

Horse Protection Platform

Urge lawmakers to:

- Support appropriations legislation that maintains prohibitions against slaughter and lethal control of wild equines and devotes funding towards proven and humane fertility control.
- Join the Wild Horse Caucus, co-chaired by Reps. Dina Titus (D-NV), Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ), Steve Cohen (D-TN), David Schweikert (R-AZ), and Mark Pocan (D-WI)
- Cosponsor the SAFE Act (H.R. 1661/S. 775) to permanently ban horse slaughter in the United States for human consumption, as well as the export of horses for slaughter.
- Cosponsor the Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act (H.R. 4356) to phase out brutal helicopter roundups and increase transparency.
- Cosponsor the PAST Act (H.R. 1684) to end the abusive practice of soring Tennessee Walking Horses.
- Cosponsor the Ejiao Act (H.R. 5544) to ban the sale and trade in ejiao gelatin made from donkey hides.
- Cosponsor the Horse Transportation Safety Act (H.R. 3623) to prohibit hauling horses in double-deck trailers.
- Cosponsor the Veterans for Mustangs Act (H.R. 2864) to support veterans administering humane fertility control for wild herds.



HHC Lobby Day 2024



The Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act (H.R. 1661/S. 775)

- 239 cosponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Builds on dog and cat slaughter prohibition that passed via the 2018 Farm Bill
- Horse slaughter ban passed the full House in the 117th Congress
- Bipartisan amendment to bar transport of equines to slaughter passed House T&I Committee in May as part of the BUILD America 250 Act (H.R. 8870)
- Provisions that bar domestic horse slaughter facilities included in FY26 appropriations legislation – on track for FY27
- FY27 House and Senate letters requesting a permanent block on domestic horse slaughter facilities were signed by 150 Representatives and 29 Senators, respectively





- Amendment to bar transport of equines to slaughter led by Reps. Van Drew (R-NJ) and Titus (D-NV), Burchett (R-TN) and Patronis (R-FL)
- Passed out of House T&I by a vote of 34-30 as part of surface transportation reauthorization package
- Awaits consideration by the full House of Representatives; Senate has yet to release bill text
- Similar to the farm bill, the surface transportation reauthorization is a massive multi-year package

No. 120, an Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 8870, offered by Mr. Van Drew of New Jersey				Total	Yes	34
				64	No	30
					Pres	0
Rule: Majority Poll: In Progress Vote: Open Pg # 1/1						
Graves (MO)	Johnson (SD)	Begich	Larsen	Stanton	Garcia (CA)	
Crawford	Van Drew	Bresnahan	Norton	Dauids	Pou	
Webster	Nehls	Hurd	Nadler	Garcia (IL)	McDonald River	
Massie	Mann	Shreve	Garamendi	Pappas	Friedman	
Perry	Owens	McDowell	Johnson (GA)	Moulton	Gillen	
Babin	Burlison	Taylor	Carson	Strickland	Figures	
Rouzer	Collins	Knott	Titus	Ryan	Frost	
Bost	Ezell	King-Hinds	Huffman	Hoyle		
Westerman	Kiley	Kennedy	Brownley	Sykes		
Mast	Fong	Onder	Wilson	Scholten		
Stauber	Wied	Patronis	DeSaulnier	Foushee		
Burchett	Barrett	Fuller	Carbajal	Deluzio		



NTRA ✓
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Yesterday, we joined with 70 other members of our industry in voicing our support for the SAFE Act's continued inclusion in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committees's BUILD America 250 Act.

Find the letter we sent here: ntra.com/wp-content/upl...

3:33 PM · Jul 14, 2026 · 10.1K Views



Year	# of Horses Slaughtered in US for human consumption	# of US Horses Sent to Mexico	# of US Horses Sent to Canada	Total
2025	0	21,430	3,698	25,128
2024	0	17,208	2,993	20,201
2023	0	17,997	2,373	20,370
2022	0	16,362	3,627	19,989
2021	0	18,292	5,139	23,431
2020	0	29,966	6,919	36,885
2019	0	53,162	10,486	63,648
2018	0	70,908	10,568	81,476
2017	0	65,930	12,273	78,203
2016	0	79,241	29,472	108,686
2015	0	84,938	40,670	125,608
2014	0	105,375	40,410	145,785
2013	0	102,554	42,102	144,656
2012	0	110,791	55,781	166,572



