



Horse Council Courier

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois newsletter dedicated to promoting a healthy horse industry statewide through information and education.

Mr. Bowman Goes to Washington... and Comes Back With a Job for You!

As president of the Horseman's Council of Illinois (HCI), Frank Bowman attended the American Horse Council National Issues Meeting in Washington D. C. the end of June. He also attended the State Horse Council Advisory Meeting to which he is the Illinois delegate. What's more, he put into practice what he preaches, stopping by nearly a dozen offices of Illinois Congressmen to meet legislators and their aids and impress upon them that he owns horses and votes!

This wasn't just a personal mission, of course. Bowman used the time with representatives to tell them how hard the Horsemen's Council of Illinois is working to address the need for continued access to public lands, equality in health care coverage, the problems that create the surplus horses in America and HCI's attempts to counter the anti-agriculture/animal rights rhetoric that threatens our equestrian lifestyles.

Bowman explained that if it is truly the will of the legislature and the American people to prohibit the processing of horses for export as a food and fiber source, then HCI believes that it is unwise to legislate such a prohibition without having the funded alternatives in place to help state and local governments with the surplus of animals that will become their responsibility.

This is the same approach HCI is asking every member to take this summer while state and federal legislators are back home in their districts.

It follows the Council's Grass Roots Lobbying Tutorial:

- Get to know your legislator's staff in the local office, visit often
- Try to meet with legislators at local functions
- Be sure to contact your legislator on issues important to you
- Encourage participation by your friends and other constituents
- Work to get an equine champion in the Governor's office

Bowman also reports that the discussions identified a huge need to define and foster "good stewardship" within the industry, promote responsible ownership and work to bring our story to the general public. "We haven't been doing enough to sell the positives of horse ownership and recreation to the public, instead we tend to dwell on the "poor me" aspects of the story. There will be no knight in shining armor coming to save the horse industry or animal agriculture for that matter, we must do it ourselves."

The animal welfare/rights organizations are also working diligently to effect trail closures to horses across the country.

Consider this: if we have nowhere to ride a horse it only stands to reason that there will be fewer horses employed for recreation and therefore fewer reasons to own a horse. An animal rights dream come true!

Bowman also met with Keith Dane, the Director of Equine Protection for

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) who claims that "if equine rescues are doing their job properly" there will be enough facilities to care for the unwanted horses generated by the prohibition on slaughter.

Truth is, the national capacity for housing these horses has already been exceeded. When HSUS asked why HCI works so hard to try to educate irresponsible horse owners, Bowman answered "because irresponsible horse owners tend to breed more irresponsible horse owners." No response was available from HSUS.

Bowman suggests that we find ties to other segments of the community, stretch out beyond our normal comfort zone and take the time to attend meetings with groups such as the Sierra Club, HSUS, PETA, and Farm Sanctuary.

(continued on page 7)

Inside this Issue

<i>Horse Neglect: Recognize and Report It</i>	4
<i>Legislative Update</i>	7
<i>OVETS 2007</i>	3
<i>President's Corner</i>	2
<i>Responsible Horse Ownership</i>	8

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President's Corner

It's All About Horses!

Over the past many years I have observed first hand at horse and livestock functions that horse people tend to become emotional and possibly even a little defensive when talking about their animals and their chosen equestrian life-style. The horse industry under a full frontal attack by animal rights organizations and as a whole we need to be on the defensive right now in order to protect the life-style we love so much.

I just returned from the American Horse Council National Issues Forum in Washington D.C. where leaders in the equine industry from around the country discussed all sorts of emerging trends, successes and failures, the nationwide problem of unwanted horses, how to reconnect land managers with horses and encourage new participants to join in this fun and exciting industry.

Among the most pressing issues is how do we as horse owners stem the tide of misinformation about horse ownership being widely spread by the animal rights organizations to their urban constituents.

Recently defeated wording contained in the Ag Appropriations Bill sought to create a prohibition on using federal funds to "examine, inspect, certify or mark horses...or file any certificate concerning horses..." and would have had dire consequences for the horse industry and made it impossible for the Secretary of Agriculture to administer existing animal welfare and quarantine laws which protect the nation's horse herd.

Under the proposed restriction, we believe the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) would have been prohibited from engaging in any inspectional activities or issuing certifications with regard to equine disease or animal welfare. This limitation would directly affect the

movement of horses internationally, interstate and potentially intrastate. Inspections currently made by APHIS personnel at horse shows, racetracks and fairs across the country would also be have been prohibited.

