



SANCTUARY TIMES

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF EQUINE ADVOCATES • FALL 2023

Mission Statement

To rescue, protect and prevent the abuse of equines through education, investigation, rescue operations, the dissemination of information to the public, and the operation of a horse sanctuary for slaughter-bound, abused and neglected equines.

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How to take action NOW to fix "The SAFE Act" before it's too late!

"The SAFE Act" is Anything but Safe and Does Not Protect Horses from Slaughter

Action must be taken NOW to amend it before it's too late!

On Wednesday, June 8, 2023, New York State made history by passing the best and most effective ban on horse slaughter in the nation, prohibiting the slaughter of horses for both human and animal consumption.

Why, then, were federal bills H.R.3475 AND S.2037, dubbed as The SAFE Act of 2023, drafted by people who deliberately omitted language banning the slaughter of horses for food of any kind?

The answer is because there are individuals representing special interests who want domestic custom horse slaughterhouses operating on U.S. soil, and there are some Native American tribes ready and willing to build and operate them.

As a result, this half-baked horse legislation has been introduced as an amendment to the Farm Bill which is expected to pass in September. There is no time to waste in taking action to fix it so that horse slaughter is completely prohibited at the federal level.

"The dirty little secret and trade off regarding the current language of The SAFE Act is that it only addresses export for human consumption and does not address intra-state or custom slaughter," says Cathleen Doyle, former head of the California Equine Council and the 1998 Save the Horses Campaign that spear-headed the passage of "Prop 6," banning horse slaughter in California.



Nelson, rescued Wild American Mustang | Photo by Jim Craner

Doyle had submitted language amending Congressman Vern Buchanan's 2018 legislation banning the slaughter of dogs and cats for food with the new "Dog, Cat and Horse Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2023." That language accomplishes for horses on a federal level what the New York legislation did in protecting equines from being slaughtered for human and animal consumption in, through and from New York State. You can read the text of The Dog, Cat and Horse Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2023 by visiting equineadvocates.org.

Horse slaughter has always been used by some factions of the horse industry as a convenient way to get rid of their unwanted

equines quickly and for a profit. As currently drafted, The SAFE Act does not make it illegal to slaughter horses for "secondary markets" that include pet food and for feeding carnivores in zoos and sanctuaries, etc.

"The good news is that there is still time for The SAFE Act of 2023 to be amended so that these loopholes are closed, and horse slaughter is banned completely," said Equine Advocates president Susan Wagner. "Horses have not been slaughtered in this country since 2007 and we cannot sit back and allow federal legislation to pass that would allow it to be reinstated for any reason or under any circumstances."

Take Action! See page 4



Equine Advocates has earned the coveted 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This means that Equine Advocates "exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its cause." Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator have this honor. We also received the highest possible rating from Candid with its Platinum Seal of Transparency. These accolades show that you can be confident that your gift will be used wisely.

2023 Public Open Days

We'd love to have you join us for one or more of the upcoming dates:

Saturday, August 19

Saturday, September 23

Saturday, October 14

Sunday, November 5

Visit our website equineadvocates.org for complete details and driving directions.

Meet Randy and Luke, Retired Military Working Horses

Equine Advocates Rescue and Sanctuary is now a permanent home for a total of four former U.S. Army Caisson Horses

► We were elated to welcome two new residents to the sanctuary in April. They each served this country for well over a decade as part of the U.S. Army's Caisson Platoon helping to lead the caskets of U.S. Military members who passed away or died in combat to their final resting places at Arlington National Cemetery.

Randy and Luke join two other Caisson Horses previously retired to the sanctuary – Tyler, who arrived in January 2021 after nine years of service, and Sergeant York, who arrived in June 2022 after serving for twenty-five years.

The idea of providing permanent retirement homes for equine veterans first started before the pandemic when Equine Advocates president, Susan Wagner, first learned about the adoption of Caisson Horses when their military careers were over.

"I noticed that some of the horses were older and just needed a safe and loving place to be retired," said Wagner. "Given all they had done for the country for so many years, we really wanted to offer some of them a safe haven here at the sanctuary as our own special way of thanking them for their service."

"A major part of our mission is to provide sanctuary for equines in need of rescue, which is extremely important and rewarding," Wagner added. "However, we are also very happy to provide these four equine veterans with a permanent retirement home. It is an honor to have them here."

You can find more pictures and information about Randy, Luke, Tyler, Sergeant York and ALL of our 80+ equine residents by visiting equineadvocates.org.