From records obtained via FOIA – Commercial Transport of Equines to Slaughter

Animal Welfare Concerns with Horse Slaughter

- Horses trucked long distances without food, water, or rest
- Often injured during journey to foreign plants
- Stunning methods unreliable due to horses' anatomy and flight response
- Often suffer multiple blows before rendered unconscious
- Horses not successfully rendered unconscious

US Department of Agriculture
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
NONCOMPLIANCE RECORD

10. DESCRIPTION OF NONCOMPLIANCE

At approximately 12:53, I performed verification of humane handling with [REDACTED] DVMS. We observed stunning of horses at the knocking box and moving of livestock from the alley onto the ramp leading to the knock box. We observed a plant employee attempt to drive three horses from one pen to the next by whipping three horses across the face with a fiberglass rod. These rods are normally used as prods to move the horses but this employee used his as a whip. One bay horse ran forward into a gate and then reared up and flipped over backwards, landing on his head. He received a laceration above one eye and a contusion above the left eye.

“Egregious humane handing” violations documented when
horse slaughter facilities operated in the U.S.

The Ejiao Act (H.R. 5544) would ban the sale and trade of ejiao products in the United States.

- Bipartisan bill, first introduced in 2021. Led by Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA)
- Ejiao (“eh-gee-yow”) is gelatin made from boiling donkey hides
- Used in some traditional Chinese remedies, supplements, cosmetics, aphrodisiacs, and foods
- The U.S. is the third largest importer of products containing ejiao (approx. \$12 million in annual imports each year)
- Demand has risen dramatically in the last few years; an estimated 4.8 million hides used annually
- Donkeys who fall victim to this trade suffer immensely – from appalling transport conditions without water, food, or rest to being bludgeoned to death





The Honorable Letitia James
 Attorney General, State of New York
 Office of the New York State Attorney General
 The Capitol
 Albany NY 12224-0341

Via email

RE: Requesting enforcement to prohibit consumption of equine parts

Dear Attorney General James:

In December of 2023, New York became the fifth state to ban the slaughter of horses for human consumption (after Texas, California, Illinois, and New Jersey) following Governor Hochul's signing of S.2163B/A.5109A.¹ This comprehensive legislation built upon an earlier prohibition passed by the New York State Legislature in 2021 regarding the slaughter of racehorses specifically. As the bill's "summary of specific provisions" states, "[t]he term 'horse' includes all members of the equine family, including horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, asses, and burros. The term horse flesh means any part of the horse's body."²

Our organizations are gratified that the state of New York has taken this significant step to protect equines; our thousands of supporters in the state care deeply about this issue and we continue to advocate for a federal prohibition on the slaughter of equines for human consumption. A number of our groups have direct experience taking in and rehoming at-risk horses, donkeys, and mules. And as animal protection and equine rescues, we are all committed to advancing the humane treatment of equines.

While S.2163B/A.5109A is associated with stemming the export of American horses to slaughter abroad, its broader prohibition extending to all equines puts New York on solid ground to also help curb the growing global trade in donkey skins for the production of a gelatin known as "ejiao." Despite the lack of proven health benefits, ejiao is used in some traditional Chinese remedies, cosmetics, supplements, aphrodisiacs, and foods. The United States is the third largest importer of ejiao products, with an estimated \$12 million in imports each year.³ Many of these products can be readily purchased online.

Unfortunately, the ejiao industry claims the lives of millions of donkeys each year. Donkeys that fall victim to the trade endure immense suffering, including appalling transport conditions without food, water, or rest, arriving at slaughterhouses with severe wounds and infections, and being beaten and subjected to unsuccessful stunning attempts prior to slaughter.^{4,5} As the skins are the valuable part, there is no incentive to ensure the welfare of these animals, or even to keep them alive during transport.

¹ The ban went into effect on April 11, 2024.

² Full text available: <https://www.nysenate.gov/node/12013557>

³ "Ejiao and the Donkey Hide Trade." Congressional Research Service. March 3, 2023. Available: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47441>

⁴ "Under the Skin." The Donkey Sanctuary. November 2019. Available: <https://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/sites/uk/files/2019-11/under-the-skin-report-revised-2019.pdf>

