



### **U.S. Horse Slaughter**

According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, the U.S. currently processes and exports 10,000 tons of horsemeat a year from 50,000 domestic horses killed at three foreign-owned slaughterhouses in Texas and Illinois. Thousands of additional American horses are shipped to foreign slaughterhouses. The industry preys on riding horses, former race horses, wild horses, and foals born to PMU mares, horses that are kept pregnant so their urine can be used to make the hormone replacement drug Premarin®. The vast majority of the horses sent to slaughter in the U.S. are considered to be in “good” condition according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Guidelines for Handling and Transporting Equines to Slaughter. There is nothing humane about horse slaughter. Horses are treated brutally prior to and during slaughter and because of their highly developed senses, they suffer greatly.

Many alternatives do exist to horse slaughter. In 2004 the American Horse Defense Fund published *Alternatives to Auction and Slaughter: A Guide for Equine Owners*, a first of its kind resource promoting the many viable and humane alternatives that exist to slaughter. The book offers a concise state-by-state listing of alternatives to slaughter and the hundreds of concerned groups that work to inform horse owners of these options and put them in touch with the help they need. The AHDF is in the process of updating the book and making it even more accessible by offering it on this website in a downloadable format. [www.AHDF.org/store.htm](http://www.AHDF.org/store.htm)

