

Kentucky Horse.org

A publication of the Kentucky Horse Council

February 2009

Horse Slaughter: What Our Members Think

In December, we sent a five-question survey to all members asking their opinions on this very controversial topic. We received a 38% response rate, or 241 responses, which is very good for any survey. This is a topic that many people care about and would like their opinion heard.

Surveys returned with more than one answer were not included in the pie chart.

Conclusions:

Slaughter as Acceptable End of Life Measure:

About half (51%) of respondents believe that "ANY HORSE that is unwanted and unsellable may be slaughtered, provided it is done in a humane way as described above (in the survey)."

One-fifth of the respondents (22%) believe that "Horses SHOULD NOT be slaughtered for any reason."

15% believe that "ONLY THOSE HORSES that are aged, diseased or unsound should be slaughtered."

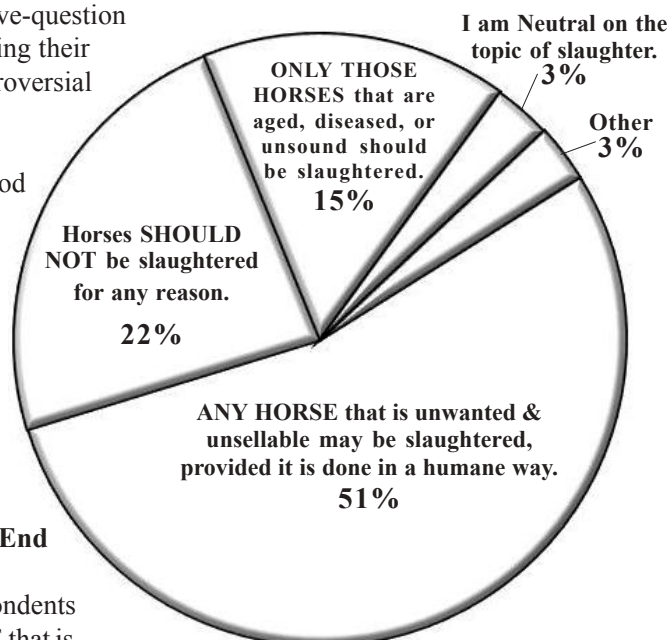
Eating of Horse Meat

About half of respondents (56%) say that "I would accept the use of horse meat as a protein source in the United States as well as other countries, although I personally may not choose to eat it.

Almost one third (27%) of respondents say "I respect other cultures' use of horse meat as protein but I do not want Americans to consume horse meat."

Personal Choices for Their Horses

44% said that "Even if U.S. slaughter were available, I **would not** knowingly



send any horse to slaughter under any conditions

42% said that "I would send a horse I own to slaughter provided he/she were unusable as a riding, driving or breeding horse due to soundness or mental issues, and I felt sure that the processing facilities were handling horses in a humane manner."

How to Fund the Care of Unwanted Horses (Multiple answers allowed)

53.9% I do not think any funding source should care for unwanted horses because I believe we need to bring back U.S. horse slaughter.

35.2% The care of unwanted horses should be paid for by donors and adoptees.

25.7% The care of unwanted horses should be paid for through a program where money is collected as a result of horse activities (such as a sur-

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Kentucky Horse Council

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What's Happening at KHC

First Time Horse Owner DVD Receives Press in Western Kentucky

KHC is currently in the post-production phase of creating a video for the First Time Horse Owner. The 10 segment film will be available spring 2009 through the KHC website and other forums.

Essie Rogers and Margi Stickney recently traveled to Princeton, Kentucky where they worked with the video producer Marvo Entertainment to perform edits of the film. The Kentucky Horse Council and this DVD project received great press coverage during the visit to Caldwell County, including a radio interview on WAVJ FM and an article in The Times Leader (which can be viewed at http://www.timesleader.net/articles/stories/public/200901/21/4ccz_news.html).



Essie Rogers, Margie Stickney, and a video producer from Marvo Entertainment editing the film.
Photo by Jared Nelson, The Times Leader Online

During that visit, Marvo Entertainment also received the good news of the intent to distribute the video by PBS affiliate KET.

