Promoting Standards of Excellence for Equine Rescue Facilities

The Homes for Horses Coalition is dedicated to advancing the highest operating standards for equine rescue and retirement facilities. Not only does this mean providing quality animal care, but it also covers sound financial and management practices.

As part of this effort, The Homes for Horses Coalition promotes the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (sanctuaryfederation.org) accreditation program and its standards of excellence to the equine rescue community. Together, The Homes for Horses Coalition and GFAS help steer resources and funding to facilities and organizations that operate at the highest standard.

Providing Resources and Training

Through its annual conference, webinars and weekly messages, The Homes for Horses Coalition offers information and training at little or no cost to equine rescue professionals and advocates. From fundraising to emergency planning, from documenting cruelty cases to developing innovative adoption programs, The Homes for Horses Coalition provides resources and educational opportunities pertinent to the equine rescue and protection community. Member organizations also partner with professional trainers to assist with the training and adoption of rescued equines, offer hands-on advice on how to establish and run a rescue, demonstrate how to work with law enforcement and much more.

Be a Part of the Fastest Growing Network of Equine Advocates

Members of The Homes for Horses Coalition are part of the fastest growing network of equine professionals in the country. By joining, you’ll become part of a network of more than 340 organizations making a positive impact on equine welfare through collaboration, training, professional direction, access to resources and more.

To become a member of The Homes for Horses Coalition or for further details, visit homesforhorses.org or email us at info@homesforhorses.org.

The Homes for Horses Coalition is dedicated to ending horse slaughter and other forms of equine abuse, while promoting growth, collaboration and professionalism in the equine rescue and protection community.

Founded in 2007 by the Animal Welfare Institute and The Humane Society of the United States, we are an inclusive group of professionals who provide care and homes to horses in need, advance the highest operating standards for equine rescue and retirement facilities and promote responsible horse ownership.

Many of the coalition’s members run equine care operations themselves, while others are involved in government policy affecting equines. We partner with professionals in the field, including breeders, trainers and veterinarians. The cumulative expertise of our group puts The Homes for Horses Coalition in a unique position to advocate for equines from a multifaceted, highly informed perspective that always puts the welfare of equines above commercial interests.

Fighting Slaughter

Until 2007, three horse slaughter plants operated in the U.S.—two in Texas and one in Illinois. These foreign-owned plants butchered American horses and shipped their meat overseas to places like France, Belgium and Japan. While there are no horse slaughter plants currently operating in the U.S., tens of thousands of healthy and adoptable American horses continue to be shipped out of the country annually for slaughter in Mexico, Canada and further abroad. Until a federal ban is passed, new plants could potentially open on U.S. soil.

Not only is the slaughter itself horrific—some Mexican plants stab horses into a state of paralysis prior to slaughter—but the journey to slaughter also results in enormous suffering. Shipped on crowded and inadequate trucks over hundreds or even thousands of miles without food, water or rest, horses commonly arrive at the slaughterhouse ill, injured or dead.

Resurrecting horse slaughter plants in the U.S. is not the answer. Conditions during transport and slaughter in the U.S. were intensely cruel and inhumane. Numerous investigations and government documents show that horses regularly arrived at slaughterhouses with broken or missing limbs and other serious injuries, and that some heavily pregnant mares shipped to slaughter actually foaled at the slaughterhouses. Worker incompetence, coupled with the difficulty of properly stunning a flight animal, also meant that many horses were not properly stunned prior to slaughter and may have been fully conscious when butchered.

The Homes for Horses Coalition and its members are actively supporting the passage of a strong federal bill that prohibits both the slaughter of horses in the U.S. for human consumption and the export of horses for this purpose.

The Homes for Horses Coalition believes that:

- Every horse has intrinsic value and deserves humane treatment at all stages of his or her life.
- The horse industry, including the equine veterinary medical profession, has an obligation to promote responsible horse breeding, ownership and care.
- Horse owners have a responsibility to provide high-quality, long-term care for their horses.
- All horses deserve a humane end to life, and horse slaughter is neither humane nor acceptable.