With the help of generous supporters like YOU, our commitment is to care for each and every one of our residents for the rest of their lives.



Randy | Photo by Jim Craner



Luke | Photo by Alex Valverde

Consider Leaving a Legacy through Planned Giving

Planned Giving is a wonderful way to make a lasting impact by providing a future gift from your estate to Equine Advocates. Planned Giving is not meant to replace, but to complement, a donor's current giving plan. You can specify a portion of your assets to go to Equine Advocates, and this arrangement can be changed any time you choose. You may also direct your gift to support a particular program, specific equine(s) or a future capital improvement project. For more information, please check the box on the attached Contribution Reply or visit equineadvocates.org/planned-giving.



Visit equineadvocates.org and follow [@equineadvocates](https://twitter.com/equineadvocates) on social media!

Sanctuary Updates



► Gerda | Photo by Alex Valverde

When Gerda, a 23-year-old Quarter Horse mare and former rodeo horse from Las Vegas who arrived in February, her acceptance by two of “The Spice Girls,” Rose and Cindy, was almost immediate. Their long-time companion, Kelli, had passed away and we weren’t sure Gerda would love to run with Rose as much as Kelli did...but she does! Once destined for slaughter before being rescued out of a kill pen, Gerda is now happy and content with her new friends. She will live out the rest of her days in peace and safety here at the sanctuary.



► Mama Cass | Photo by Alex Valverde

As you may already know, Mama Cass is a Belgian Draft mare estimated to be approximately 20 years old. She arrived in February after being rescued as part of a group of horses seized by police in 2022 during a raid on a private farm in Vermont. After trying her with one herd that did not work out at all, we introduced her to the mares in the Glamour Girls field that includes Sarah, Angie, Bebe and Sheena. The introduction took about a week, but I am delighted to report that Mama Cass has been accepted into that herd and is absolutely loving her life with those great girls!



► Onaqui | Photo by Michele Jacobs

A rescued Wild American Mustang mare, Onaqui had been captured during a brutal 5-day roundup by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Utah in July of 2021. She was sold through an online BLM auction but did not do well in captivity. When she arrived at the sanctuary in June of 2022, frightened and still traumatized, we sought the help of a Wild Horse expert. Anna Twinney, world-renowned Natural Horsemanship Clinician, teacher, coach and author, made significant progress with Onaqui in just two days, as well as with our staff in working with her. One of Anna’s long-time protégés, Sara Venecsek, comes here regularly to continue the work. Onaqui’s ongoing progress has been nothing short of remarkable.

► Thank you for making a difference in the lives of Equines who need help. PLEASE GIVE TODAY!



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

CONTRIBUTION REPLY

I want to make sure Equine Advocates is able to continue its mission to rescue and protect horses, ponies, donkeys and mules.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____.

Please make your check payable to Equine Advocates.

I would like to donate using my credit card:

Visa MasterCard Amex Discover

Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Repeat gift each month.

Please contact me about leaving a legacy through Planned Giving.

Check the “Repeat gift each month” box above and become a Monthly Donor Today!

The "SAFE Act" is Not Safe (continued from page 1) Please Take Immediate Action!

Contact the Senate and House sponsors of The SAFE Act including Senators Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) about amending S.2037 and House Reps Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) about amending H.R.3475. You can call their offices through the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

Check our website to find the full list of members of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees. If any of the members represent your state, please call them and ask that they amend The SAFE Act.

When calling, ask lawmakers to amend these bills to include banning the slaughter of horses for both human and animal consumption. Tell them that

banning horse slaughter solely for human consumption does not protect America's horses from being slaughtered for secondary markets including pet food and to feed carnivores in zoos, sanctuaries, etc.

A **fact sheet** containing important talking points and information is now available on our website to share and print.



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Equine Advocates 22nd Annual Gala

An Evening with Judy Collins

Saturday, September 9, 2023

For tickets or more information,
visit equineadvocates.org
or call 518-392-0175.



Proceeds from this event will go toward the care of the 80 rescued horses, ponies, donkeys, and mules who call the sanctuary home and toward the rescue of other equines in jeopardy.

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CONTRIBUTION REPLY

Become a Monthly Donor at any amount!

I want to be a Monthly Donor at \$ _____ per month.

Equine Sponsorship starts at \$50 per month.

I want to sponsor an equine* for \$ _____ per month.

Please provide your credit card and contact information on the reverse side.

*Please include your phone number on the credit card form so that we can contact you to discuss your choice of equine.

► Coming soon! Watch your mailbox
for the 2024 Equine Advocates calendar!