Stickney and Rogers took a break from the edit room and visited member farm West Kentucky's Legacy Breeding Farm, which is located in Princeton.

Please check the next Kentucky Horse Council newsletter for distribution information on the DVD. The DVD will be available this spring, and will feature the top ten things every full-time horse owner should know. It will cost \$9.95. Topics that will be included in the DVD are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. The Appropriate Horse for You | 6. Keeping Your Horse Healthy |
| 2. Feeding Your Horse | 7. Is Your Horse Healthy? |
| 3. Hoof care Basics | 8. Equine Facility Safety |
| 4. Safe Horse Handling | 9. Transportation & Trailer Loading |
| 5. Tack | 10. All About the Kentucky Horse Council |

Meet Our Members & Their Horses!



Member's Name: Kristin Hix, KHC Board Member
County: Fayette
Horse's Name: Badger Pass (aka Gray Badger)
Age of Horse: 10
Breed: TB

What do you like to do with your horse? Badger lives in California, so when I get to ride him, I enjoy trail riding & riding on the beach! Closer to home, I enjoy trail riding with my friends who have horses to spare.

Fun Fact: Badger made a cross country trip from NJ to California, after his racing days were over.

What will you do for your horse on Valentine's Day? I'm going to send him a heart shaped carrot cake!



Member's Name: Madison Deaton
County: Jefferson
Horse's Name: Stormy Weather
Age of Horse: 14
Breed: Rocky Mountain/Welsh Cross
What do you like to do with your horse? Eventing

Fun fact: Stormy helped herself to the carrots on the concession stand table all while not knocking anything over! She loves to jump but watch out for anything edible under the fence!

What will you do for your horse on Valentine's Day? She will get carrots & apples.



Member's Name: Lori Redmon, KHC Board Member
County: Spencer County
Horse's Name: Kane
Age of Horse: 8 years
Breed: Paint

What do you like to do with your horse? Trail Riding

Fun fact: He acts like a dog and follows me around

What will you do for your horse on Valentine's Day? He'll get carrots and apples...he doesn't appreciate flowers or mushy cards!

If you'd like to be part of the "Meet Our Members" section, please email a picture of you and your horse to info@kentuckyhorse.org, with the subject of "Meet Our Members."

Notes from the KHC President

As you know, much of Kentucky was struck by a devastating ice storm the last week in January. Our Board President, Madelyn Millard, was without power for more than a week. As a result of that, she is unable to contribute a letter to this publication. We understand that many of you may still be without power and struggling to care for your animals.



From the Director's Chair

Bailing Out the Racing Industry?

Last night I watched a debate on KET with Rep Greg Stumbo, Rep. Danny Ford (R), Corey Johnson, President of Kentucky Downs and Martin Cothran from "Say No To Casinos". A phrase I heard from Mr. Cothran stuck in my head.

He said "We should not be bailing out the rich horse industry."

Well, regarding the term "rich horse industry" – that's another whole column. [Average net income for horse farms in Kentucky is \$50,000.] But "bailing out"? Let's talk about that.

In 2008, we bailed out financial institutions by handing them loads of cash from the taxpayer's pocket and saying, "So sorry you made poor decisions; here's a chunk of our taxpayer money to help your businesses recover from those bad decisions.. go spend it as you see fit. We'd like you to use it to make more loans to businesses and families, but we trust you so we won't require you to account for that money at all." HA! What a deal. We taxpayers will never see that money again. Nothing in that legislation made the financial institutions pay anything back into our coffers, nor did it specify the use of that money. And we saw executives give themselves multi-million dollar end-of-year bonuses at the same time that their firms begged Uncle Sam for help because they were broke.

