

NEWSLETTER

An overabundance of horses and the ongoing recession are obvious contributors to a down slide in prices for horses and an increase in abuse and neglect. Closing slaughter plants in Illinois and Texas, doesn't seem to have been a factor.

In 2006, the last full year before U.S. plants closed, 137,688 horses were slaughtered in North America, the majority (104,899) in this country, the rest in Mexico and Canada. By 2010, the number of U.S. horses slaughtered had increased slightly, to an estimated 137,884, all of them exported to Mexican and Canadian plants.

Overpopulation is a serious problem. A weak economy and the resulting drop in sale prices has caused Thoroughbred breeders to cut back and it makes some sense to expect the overall horse population to drop for the same reasons. However, any attempt by a breed organization to limit the number of horses bred or registered is subject to a restraint of trade argument in court. Even if successful, such rule changes would not affect the vast number of unregistered horses produced every year.

Senate Reintroduces Bill to Permanently Ban Horse Slaughter

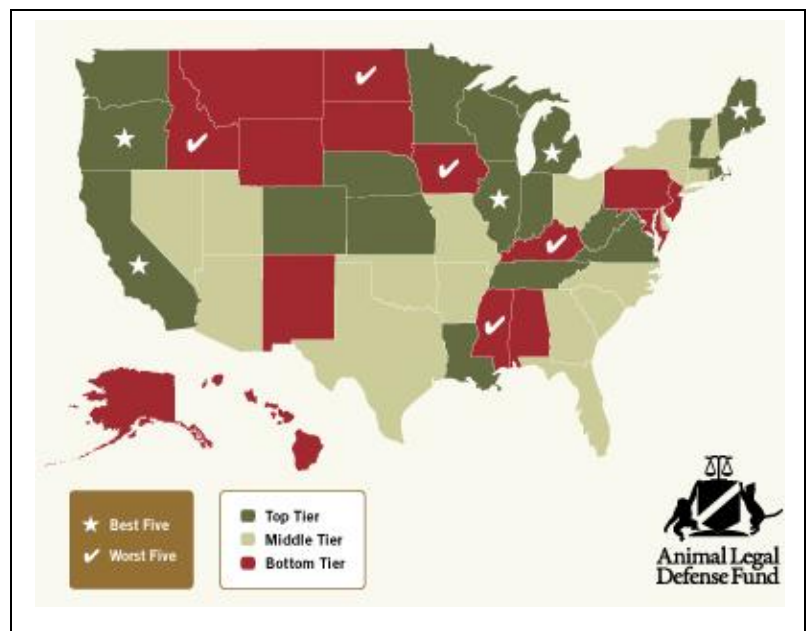
A bill to ban horse slaughter was reintroduced in the United States Senate on June 9, 2011. Sponsored by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), S. 1176, the "American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011" will end the slaughter of American horses here and, most urgently, will stop these horses from being exported abroad for slaughter. **Please take action now and urge Congress to support this bill.**

2010 State Animal Protection Laws Rankings™

The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) announces the release of its new study that underscores the often-considerable differences that exist between the animal protection laws of the states and territories of the United States of America.

Kentucky, once again, had the infamous distinction of having the weakest laws in the nation—a position it has held since 2007.

Best Five	1. Illinois, 2. Maine, 3. Michigan, 4. Oregon, 5. California
Worst Five	46. Iowa, 47. Mississippi, 48. Idaho, 49. North Dakota, 50. Kentucky



Speak Up For Horses' goal of implementing a **Youth Program** is off to a good start. Getting local youths involved in animal welfare, horsemanship, education regarding horses and the responsibility of horse ownership, has been well received.

Working with horses in rehabilitation allows children and youths to build self-esteem and self-confidence, learn how to work with peers, gain a sense of feeling needed and valued, and the joy of what it feels like to make a difference in an animal's life.

Our first 4H group was assigned to halter, lead, groom, and interact with our yearlings. Our horses were on their best behavior and enjoyed all the excitement and activities the day brought. Having fun is a vital tool to learning and everyone walked away with a new understanding of being responsible.

An elementary school class in Fort Thomas, KY' happily planned and executed a fundraiser to benefit Speak Up For Horses as a service project.

We were proudly presented with a check in the amount of \$ 436.

Way to go!

Shelly was asked to give a class about rescue horses and welfare issues in return. The entire 5th grade class was in attendance and everyone asked some very good questions. We were impressed!



As a service project the Pendleton County Young Riders group bagged groceries for a day and they donated \$ 197 to our cause. Great job!

Our future plans are to expand this program and reach out to many youths in the state of Kentucky. Our expenses are funded by donations, and hopefully some of you are as excited about our new program as we are and wish to contribute. All donations are tax deductible.



Speak Up for Horses at Tractor Supply on June 25th, 2011

We want to thank TSC in Hillview, KY for hosting an Equine Event Day and inviting us as a representative for the welfare of the horse.



Our barn cat Miss Kitty has a new roommate: meet young "Skunks". No argument over sharing the cat food.



OUR HORSE UPDATES

Since our last newsletter both Josh and Gus found new, loving homes. We will miss them dearly but can visit with them anytime we like. They didn't venture too far from us.



Josh and his wonderful new Mom. He gets spoiled everyday and has two thoroughbred friends living with him.



Gus has his own blog!!!!!!
You can follow his progress with McKenna here:

<http://seasonsofaugustus.blogspot.com/>



At The Farm:

Both Little Mister and Simon, the only two male yearlings we have left, are scheduled to be gelded soon.

We currently have 14 horses looking to find their new humans to spoil them and give them their undivided attention. If you are the one, please come and visit us.

We are also looking for foster homes and/or sponsors for our equines.

Fostering: please call or e-mail for details and contract.

Sponsorship: For a monthly amount of your choice you can be a Horse's Angel. Check out our adoption page to view our wonderful charges and reach out to one of them.

Your continued financial support is very much appreciated during these hard times. Our horses are number one and we strive to provide the best of care at all times. All donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your support in 2011!

Ed, Annie, Shelly, Paulette and Terry