

Maryland Horse Council Proposed Policy Resolution on Slaughter of Horses For Human Consumption

Whereas, Maryland horses are bred and raised as livestock but not as a food product,

And whereas, no facilities exist in this country to process horses for human consumption, making it necessary for slaughter-bound horses to be shipped to Canada or Mexico,

And whereas, Maryland horses are fed and medicated in a manner inconsistent with food safety standards,

And whereas, too many Maryland horse owners have had horses shipped to slaughter in Canada and Mexico after being told by buyers and their agents that they would place them in good homes,

And whereas, polls show that the general public, horse owners, and members of Maryland Horse Council overwhelmingly oppose slaughter of horses for human consumption,

Now therefore be it resolved that, Maryland Horse Council will support legislation banning the sale or transport of equines or equine parts in interstate or foreign commerce for purposes of human consumption, including the federal Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act.

Furthermore, Maryland Horse Council will 1) undertake an effort to encourage horse owners to take responsibility for placement or euthanasia of their unwanted horses, and 2) seek to create a system to evaluate and place or humanely euthanize horses that are abandoned or neglected.