

*The ASPCA Equine Fund is devoted to promoting humane care and respect for horses.*

The sight of a fallen cart-horse being brutally beaten by his driver inspired Henry Bergh to form the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in 1866. Although horses have played major roles throughout history, these intelligent and sensitive animals have suffered untold abuse and neglect in work, war and entertainment. Areas with which the ASPCA is especially concerned include urban carriage horses, mares and foals used in the production of Premarin®, show horses, wild horses, and horse slaughter. The ASPCA Equine Fund has provided support for a wide variety of efforts, from caring for equines rescued from abuse and neglect to aiding wild horses in adverse conditions. We must continue Bergh's mission to protect horses from cruelty and neglect.

### Carriage Horses

New York City carriage horses are permitted to work nine hours a day, seven days a week in temperatures ranging from 18 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit—without accounting for wind chill or humidity. After pulling passengers through the congested, polluted city streets, most of the horses return to narrow “tie stalls” in poorly ventilated old buildings. Horses have died on the street and in the stable from heatstroke. The ASPCA enforces existing laws while trying to introduce new legislation to better protect the horses and improve their quality of life.

### The Premarin® Industry

Some estrogen replacement drugs such as Premarin are made from the urine of pregnant mares. Tens of thousands of mares in Canada and America are confined in stalls for half the year, strapped to urine collection funnels. Most of their foals, who are the unfortunate “by-products” of this industry, are sent to auction, where many of them are bought for slaughter and processed for meat markets in Europe and Japan. Each year, the ASPCA Equine Fund helps rescue and place some of these foals. There are many alternatives to drugs made from horse

urine. Doctors should provide women with information on all of the options and their benefits, risks and sources.

### Shows & Races

Horses are bound to become casualties of human greed when fortunes are riding on their backs in the form of large prizes or intense wagering. Humane training, proper conditioning, and effective, impartial oversight are the least they deserve. Abuses include “soring” the feet of Tennessee Walking Horses, which forces them to throw their front legs up and out, and surgically setting the ears or tail. The use of any device or technique that causes pain or stress, or giving substances to mask injuries or enhance performance, are also forms of abuse.

### Uncertain Futures

Unsuccessful, injured or unwanted equines—from racehorses to show horses to adopted wild horses—rarely live out their final days in peace and comfort. Many share the same fate: When they are no longer usable, they end up at auction. Owners are often unaware that this is a death sentence, the first step toward the slaughterhouse. The ASPCA supports proposed federal legislation to effectively outlaw the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

### Commitment to Care Now and in the Future

If you care for horses, plan ahead to ensure a safe home for the length of their lives. With an average lifespan of 25 to 30 years, horses offer many years of companionship and deserve to live out their lives free of pain, fear and suffering. If you cannot keep your horse for life, consider these alternatives:

- Contact local humane agencies for a list of horse sanctuaries, rescue groups and low-cost boarding facilities. Make a personal visit to any facility you are considering.
- Your horse can be a stablemate or turnout buddy for another privately owned horse. You can pay the owner a fee for taking care of your horse, or offer to do some of the chores on a regular basis.

- Do not sell your horse at an auction or sale barn. Find a home through your own contacts. Check out potential homes through references and visits. If you must use an agent, be sure this person is reputable and has the horse's best interests at heart.
- If your horse is in pain-free rideable condition, lend or donate him or her to a reputable riding school or therapeutic riding program. Make sure the animals are well cared for and check on your horse regularly. Should your horse no longer be used for riding, make sure he will never be sold at auction.
- Make a realistic assessment of your horse's health and quality of life. If your horse is very ill, consult with a veterinarian on whether euthanasia is the most humane option.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP HORSES

- For more information about The ASPCA Equine Fund, call (212) 876-7700, ext. 4650.
- If you can give a horse a good home, consider a Premarin foal or other equine in need.
- Donate time or money to reputable horse rescues in your area.
- Give to the ASPCA's Equine Fund. Donations are used exclusively to help horses and promote equine welfare.



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