In furthering their animal rights agenda, our friends at the Humane Society of the United States have apparently proposed this language seeking to limit the ability to move horses across state lines and make it difficult to even go to the local park or state forest for a day with friends and family on horseback.

Let's face it, animal welfare is an easy sell. Horses are majestic and mysterious creatures to most urban dwellers several generations removed from the farm. We, as an industry, haven't been doing enough to demystify horses and sell the positives of horse ownership and recreation to the public. There is a huge and pressing need for each and every one of us to define, understand and foster "stewardship" within the equine industry. We need to educate horse owners and potential owners to their responsibilities for their horses, promote responsible ownership and work to bring our story to the general public.

We must do it ourselves. You must take on the responsibility. Become an Equine Ambassador for the horse industry, HCI is here to help. Stretch out beyond your normal comfort zone and attend meetings with groups like the Sierra Club, HSUS, PETA, and Farm Sanctuary, they're attending yours. Don't be afraid to speak out on behalf of the horses you love. Stop by your legislator's home office, get to know his/her staffer(s) and share your concerns on issues important to you and for the future of horse ownership. Do it today!

Frank Bowman

OVETS 2007, held on June 21 - 24, 2007

The 2007 Ohio Valley Equestrian Trails Symposium, hosted by the Indiana Trail Riders Association, was held on June 21st through June 24th at Midwest Trail Ride near Norman, Indiana. The four day program featured a keynote speaker, informative presentations, and hands-on workshops.

The informative presentations began at 7:00 PM, Thursday, June 21 with Doug Baird, the Property Manager of the Brown County State Park, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Baird has worked for the IDNR for the past 20 years and has seen big changes in trail design, construction, and maintenance. His compliments go to the Indiana Trail Riders Association and the Indiana Backcountry Horsemen who have worked closely with the National Forest Service in the Hoosier National Forest to design, construct, repair, and maintain equestrian and hiking trails. Due to the numerous trail design and construction certifications obtained by ITRA members, they have been allowed to work in the Deam Wilderness Area where absolutely no mechanized equipment is allowed,

Friday morning, June 22, was started off with Dr. Mylon Filkins from Back Country Horsemen of America. His presentation, "Partnerships in Action," demonstrated the need for equestrian services in the back country of the west to stock lakes with fish and pack in supplies for the youth-oriented California Conservation Corps. The National Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Department have grown to depend on these services to continue their conservation efforts in the western United States.

"Training Crews and Leaders" was presented by Bud Wills, Pennsylvania Equine Council State Trail Chair, and Gwen Wills, Pennsylvania Equine Council Trails Stewardship Program Director. Just a few short years ago, the Gaming Commission of the Fish and

Wildlife Department closed 1.4 million acres of forests that contained hundreds of miles of horse trails due to "unregulated recreation." Bud and Gwen Wills rose to the challenge of reopening these trails by establishing a Trails Stewardship Program. The Pennsylvania Equine Council now offers 1-day, 2-day, and 3-day training programs for anyone interested in trail design, construction, repair, and maintenance.

have great respect for these equestrians who have increased the survival rate of these fingerling fish from 30% to 90% by using pack mule teams.

After an afternoon of individual free time to ride in the Hoosier National Forest, the OVETS registrants returned in the evening to listen to Mary Hanson, the Outdoor Recreation Planner for Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance, the National Parks Service, Nebraska. Her presentation, "Advocacy,

Building Support for Trails and Keeping Your Morale High," was based on the "come with me" technique of generating more trail advocates. Trail advocates should not only bring their fellow equestrians to see their accomplishments in building horse trails but also fellow trail users (such as hikers and bikers) and, especially the next generation of horse trail users. Trail advocates need to keep the horse trails open for many generations. Ms. Hanson also recommended knowing the government agency's enabling legislation so trail advocates will know what restrictions apply to that agency's field agents.

Saturday's presentations were led by Candace Bourne, representing Brian Bourne from the Trails for the Future, Inc., a group that has been hired to design the designated trails for

the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois. The Bournes' power point presentation demonstrated the dangerous and erosive condition of "user generated" trails. Many of the horse trails in Shawnee National Forest have been developed by using existing trails. These existing trails were many times simply deer trails that wandered in very winding paths in sometimes dangerous rocky places and caused erosive conditions when a great many more horses started following the

OVETS Newsbit

2008 Ohio Valley Equestrian Trails Symposium will be held at the Little Lusk Trail Lodge near Eddyville, Illinois on June 19-22, 2008. The program will feature great speakers and demonstrations ranging from trail construction and maintenance to horse health on the trails. The OVETS is an unparalleled educational experience so encourage your local public land managers; all trail users, and the general public to attend. Watch for posted flyers and check the Horsemen's Council of Illinois website for registration forms.