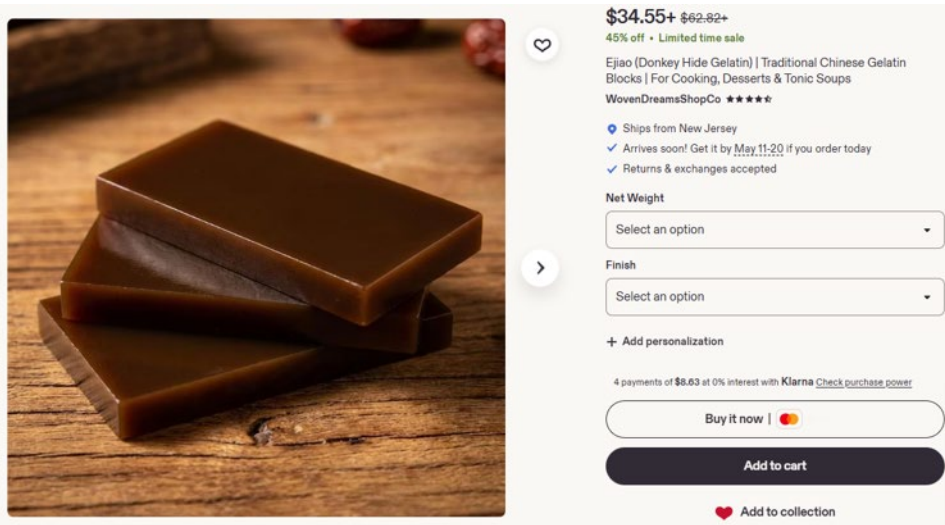
⁵ As the New York legislation's Summary of Specific Provisions and Justification explain, it seeks to spare equines from the "callous treatment" and "prolonged suffering" associated with their slaughter.

2025 Harris Poll National Survey

- 83% of Americans agree ejiao raises animal welfare concerns
- 80% agree that the steep decline in global donkey populations is unacceptable
- 71% said they would support the Ejiao Act
- 71% would not consider purchasing products made from donkey skins
- 82% agree restrictions on the ejiao trade are necessary



In July, NCSL passed a resolution supporting legislation to ban the trade of ejiao and donkey hides.



Josh Silverman, Chief Executive Officer
Etsy, Inc.
117 Adams St
Brooklyn, NY 11202

Via email

RE: Requesting removal of horsemeat and ejiao (donkey hide gelatin) products from Etsy

Dear Mr. Silverman,

We are writing regarding the sale of equine parts for human consumption on Etsy – specifically horsemeat and ejiao (gelatin made from donkey hides). On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute’s supporters nationwide, we urge Etsy to remove such products from its platform in order to uphold animal welfare, better serve consumers, and abide by the company’s commitment to foster a sustainable and responsible marketplace.

It recently came to our attention that an Etsy vendor is selling canned horsemeat (see, for example, the following listings: <https://www.etsy.com/listing/1103368026/2-two-horse-stew-fully-cooked-mre-ready> and <https://www.etsy.com/listing/1762279071/2-two-kazy-fully-cooked-mre-ready-to-eat>). The site appears to allow shipping to the United States, which may be in contravention of existing laws and policies. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection service, “horse meat is not allowed to be imported into the United States for human consumption.”¹

Horse slaughter facilities cannot legally operate in the United States due to provisions passed in annual federal spending bills.² Several states have also passed laws prohibiting horse slaughter and the consumption of horsemeat. National polling over the years has consistently shown overwhelming opposition among the American public to butchering horses for food. The welfare problems associated with equine slaughter are well documented; given their physiology and strong fight-or-flight response, properly rendering horses unconscious prior to slaughter can prove uniquely difficult. Footage and images from horse slaughterhouses around the world have revealed horrific conditions and horses violently thrashing their necks in the “kill box” trying to escape.

Ejiao – which results from slaughtering donkeys – is also readily available on Etsy (see, for example, the following listings: <https://www.etsy.com/listing/1442484300/e-jiao-jio-1lb-16-oz-donkey-hide-gelatin> and <https://www.etsy.com/listing/1774816617/walnut-e-jiao-gelatin-cake-jio-go>). Increasing demand for ejiao (which is used in cosmetics, supplements, traditional remedies, and foods) is directly tied to the decimation of donkey populations worldwide – a crisis that has cascading effects in communities across the globe as millions rely on these trusted and loyal animals. eBay banned the sale of ejiao on its platform given the significant problems its production entails. African countries in particular have seen the devastating impacts of the trade in donkey

¹ Correspondence between AWI and Food Safety and Inspection Service staff via the agency’s askFSIS form, December 4, 2024.

² Such provisions have been enacted for each year since Fiscal Year 2014 and for all but two years since 2005.

Thank you!

Questions? joanna@awionline.org

Joanna Grossman, PhD

Equine Program Director and Senior Advisor,
Farm Animal Program

