CCQHA Horse Sale.

If you would like to place an ad in the 2007 CCQHA Horse Sale catalog, please contact Lavonne Westland at (406)485-2109.

I HAVE SPENT
MOST OF MY LIFE
RIDING HORSES.
THE REST I HAVE
JUST WASTED...

ANONYMOUS

EMHSC WEBSITE

If you are at all interested in attending some horse shows this summer, please go to www.emhsc.com and see the itinerary of summer shows offered by the Eastern Montana Horse Show Circuit.

Many CCQHA members participate in this circuit. Participants are friendly and

helpful. The shows are very family oriented and are appropriate for children and adults of all ages.

Recently, there were some new additions to the website. In the links section, there are resources for several other area shows as well.

CCQHA club members would like to extend their condolences to Jaimi Balsam and her family for their recent loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you...



CCQHA
HC 40 Box 28A
Volborg, MT 59351

Phone: 406-554-3123
Fax: 406-554-3124
Email: jtkinmt@midrivers.com

WERE ON THE WEB
WWW.CCQHA.COM

STALLION AND MARE NOMINATIONS

Guess what? It is time again to consider nominating your stallion or mare for the CCHQA Breeders Futurity. The deadline to nominate stallions or mares without a late fee is as of the CCQHA sale date which is 8/30/07. Nominations will be accepted up to January 1, 2008 but will require a \$75 late fee.

Nominations will be taken for foals born in 2007 but there will be none shown this year. The first time they will be eligible to show would be as yearlings in 2008.

If you need more information on these programs,

check www.ccqha.com or contact Nicole Wheeler at nick@midrivers.com or (406)775-8797. Forms to enroll are included on the website. Enrolled stallions are also listed there.