The OVETS Steering Committee is comprised of members from 6 different states:

- Illinois - Brian Bourne, Candace Bourne, and Sara Rhoades;
- Indiana - Christine Eickleberry and Yvette Rollins;
- Kentucky - Jennifer Truax;
- Michigan - Mike Foote;
- Ohio - Jean Dunbar;
- Wisconsin - Dan and Linda Catherman.

Dr. Filkins followed the Wills' presentation with "Backcountry Horsemen of California Shasta-Trinity Fish Plant 2005." He gave a much more detailed description of the training needed for the planting of 40,000 fingerling trout in the 14 lakes on Mount Shasta in the Trinity National Forest. The group of backcountry horsemen who venture forth on this day-long journey must carefully pack coolers with cold water as well as thousands of fingerling fish. The Fish and Wildlife Department

(continued on page 6)

Horse Neglect: Recognize It and Report It

By Lydia F. Gray, DVM, MA

Medical Director/Staff Veterinarian, SmartPak Equine

You're driving down the road when you pass a dilapidated farm with an emaciated horse standing next to a barn. What should you do?

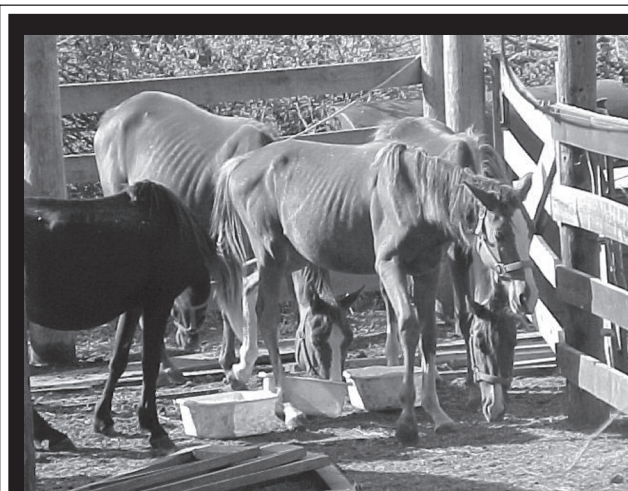
- a) pick some grass and feed it over the fence to the horse
- b) go home and get some of your hay and grain and feed it to the horse
- c) let the horse loose
- d) report the situation to the authorities

Hopefully you chose answer d), but believe it or not, concerned citizens often choose a), b), and c). Horse neglect happens in our state, and it is up to you to do the right thing when you see it. The first step is recognizing true horse neglect.

Recognizing horse neglect

What is horse neglect? Simply put, it is the withholding of basic needs from a horse: food, water, shelter and veterinary care when needed. To read the Humane Care for Animals Act, the state law that requires animals be cared for properly, visit www.ilga.gov and click on Illinois Compiled Statutes. Scroll down and click on Chapter 510 under Husbandry, then go to 510 ILCS 70/ Humane Care for Animals Act. Section 3 lists Owner's Duties, section 3.01 describes Cruel Treatment, section 3.02 describes Aggravated Cruelty and section 3.03 describes Animal Torture.

Some complaints of equine neglect are based on seeing an animal with burrs, covered in or standing in mud, with dangerous equipment in its pasture or being kept within inadequate fencing. While the owners of these horses may be "neglecting" to groom their horse



or maintain their pastures and fences, these observations serve more as "red flags" that this horse may become truly neglected in the future since its owner may not spend much time or money on it or be very knowledgeable.

What does true horse neglect look like? The most common appearance of a horse that is not having its basic needs met is weight loss. Horses that are not receiving appropriate food or water, that lack shelter from wind and precipitation during cold months, that are not receiving dental care, or that are not being dewormed properly may all be underweight. Some of these situations may also cause poor hair coats, lethargy, and pot-bellies. Horses

with diseases or injuries that are not receiving veterinary care may also have weight loss, in addition to the signs of their main condition. Overgrown hooves are another sign of neglect.

Reporting horse neglect

Now that you know what true horse neglect looks like, what should you do when you see it? Unless you are well acquainted with the person you believe is neglecting their horse, the best thing to do is contact the appropriate authorities. It can be pointless as well as dangerous to approach strangers on their own property and confront them about the poor care they are giving an animal they own.