Now the horse industry. What the slots bill (HB158) says to the tracks, in essence, is the following:

"We give you permission to expand your business into this different form of gaming. YOU need to make all the investments into the machines, buildings, and staff out of your own pocket. YOU run the business, hire the staff, pay the salaries, etc. YOU take the financial risks of this investment. If people don't come to play slots, then YOU pay the price. YOU, the tracks, will still be responsible for your debts from the expansion of your business." [This is the standard U.S. business model, and all small businesses know the rules for taking an investment risk.] The slots bill continues: "If people DO come to play slots- i.e. if this is a good business investment you made, then the State of Kentucky automatically gets a fixed percentage of the profits. And furthermore we will tell you, through the legislative process, exactly where all the rest of the profits will go." [This is NOT the standard business model but is a regulatory model.]

So is the State of Kentucky "bailing out" the horse industry??? Not even close.



About the Kentucky Horse Council in this Gaming Debate

Two years ago, a huge debate raged regarding casinos in Kentucky. There were about five positions you could take: No casinos, casinos at racetracks only, casinos at racetracks and other locations near state

borders, casinos at other places but not racetracks, and casinos anywhere (with a limited number of them.) And on top of that there were a whole list of positions you could take on how the revenue from the slots was to be spent. (How much to education, how much to additive gambling programs, how much to the horse industry, etc.) And finally, as a legislator, there was the ongoing debate whether your vote for a constitutional amendment ballot was in fact a vote for casinos, or not.

It was a mess. In the end, nothing passed.

The Kentucky Horse Council, as a 501C3, decided that adding our voice to this debate would not be appropriate. There were many opponents and proponents of casinos, most with paid lobbyists, fighting that battle. We believed then, as we do now, that the horse racing industry needs expanded gaming to remain competitive in its sport. We were hoping that pro-casino interests could pull out a solution that would be good for the industry, and be good for the State of Kentucky and its myriad of needs. The position of the Horse Council would not be a deciding factor in this battle.

In the end, all efforts failed to enact expanded gaming.

Fast forward to 2009.

KHC still believes the horse racing industry needs expanded gaming to

(Continued on the Following Page)

(Bailing Out the Racing Industry: Continued from Previous Page)

offer purses that are competitive with Indiana, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, etc. but it is now becoming even more critical. This time around, the proposal is much simpler than last time: Slot machines only (versus full blown casinos), located at tracks only (versus all the options of casinos), with oversight by the Lottery Commission (which may not know much about horse racing but knows a lot about machine-based gaming). This time around, the Kentucky Horse Council believes our voice can make a difference in the debate. And this time, we know the clock is ticking even more dangerously for our racing industry: not only is Kentucky not competitive in race purses without gaming, but horse sales revenues are down, stud fees are down, credit is hard to get, and

overall the horse industry is suffering with all other businesses. It is critical now that the State of Kentucky step up and support this signature industry. NOT through a “bail out”, but merely through legislative permission to expand their businesses on their dime.

Will some rich horse owners benefit? Yes. But this industry is filled with people, rich and poor, and farms large and small, and all will benefit. In fact, the entire horse industry will benefit from the possibility of improved profitability at Kentucky’s race tracks and farms. To spread the benefits of this new revenue source even wider into the horse industry, KHC has put its efforts into getting trail development and horse welfare programs as acceptable recipients of the funding. The KEEP non-race

staff has worked hard to get funds for breeders and other equine facilities. All these benefits will be built on the racing industry’s investment, not on taxpayer money.

Kentucky uses huge tax abatements to lure automobile manufacturers to the state, and no one seems to blink an eye. The federal government uses large taxpayer-based subsidies for the food industry, and most of us consider it part of the routine. Why then would Kentucky think that just giving PERMISSION for a signature business to expand its offerings would be somehow inconsistent and unfair?

I don’t know, you tell me.



*Ginny Grulke,
Executive Director*

(Horse Slaughter: What Our Members Think. Continued from Front Page)

charge on feed or tack, or a percentage of horse sales, etc.)

21.2% The care of unwanted horses should be paid for by horse associations.

17.4% I do not think any funding source is necessary; if owners don’t care for horses, we need to prosecute them for cruelty, and the prosecuting county must pay costs for the horses’ care.

