1974  Dr. Lee Talbot, who successfully fought the spread of cruel poisons on federal lands. The Medal was presented by Hon. Russell Train, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

1975  Fay Brisk, who uncovered cruelty and theft by laboratory dog dealers in the 1960s and initiated an animalport in Washington, DC to help animals transported by air. The Medal was presented by Senator Lowell Weicker.

1976  Daniel Oduber, President of Costa Rica, for outstanding achievement in creating major national parks in Costa Rica where wildlife can flourish. The presentation was made by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey.

1977  Yoko Muto, animal caretaker of Tokyo University, and representative of the Japan Animal Welfare Society, for her seven years of unstinting effort to allay the suffering of thousands of dogs used for experimental surgery, by gentle, personal nursing care given to each animal. The presentation was made by US Ambassador to Japan, Mike Mansfield.

1979  Shri H.M. Patel, Chairman of the Indian Board for Wildlife, for his contributions to wildlife conservation and humane education as Indian Minister of Finance.

1980  Roger and Katharine Payne, for leadership in the protection of whales through observation of living Humpback and Right whales. Medal presentation by Senator Paul Tsongas.

1981  Dr. Dallas Pratt for his landmark books, especially Alternatives to Pain in Experiments on Animals. Medal presented by Senator Mark Hatfield.


1987  Jane Goodall, for her leadership in fighting for protection of chimpanzees. Senator John Melcher, author of the requirement for psychological well being of primates in the Improved Standards for Laboratory Animals Act, presented the Medal.

1988  Astrid Lindgren for achieving enactment of the world’s most comprehensive law against cruel factory farming practices. Mrs. Lindgren is the author of many children’s stories which are classics in Swedish literature and, in translation, throughout the world. Medal presentation by Congressman Charles Bennett.

1990  Allan Thornton and Dave Currey of the Environmental Investigation Agency for achieving international protection for elephants and dolphins by revealing cruel and illicit commercial killing. The Medal was presented by Senator John Heinz.


1996  Henry Spira for his successful campaigns against unnecessary experiments on animals and face branding of cattle. The work he started to prevent cruel confinement of hens, pigs, and calves in factory farms continues. Albert Schweitzer address by Hon. Charles Percy.

1999  Edward Seymour-Rouse, Founder of Eurogoup for Animal Welfare and Parliamentary Intergroup for Animal Welfare, was instrumental in achieving a ban on leghold traps in the European Union. The Medal was presented by Madron Seligman, Member of the European Parliament.

2001  Andrzej Lepper, President of Samoobrona, the large Polish rural union whose name means “self defense,” for his battle against the industrial hog factory system. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., President of Waterkeeper Alliance, presented the Medal.

2004  Gail Eisnitz, author and humane investigator, for her courageous and unrelenting efforts to document, expose, and prevent widespread animal abuse in factory farms and slaughterhouses. Medal presentation by John Mackey, CEO, Whole Foods Market.
The Albert Schweitzer Medal
of the Animal Welfare Institute

In 1951, Dr. Albert Schweitzer gave his permission to the Animal Welfare Institute to strike a Medal in his honor to be presented for outstanding achievement in the advancement of animal welfare.

In granting his permission, Dr. Schweitzer wrote, “I would never have believed that my philosophy, which incorporates in our ethics a compassionate attitude toward all creatures, would be noticed and recognized in my lifetime.”

In 1954, a gold replica of the Medal was presented to Dr. Albert Schweitzer by Dr. Charles Joy in Oslo, Norway, where Dr. Schweitzer had gone to accept the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Schweitzer Medalists
For Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare

1955  Dr. Robert Bay, veterinarian in charge of a colony of 500 experimental beagles, whose humane treatment of the animals exemplifies the purpose for which the Medal was struck.*


1957  Paul Kearney, author of “The Case for Humane Vi-section,” the first article in a national magazine calling for humane treatment of research animals.


1959  Congressman W.R. Poage, Chairman of the Live-stock and Feed Grains Subcommittee of the Committee on Agriculture, United States House of Representatives, and chief sponsor of the Federal Humane Slaughter Act.


1962  Rachel Carson, author of Silent Spring, for her contribution to the protection of animals from dangerous pesticides such as DDT.

1963  Ann Cottrell Free, author and journalist, whose discovery and reporting on hundreds of Food and Drug Administration test dogs, perpetually caged in a sub-basement, led to Congressional action providing comfortable kennel runways for them.

1964  Patrolman John Mobley of the Detroit Police Force, whose prompt reporting on suffering and neglect of experimental animals led to improvements in their care.