The reasons owners neglect horses can be placed into five general categories:

- ignorance (*don't know what horses need*)
- apathy (*don't care what horses need*)
- lifestyle change (*can't help it because of financial or other problems*)
- intentional (*can help it but don't want to*)
- mentally ill (*e.g. a hoarder or collector*)

More than likely you do not have the training or experience to improve these situations. The appropriate authorities however, do have the necessary background as well as credentials to make a difference. In Illinois, there are four main categories of animal welfare authorities: private humane societies, animal control agencies, any law enforcement official (State Police, municipal police, and county sheriff), and the State Department of Agriculture.

Private humane societies sponsor volunteers and/or staff to sit for the Department's annual test to become state-approved humane investigators (employees of the other three categories already have the authority to investigate animal neglect.) With this card and an official complaint, humane investigators have the legal right to go onto private property and conduct an investigation.

The investigator uses a friendly approach to gather information about the situation and provide helpful suggestions. If these suggestions go unheeded, the investigator may write a notice of violation which lists the problem, corrective measures, and provides a deadline for compliance. If the investigator returns and the notice of violation has also gone unheeded, he or she can then ask the Department for authorization to impound the animals.

Generally, the Department will only grant an impoundment if one of their own employee investigators or a local veterinarian is also on the scene and agrees that the animals are in poor health and need to be removed. The private humane society will either bring the animals to their facility, put them in approved foster homes, or, if it is a large impoundment, temporarily house them at a fairgrounds or other facility until the hearing has been appealed and/or a conviction obtained.

Following up on horse neglect

When you make an official complaint to any of the four animal welfare agencies described in the previous section, you will be asked for your name and contact information, the address where the neglect is occurring (and name and contact information of owner if you know it), directions to the address from a main intersection or city, and specific details of the neglect. Important things to note are what kind

of animals are involved, how many animals, and what you see that leads you to believe they may be neglected. A proper investigation cannot be conducted without the above information.

It is natural to want to know the outcome of an investigation that you set into motion. However, if you call back before the investigation is completed, be prepared for the agency to say "the investigation is ongoing."

That means they are still trying to get the owner to voluntarily improve the situation and/or they are still gathering evidence to be able to impound the animals and press charges. Sharing details of an ongoing investigation could jeopardize the case. Sometimes it may seem like weeks or months and that no action is being taken.

Do not take matters into your own hands by feeding, watering, providing veterinary care or other aid to help the animals. That will only close the case in favor of the alleged violator. Give the agency time to do their job. If, however, you call back and are told the investigation is closed and you truly feel the situation was not handled properly, contact the Department of Agriculture and make another official complaint.

As long as an official complaint has been recorded, an investigator MUST check out the situation. It is possible that a follow up visit to the scene may expose different evidence that will lead to a different outcome.

NOTE: Agencies in Illinois do not have the authority to continue to make follow up visits to an address. Once the owner fulfills the law, the case is closed and a new official complaint must be logged in order to legally permit investigators to set foot on the property. Also, without a warrant, investigators cannot enter into a building which serves as a residence for the owner.

The Loose Horse

Now imagine you're driving down the road when you spot a loose horse in a corn field. What should you do in this situation? The law that applies to loose horses is 510 ILCS 55/ Illinois Domestic Animals Running at Large Act, which can found on the same website as the Humane Care for Animals Act.

In this situation, if you feel safe, it would be appropriate to knock on doors in an attempt to locate the owners. If the owners cannot be located or they are not interested in catching their loose animal, then alert the nearest law enforcement agency.

Stay in the area if possible (but not close enough to the animal to scare it away) until the police or sheriff arrives. This may prevent another driver from having an accident. Once the authorities are on the scene, follow their instructions, which may be to leave, assist with the roundup, or make additional phone calls.

Be sure to supply your name and contact information to law enforcement before leaving.

Dr. Lydia Gray was the executive director of the Hooved Animal Humane Society in Woodstock, IL, and an approved humane investigator. She currently serves on the American Association of Equine Practitioner's Equine Welfare Committee and is an advisor to the newly formed Unwanted Horse Coalition.

Join Us Today!

Individual Membership Application

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 County: _____
 Phone: () _____
 Work Phone: () _____
 Fax: () _____
 E-mail: _____

How many horses do you own?