14.1% The care of unwanted horses should be paid for by taxes at the state level.

13.7% The care of unwanted horses should be paid for by taxes at the federal level.

The Survey

This is not a scientific survey in the sense that there was no professional involved in wording the questions just right, and no deliberate sampling to make sure that all demographics of our membership were represented in the responses. But we believe the results do give us a reasonable insight into the membership’s opinion on the

matter.

Detailed response statistics can be found at: www.kentuckyhorse.org/slaughter.shtml

The KHC Board Response

The results of the survey were reviewed at the KHC Board Retreat in January. The board itself has individuals who fall on both sides of this issue. A lively discussion concluded with one (perhaps obvious) fact: This issue is divisive within both the KHC board and the horse community.

The board seriously considers its charge of balancing what is good for our membership, for our industry and for the horse itself. This issue is one for which the balancing act is particularly difficult. While we believe as a board that horses are livestock and that horses are property, the standard arguments regarding property rights are being challenged due to many owners’ opinions that their horses

are in fact their pets. And this group of owners simply cannot accept the image of one of their pets being slaughtered. On the other side of the equation are breeders and small business owners who realize the reality of raising livestock and the need to efficiently dispose of those that do not meet the market needs.

We, as the horse community, are unique in this contradiction compared to all other animals. Dogs and cats are ONLY pets, and cattle are ONLY livestock. No other species has this overlap, and thus no other animal ownership group is faced with this conflict.

The Kentucky Horse Council will continue to be neutral on the issue of horse slaughter, to respect the diversity of opinion of our membership and the diversity of opinion of our board members.

Please feel free to share your comments with us about this article.



Competition Schedule Revised For 2010 Games: The World Games 2010 Foundation announced a revision to the competition schedule for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. The new schedule moves the Reining competition to September 25-30, and shifts the Vaulting competition to October 1-10. No other discipline schedules were altered.

New Web Site Launched: The World Games 2010 Foundation officially launched a new Web site for the 2010 Games, at www.feigames2010.org. Curious fans can get a sneak peak of what the Kentucky Horse Park will look like in 2010, with an interactive venue map, stadium and arena renderings, and links to the horse park's construction updates.

Partnership Formed With The University of Kentucky: The World Games 2010 Foundation announced a partnership with the University of Kentucky. In addition, UK HealthCare will be the "Official Medical Provider" of the 2010 Games, and UK's College of Agriculture will also be the "Official Equine Initiative" of the 2010 Games. Other UK Colleges, departments and campus units, including Foreign Language, Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts, Design, as well as the Career Services Department, will provide assistance and support for the 2010 Games when appropriate.



LeRoy Neiman Painting For 2010 Games Unveiled: The World Games 2010 Foundation unveiled the Official Image of the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, created by internationally renowned artist LeRoy Neiman. The painting features each of the eight equestrian sports that comprise the World Equestrian Games, illustrated in Mr. Neiman's style of brilliantly-colored, energetic imagery. The painting will initially be stored and displayed at the International Museum of the Horse at Lexington's Kentucky Horse Park.

★ **Racing Stars for 2008** ★

Curlin repeats as TB Racing's Horse of the Year

A season spent chasing history culminated with another milestone for Curlin on Jan. 26th when he became the first horse since Cigar (1995-96) to win back-to-back Horse of the Year honors during the Eclipse Awards.

'Somebeach' Is Named Horse of the Year in Harness Racing

Somebeachsomewhere was named Horse of the Year at harness racing's Night of Champions awards dinner. Somebeachsomewhere, a pacer, received 121 of the 158 votes in balloting by the United States Harness Writers Association, easily beating the top trotter Deweycheatumnhowe, who received 35 votes.

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Health & Welfare

New Newsletter Column: Ask the Expert

Do you have questions about equine feed, nutrition, natural remedies, alternative approaches to horse care, and other things equine? Now you can ask an expert by submitting them to the Kentucky Horse Council newsletter. Your questions will be answered in print in upcoming issues of the newsletter by Bob Coleman, PhD PAS or Jennifer Newman, DVM or another qualified expert as appropriate. To have your questions answered by an expert in our newsletter, email info@kentuckyhorse.org, with the subject line "Ask the Expert".

