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Notice to pro horse slaughter advocates

January 22, 2009

by [Vicki Tobin](#)

When businesses are closing, the owners usually develop an exit strategy. In the case of horse slaughter, the proponents apparently cannot read the writing on the wall even after the domestic plants were closed by individual state laws in 2007.

We have had legislation pending for years.

Every year, the support for ending horse slaughter is overwhelming. We ask: what are the pro slaughter advocates doing to prepare for the end of slaughter?

The answer: nothing.

Instead of preparing, you continue to pump out fictional articles that use scare tactics to try to justify slaughter and convince the uneducated that slaughter is needed. Do you think Americans and our legislators are that gullible? Wake up, the American public is not buying it.

They aren't buying your tired old arguments that have been proven wrong over and over again. If indeed there is a surplus of horses, the answer is to curtail breeding and promote responsible horse ownership - not to keep slaughtering. Don't buy or breed more horses than you can sell or care for. It is supply and demand 101.

We are working with racetracks, owners, trainers and rescues to develop programs for Thoroughbred retirements and adoptions. New rescues and humane shelters have opened. We are rescuing, rehabilitating and adopting out your cast offs. We are euthanizing those that could not be saved that suffered abuse in your hands, at the auctions and feedlots. It is abuse that never has accountability because it is hidden by sending the horse off to slaughter. We have exposed the abuses tenfold and yet, you continue to defend horse slaughter as being in the interest of horse welfare.

You blame the closure of the domestic slaughter houses for every horse woe even though the closure has had no impact on slaughter. You claim horse values have decreased as a result. No, it's the economy. Our homes, our cars and our savings have all decreased in value. Why do you think that the value of horses would be impervious to the economy? More importantly, why should Belgium and France be setting the floor value for American horses?

Instead of working together with us, you fight us every step of the way. You claim we created the mess. Sorry, but the pro slaughter proponents and slaughterhouse owners created any mess that exists. Slaughter is a predatory business and you are their prey. You have created any mess that exists by not attacking the root cause for all these years. Over breeding and irresponsible owners. Slaughter is a symptom, not a cure. Slaughter serves horse owners of 1% of the horse population. You are the lowest common denominator of the industry. You fall prey to the incentive to slaughter. You do not take ownership for horses you made a conscious decision to own, buy or breed. If your horses are not wanted and have no value, why do you expect to be compensated for dumping your horses? Dog and cat owners are not paid to dump their animals when they are no longer wanted.

Horses are held in the same sphere as dogs. They are work, therapy, service, sport and companion animals - not food animals. America is not responsible for supplying the culinary delights of Europeans any more than we are responsible for supplying Asian markets with dog and cat meat.

Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on our part. It is you that must deal with what you have created. We have tried to work with you but you have chosen your own path. It is on your shoulders now to try to repair the damage you have done to the American horse industry.

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Vicki Tobin is an equine welfare advocate involved in the grass roots effort to end horse slaughter. Visit her website:
www.vickitobin.com/

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