_____ at home _____ boarding stable

Individual Membership Dues \$39/yr

(includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage)

Organization Membership Application

Organization: _____
 Contact Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 County: _____
 Phone: () _____
 Work Phone: () _____
 Fax: () _____
 E-mail: _____
 Website: _____

of Illinois Members in Organization _____

Check appropriate category

____ Business/Professional ____ Association ____ Charity

Organization Membership Dues \$50/yr

(includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage)

Make check payable and mail to :



Horsemen's Council of Illinois
 P.O. Box 1605
 Springfield, IL 62705
 Phone: 217.585-1600
www.horsemenscouncil.org

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

OVETS

(continued from page 3)

same trails. Since the judicial system has become involved in the decision to close or keep the horse trails in the Shawnee, equestrians must be very careful to follow the judicial guidelines, such as staying on the designated trails, in order to keep the horse trails open. Many longtime trail users are understandably angry about the curtailing of long standing tradition. However, the choice between whether to stick to the designated trails or not have any trails at all should be an easy decision.

Next up was Jennifer Hillmer, Land Steward from the Holden Arboretum in Ohio presenting "Working with Volunteers." Ms. Hillmer's perspective as a land manager in a privately funded facility which depended on donations and grants to support their trails gave a fresh look to applying volunteer hours to completing a project. Using a volunteer's time and skills efficiently is a must for any land manager. Of course, dealing with a disruptive volunteer also takes training. Evaluating a project as a land manager is very different than evaluating a project from the perspective of a volunteer.

Saturday afternoon riding time gave way to hands-on workshops with a Ditch Witch demonstration (which all registrants were allowed to run) and a 2-hour demonstration of "Packing with Mules" by Bud and Gwen Wills. The program originally included a hands-on trail project for the Midwest Trail Ride but the rain prevented the actual work on the trail. Instead, the registrants went up the trail to a trouble spot and divided into groups to study the situation and give the best resolution to the trail problem.

Les Wadzinski from the Hoosier National Forest gave the first of 3 Sunday morning presentations. "Working with the User Permit Fees" began with a brief history of the legislation that has governed the inception of (the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965), the experiment with (the Recreation Fee

Demonstration Project of 1998), and the establishment of (The Recreation Enhancement Fee of 2005) the current user fees for the National Forests. The fees are divided into 3 categories: basic (e.g. parking, etc.) which is completely tax supported, standard (e.g. bathrooms, etc.) which is shared by users and tax support, and expanded (e.g. horse trails, mountain bike trails, etc.) which is largely supported by users. The good news is that 80% of the fees collected for the expanded division goes directly back into the trails.

Stacy Lowe, president of the Indiana Trail Riders Association, followed with her presentation: "Working with State Parks and Forests." This presentation was an informative speech about the best ways to approach and work with the administrations of state parks and forests. Ms. Lowe's advice centered around getting the general public involved in learning about trails and apprising various park and forest officials of public needs. ITRA's annual "VIP Ride" has done a great deal to acquaint local politicians and legislators to the economic impact of equestrian activities.

Yvette Rollins, president of Hoosier Back Country Horsemen, completed the presentations with "Working with the Hoosier National Forest." Her power point included wonderful before and after photos of the horse trails that her organization has designed, constructed, repaired, and maintained over the past several years. The numerous trail design and construction certifications earned by members as well as the tight network of statewide volunteers that comprise the Hoosier Back Country Horsemen has led to the ultimate compliment of being allowed to work unsupervised in the Deam Wilderness of the Hoosier National Forest. This group has been an outstanding leader in the development of a productive working relationship with the National Forest Service. All other trail advocates take notice!

The 2007 OVETS was a wonderful experience for any equestrian. Be sure to attend the 2008 OVETS in the Shawnee National Forest!

Legislative Update

Late August 2, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the funding bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Fiscal Year 2008 after removing the overly-broad language that was opposed by the horse industry.

Adverse Funding Prohibition Eliminated

When the USDA funding bill was reported out of the House Appropriations Committee two weeks ago, it included language that was intended to apply to slaughter horses. But the provision was so broadly drafted that it would have applied to all horses and been disastrous for the horse industry.

Section 738 of the bill would have prohibited USDA's Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service from carrying out all horse health monitoring and regulatory work and prohibited the inspection of horses required to import or export a horse.

Obviously, this would have dramatically affected the horse industry, which is national and international in scope. Horses are transported, imported and exported for many reasons, including racing, showing, sales and breeding. All

these activities would have been adversely impacted by this provision.