Meet the Experts

Bob Coleman is the Extension Horse Specialist for the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. He is responsible for the Equine Extension Program in the Department which encompasses adult education activities such as Horse College. In

addition to extension activities, Dr. Coleman teaches two courses in the Equine Science and Management program, Introduction to the Horse and the Horse Industry (EQM 101) and Equine



Dr. Bob Coleman

Science (ASC 410). Dr. Coleman received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Alberta and worked in Alberta as the Provincial Horse Specialist. Dr. Coleman is a past-President for the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society and is certified as a professional animal scientist (P.A.S.) by the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists.

Dr. Jennifer Newman is originally from Southern California where she grew up riding dressage horses and partici-

pated in Pony Club and 4-H. In 1998, she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at the University of California – Riverside. She completed a Master of Science degree in 2001 in equine viral immunology from the University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Research Center. Dr. Newman returned to her home state to attend the University of California – Davis, where she obtained her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 2005, tracking equine. Dr. Newman later accepted the Technical Service Veterinarian position at Neogen Corporation in December 2007 where she currently provides technical support for the sales and marketing teams, oversees the pharmacovigilance, reviews product labeling and technical bulletins, and contributes to new product planning, research, and development.

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ZARAGOSA 1998 Bay Stallion
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Abandoned Horse Reporting

In an effort to identify the extent to which Kentucky horses are being abandoned, the Horse Council is currently collecting information from people with **firsthand** experience with abandoned horses including: horses running at large, horses left at sales barns, horses abandoned with unpaid bills at boarding facilities, horses left in barns and fields, horses left tied to trees, etc.

If **you** have had an experience with an abandoned horse anytime in the past year please visit the KHC website, download, complete, and mail the form to the Kentucky Horse Council. If you know of someone who has had this type of experience please ask **that individual** to complete the form and send it to the KHC office. Please tell other Kentuckians about this information request and encourage them to complete the form and submit it if they have any **personal** experience with abandoned horses in Kentucky.

All submissions need to be in writing using the abandoned horse reporting form and **from the person** who witnessed the abandoned horses. This form is downloadable from our website at www.kentuckyhorse.org.



Health & Welfare

Contagious Equine Metritis Outbreak Update

From the American Horse Council



In December 2008, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture announced that a Quarter Horse stallion tested positive for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), a foreign animal disease not found in the United States, during routine testing for international semen shipment. Contagious Equine Metritis is a transmissible, exotic venereal disease in horses which usually results in infertility in mares and, on rare occasions, can cause mares to spontaneously abort. Infected stallions exhibit no clinical signs but can carry the CEM bacteria for years.

Since the discovery of the positive stallion in Kentucky, a full epidemiological investigation has been underway to locate, test and quarantine any potentially exposed horses. Currently a total of nine stallions have been confirmed positive for CEM, four located in Kentucky, three in Indiana, one in Wisconsin and one in Texas. The Indiana and Texas stallions spent time on the central Kentucky premises during the 2008 breeding season. The Friesian stallion from Wisconsin was not in Kentucky, but was co-located during the 2007 breeding season in Wisconsin with

one of the CEM-positive stallions that was on the Kentucky premises in 2008.

In addition to the nine positive stallions, the locations of 325 exposed horses have also been confirmed. The total of 334 horses includes 43 stallions and 291 mares located in a total of 39 States. The 43 positive or exposed stallions are located in 11 States, and the 291 exposed mares are in 37 States. Additional exposed horses that are tied to the two latest positive stallions (in Texas and Wisconsin) are actively being traced and will be held under movement restrictions by state animal health authorities, until they test negative for the disease or they complete veterinary treatment and are certified as CEM-negative. All of the horses that have tested positive for CEM and all exposed horses that have been located are currently under quarantine or are on a hold order. Testing of all associated horses is underway, as well as treatment of those found to be CEM positive.