1965  Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Abe Fortas, author of the first Federal bill to require humane treatment of research animals.

1966  Senator Warren G. Magnuson and Senator A.S. Mike Monroney, who sponsored and fought for enactment of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act, passed by a vote of 85 to 0 in the United States Senate.

1967  Dr. Francis Mulhern and Dr. Earl Jones of the US Department of Agriculture, who prevented much suffering by their enforcement of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act.

1968  Dr. John Quinn, State Veterinarian, Michigan Department of Agriculture, who created the first Animal Welfare Committee of the United States Animal Health Association.

1969  Stan Wayman, Life photographer, whose “Concentration Camps for Dogs” and other picture stories brought recognition to millions of people that animals need protection.

1970  Bob Cromie, whose hard hitting columns against cruel experiments by school children resulted in Westinghouse Science Fair prizes being changed to eliminate any experimentation on captive vertebrates. The Medal was presented by Senator Charles Percy.

1971  Congressman Thomas Foley, who won enactment of the Animal Welfare Act amendments of 1970 including the requirement for “appropriate use of anesthetic, analgesic and tranquilizing drugs” for experimental animals. The Medal was presented by Senator Charles Percy.

1972  Russell Train, Chairman, President’s Council on Environmental Quality, who obtained unanimous adoption of a resolution for a ten-year moratorium on commercial whaling. The Medal was presented by S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

1973  Scott McVay who obtained the listing of all the great whales on the US Endangered Species List. The Medal was presented by Dr. Lee Talbot, Senior Scientist, Council on Environmental Quality.

*Dr. Bay later resigned after being refused permission by new management to end the suffering of a beagle with 24 fractures.
IN AUGUST 2006, a vehicle transporting horses from Mississippi to Texas for slaughter blew out two tires and the driver pulled into GCR Tires in Texarkana, Arkansas. Upon observing the horses who were crammed into the trailer, GCR Tires manager Greg Fett noticed that several of the horses had abrasions and marks across their faces, including one with severe facial gashes and swollen eyes. Without hesitation, Greg called the authorities who arrived on the scene and the driver was charged with several counts of cruelty in transport.

This past April, another vehicle hauling horses, this time from Tennessee to Texas, had a flat tire and requested assistance from GCR Tires. The horses who were crammed inside the livestock trailer were severely malnourished and dehydrated. One mare was in such bad shape that she was lying on the floor of the trailer where she was being trampled on by the other horses. Once again, Greg stepped up for the horses. He asked his employees to take their time fixing the tire as he called the authorities. In addition to making the call, Greg tended to the sickly horses by unloading them to a grassy area behind the shop where he gave them buckets of water.

Thanks to Greg’s actions, the horses were seized from their owner and not taken to a slaughter facility, while the two individuals transporting the horses were arrested and charged with 11 counts of cruelty in transport. Both pled no contest to the charges and were assessed fines. The driver was given jail time and his passenger, one year probation. The ten surviving horses are doing much better today and are up for adoption. One of them, who was heavily pregnant, was adopted by Greg and shortly after the incident, had a colt who has been named “Stormy G. Fett.” She and her mother, “Lady Fett” will live out the rest of their days with their hero, Greg.
Institute Animal Welfare

Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008 (H.R. 6598)
American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (S. 311)

Introduced in July, the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008 will prohibit the slaughter of horses in the United States for human consumption, as well as the export of live horses for the same purpose. Sponsored by House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI) and Representative Dan Burton (R-IN), H.R. 6598 is similar to an earlier version of legislation banning horse slaughter, which was broadly supported by Congress. In the Senate, S. 311, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act is sponsored by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and veterinarian and Senator John Ensign (R-NV).

Please contact Congress

Letters, calls and e-mails to Congress are vital to our effort to end horse slaughter. Please take a moment to connect with your own elected officials in support of the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act in the House and the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act in the Senate. Please be sure to include pertinent facts (listed in the accompanying brochure, and on the Compassion Index website at www.compassionindex.org) and share personal experiences, where possible. You can also reach your legislators via the US Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Letters to your Representative should be addressed to:

The Honorable (name)
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Letters to your Senator should be addressed to:

The Honorable (name)
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

In addition, please take a moment to contact House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). Let them know that you care deeply about America’s horses and fully support the enactment of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. Ask them to make passage of the legislation in both the House and Senate a priority. Please call the House Speaker at (202) 225-0100 or letters may be addressed to:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232 US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Please call the Senate Majority Leader at (202) 224-3542 or letters may be addressed to:

The Honorable Harry Reid
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Animal Welfare Institute
www.awionline.org