Fortunately, this provision was removed before the House gave final approval to the USDA appropriations bill. The import, export, international and national movement of horses under USDA supervision and oversight will continue as it is done now. This was accomplished because organizations and individuals from numerous segments of the industry contacted House members raising the issue and their concerns.

Slaughter Horse De-Funding Provision Included

The House did include language in the bill that would cut-off funding for USDA activities related to the slaughter of horses. This provision is similar to the one that was included in the USDA appropriations bill passed in the last Congress. Since the amendment is part of an appropriations bill, the funding ban, if it is also passed by the Senate, will last for Fiscal Year 2008, which extends from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

*Reprinted with permission
American Horse Council*

Mr. Bowman Goes to Washington

(continued from cover)

"They attend our meetings and infiltrate our organizations; we need to reciprocate and stem the tide of misinformation presented about the horse industry and rural life in general," he said.

We, each and every one of us, need to expand our efforts to demystify horses to the general public. Horses are majestic creatures that have unfortunately been made bigger than life in Hollywood epics and made for TV adventure stories. How do we remove the "Big Mystery" surrounding horses in the minds of our urban friends?

HCI offers the opportunity for you to actively participate in the process and help influence the decisions that directly affect your equestrian lifestyle. Get involved on an HCI committee that interests you, volunteer to help at the numerous horse fairs and public appearances throughout the year, and become an Equine Ambassador! Contact the HCI office to find out how.

For help in locating contact information for your state and federal legislators, see the "Legislation" page on the HCI web site: www.HorsemensCouncil.org.

Grass Roots Lobbying Works!

For 20 years the Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI) has been an active voice in the ears of legislators in Springfield and Washington, DC. We have secured changes in the Illinois statutes, worked to enhance equine health and welfare and have contributed to the rule making process which has resulted in direct benefits to our members. Most importantly, HCI has become recognized as a legitimate and active participant in the ongoing legislative debate that affects horse owners.

Now it is more important than ever that our legislators become aware of the thousands of HCI members and equine enthusiasts throughout Illinois

and the important role the equine industry plays in the state's economy. HCI is asking **you to make a personnel visit to your legislators** while they are in their home districts this summer to say hello and simply become acquainted. Let them know you are a resident of their district and participate as a member of the Illinois Equine Industry. Nothing is as important to elected officials as maintaining good relations with the voters of their district. The visit will be an enjoyable experience for you and **provide legislators with a source of information on things that are important to you** now and will be in the future.

If you wish, an HCI representative can accompany you on your visit. This is a great opportunity for you to help preserve and enhance the equine lifestyle as an intricate part of Illinois history and culture. **Become an Equine Ambassador today!** For more information contact Frank Bowman, HCI president at 217-585-1600 or by e-mail to hci@HorsemensCouncil.org.

***HCI Needs
Your Help!
Become an Equine
Ambassador***

Responsible Horse Ownership

What can you do with a horse that is unusable, unsafe, unsound, or merely unwanted, now that slaughter is being taken away as an owner's end of life decision?

(The Illinois legislature passed laws prohibiting the slaughter of horses by making it unlawful to knowingly sell a horse that may end up being processed for meat for human consumption. Cavel International in DeKalb, IL still harvests horses, having challenged the constitutionality of the Illinois laws, which currently are under judicial review. But what will be your options if the laws are upheld and slaughter is effectively banned?)

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI) offers a full discussion of your options on its web site

www.HorsemensCouncil.org/pdfs/Slaughter%20Collection.pdf.

Included are descriptions of the processes along with references and resources offering guidance on retirement farms, euthanasia, composting, cremation, rendering and burial along with a generalized commentary on regulations governing such aspects as conditions for burial on private property. Specifics are a matter for county control.

The material also encourages responsible horse ownership and offers counsel on assessing your horse's slaughter susceptibility.

HCI's position is that while no horse owner is required to send a horse to slaughter, it is the right and duty of horse owners to make benevolent end-of-life

decisions for their unwanted, unusable, unsafe or unsound horses. The Council has worked successfully with the Illinois General Assembly to add language to the Equine Infectious Anemia control act which effectively eliminates the possibility of severely medicated horses from going to slaughter and further requires sellers of equine at auction to sign a written acknowledgement stating that they understand the possibility that the equine they sell may end up going to slaughter.

The articles referenced above attempt to help educate horse owners on identifying the options available and to assure that the best welfare of the horse remains the highest priority of the responsible horse owner.

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