The United States Department of Agriculture is currently funding the testing associated with this disease investigation. They are funding the diagnostic tests and sample shipping costs for the testing of any exposed horses directly linked to the investigation. An exposed horse is one that was bred to a

CEM-positive horse, either naturally or via artificial insemination, or one that is otherwise epidemiologically linked to a CEM-positive horse, as determined by State and Federal animal health officials.

There is great concern over the ramifications of this situation on domestic and international transport, as many countries only accept horses that are certified to come from a country free of CEM. The American Horse Council continues to remain in contact with state and USDA representatives regarding this outbreak. We want to make sure that this investigation is executed as quickly and efficiently as possible to protect the U.S. horse industry from further spread of the disease and ensure that the U.S. can maintain its status of being free of CEM and allow continued movement of horses.

Please contact the American Horse Council with any questions about this article.

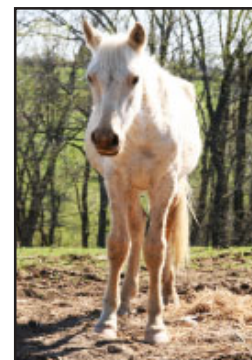
Email: AHC@horsecouncil.org
 Website: www.horsecouncil.org
 Phone: (202) 296-4031
 Fax (202) 296-1970

If you would like to be on a CEM email list and provided with the latest updates concerning the CEM outbreak, please contact the Kentucky Horse Council at info@kentuckyhorse.org.

Equine Neglect & Abuse Investigation Training

The Kentucky Horse Council is offering an Equine Abuse Investigation training March 18-20, 2009 at Murray State University. The three day Level I course provides hands-on horse opportunities to Animal Control Officers and Law Enforcement Officials designed to prepare them for the identification, management and care of neglected horses.

If your county official is interested in attending this class, please have them contact the Kentucky Horse Council at (859) 367-0509, email [Essie at erogers@kentuckyhorse.org](mailto:Essie@erogers@kentuckyhorse.org), or visit www.kentuckyhorse.org.



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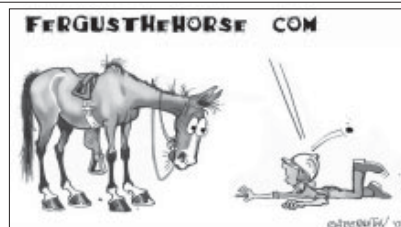
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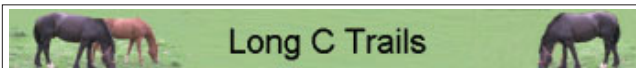
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KHJA End of Year Rescue Horse High Point Award

A \$300 cash prize will be given by the Kentucky Horse Council to the Kentucky Hunter Jumper Association competitor riding a rescued horse with the greatest accumulation of points in 2009. Year end points are tallied by KHC, and the 2009 rescue horse high point winner will be recognized at the 2010 KHJA banquet and at the KHC Annual Conference.

Any KHJA member who competes on an adopted horse is eligible for a year end high point award regardless of the competing division. Interested KHJA members should apply by completing a form available through KHJA or the KHC office and including a copy of the adoption contract. KHJA members seeking to compete for the high point award on rescued horses without an adoption contract may submit an application and essay describing the rescue situation. A panel of KHJA representatives and KHC staff will review applications and make eligibility decisions.

KHJA show managers will have information and applications at 2009 horse shows. Only KHJA members who have completed an application and submitted it to the Kentucky Horse Council will be eligible for the year end award. For more information contact Essie Rogers at (859) 367-0509 or erogers@kentuckyhorse.org, or visit www.kentuckyhorse.org.

Renew Your KCH Membership!

All KHC Memberships run from January through December.
If you have not renewed yet, now is the time to do so!

Visit www.kentuckyhorse.org to join online or to print the membership application. You can also email us at info@kentuckyhorse.org or call (859) 367-0509 and we will send you the membership application.

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