



Saving America's Horses - A Nation Betrayed

SAVING AMERICA'S HORSES A NATION BETRAYED is a feature length documentary film exposing the barbaric practice of horse slaughter and those who support it. The mission is to protect all equines from slaughter, both domestic and wild.

In 2007, the barbaric slaughter of horses for human consumption was supposedly brought to a standstill on US soil after a series of actions by Congress, state legislatures and the federal courts, yet more than 100,000 healthy vibrant American horses face unspeakable torture every year. Their once noble and triumphant lives are being forgotten as they're auctioned off to the highest bidder, where their meat is later sold by the pound. Their remains are discarded in dumpsters and their faithful souls are forever betrayed. Yesterday's thoroughbred racehorse, last summer's family pet pony, and today's last wild Mustangs are, on a daily basis, being crammed into double decker cattle trailers and hauled out of the U.S. into Canada and Mexico's slaughter plants. These beautiful animals are doomed just to please the palate of foreigners in France, Belgium, Italy and Japan.

The film features appearances by Nick Zito, Dr. Nicholas Dodman, Paula Bacon, Paul Sorvino, Michael Blake, Tippi Hedren, Linda Gray, Ginger Kathrens, Dr Nena Winand, Dr Elliot Katz, John Holland, Julie Caramante, Craig Downer and many more.

Through a presentation of documentation, undercover footage, and interviews, this film will reveal how the citizens of this country have been misled, and how our most treasured companions, the American horses, have been betrayed. It's a compelling compilation of expert testimony, exclusive undercover footage and true life stories shot against the dramatic backdrops of America's beautiful countryside. The film takes a tender yet honest look at the reality that American horses are born into, and the love, joy and respect they give us. Through following the life stories of these proud and majestic American horses this film explores the untold truth about what should be "the quiet retirement of Thoroughbreds", "the freedom of wild horses and burros" and "the peaceful demise of once loved horses". Saving America's Horses will undoubtedly persuade public outcry to end the brutal and inhumane slaughter of our American horses.

ADVISORY BOARD

Laura Allen: Founder and executive director of Animal Law Coalition, a 501c(4) non-profit that provides animal legal news and resources to attorneys, government officials, teachers, students, animal welfare advocates and the public to encourage them to join the fight against animal cruelty. Animal Law Coalition also drafts and lobbies for legislation and gets involved in litigation to promote animal welfare. Laura Allen was formerly an attorney with Best Friends Animal Society. She has been a trial and appellate attorney for more than 20 years, practicing in several state and federal courts. She is a member of the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court, several professional associations, and advisor to animal welfare organizations. Ms. Allen has lobbied for the passage of legislation to ban horse slaughter in the United States and has drafted state resolutions to support that effort.

Paula Bacon: Former Mayor of Kaufman, TX where one of the nation's last horse slaughter plants operated until 2007. Mayor Bacon was instrumental in drawing attention to the plant's numerous environmental violations and its negative impact upon the community, leading to the unanimous decision by the City's judicial board to close the plant. She has traveled to Washington, D.C. numerous times to lobby for passage of a federal ban on horse slaughter in the U.S.

(MORE)

Nena Winand, DVM, PhD: Senior research associate in the department of Molecular Medicine, Cornell University. An equine veterinarian, equestrian and horse owner, Dr. Winand is also a founding member of Veterinarians for Equine Welfare (VEW). Through VEW, Nena and other veterinarians aim to educate politicians and laymen about equine welfare, issues relating to horse slaughter. VEW strongly advocates for proper treatment of horses, providing information on humane options for those who can no longer care for their horses.

John Holland: Acclaimed researcher and widely published author on the subject of equine welfare and horse slaughter, John Holland is also recognized as the senior analyst for American's Against Horse Slaughter and President of Equine Welfare Alliance. His white paper A Study of the Relationship Between Horse Slaughter and Reported Cases of Abuse and Neglect, released in January 2006 is the only definitive study of its kind to date. Mr. Holland received the national "Heart and Soul" award in 2005 from United Animal Nations for his work to rescue horses and to stop horse slaughter.

Shelley Abrams: Founder of "Horses Helping Horses", Co-Founder of Americans Against Horse Slaughter and owner of Smarty's Gift Stable. Shelley was instrumental in initiating a retirement program at Philadelphia Park Race Track resulting in Turning For Home. She is also a Board Member of Animal Fairy Charities and Animal Advocate Television.

Julie Caramante: Horses and their welfare have been a huge part of Julie Caramante's life since childhood. As a certified cruelty investigator, Julie has saved literally thousands of horses from abuse, neglect and disaster. Her specific knowledge of animal cruelty laws and proper equine husbandry, as well as her ability to quickly pull together disparate elements for unique situational problem solving, have made her an invaluable asset in the field and among lawmakers. Caramante serves as a board member of the Greater Houston Horse Council and is also on the board of an animal cruelty investigations organization. Her investigative research has led to the exposure of endemic problems within the horse industry and made Julie's name familiar to equine advocates all over the world.

Nicholas H. Dodman, DVM: World renown board certified veterinary behaviorist and anesthesiologist. He received his veterinary education in Scotland and at the age of 26, he became the youngest veterinary faculty member in Britain. He is currently a professor at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine and founder of their Animal Behavior Clinic. He is the author of four bestselling books in addition to veterinary textbooks and more than 100 articles and contributions to scientific books and journals. He holds 10 US Patents related to animal behavior. Dr. Dodman appears regularly on shows such as 20/20, The Today Show, Good Morning America, Dateline, Oprah, World News with Peter Jennings, Discovery Channel, NOVA, Animal Planet, Fox TV, the BBC and CBC, CNN's Headline News, Inside Edition, MSNBC, NOVA, NPR's "Fresh Air" and A&E. He is a founding member of the Veterinarians for Equine Welfare (VEW) and a member of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Dodman has testified before Congress and has given extensive interviews with reference to the passage of legislation to prevent the inhumane transport and slaughter of horses. In the CBC's acclaimed film, "No Country for Horses", Dr. Dodman provided the narration and description of the suffering of the horses in the Canadian slaughterhouse.

Craig C. Downer: Wildlife ecologist who has extensively studied both the wild horses of the West and the endangered mountain tapirs of the northern Andes. He has given speeches and written many articles, including encyclopedic, and several books. His works are both popular and scientific, in English, Spanish and translated to German. Several of these concern wild horses, their ecological contribution, their North American evolutionary roots, their great natural and social value and their survival plight. He is a member of the World Conservation Union, Species Survival Commission and has written the Action Plan for the mountain tapir (1997). One of his books entitled Wild Horses: Living Symbols of Freedom (1977) examines these magnificent animals from a variety of perspectives, stressing their need to live both freely and naturally in appropriate habitats of sufficient size for long-term viability. He frequently emphasizes how much we owe the horse and by this he means the sharing of freedom on the land here in this world we share as home.

(MORE)

Jo Anne Normile's many experiences as a Thoroughbred racing breeder and owner include election as a director on two Michigan racing boards, the MI HBPA and M-TOBA. Her knowledge of the racing industry clashed with her concern for its horses. She left racing and founded the non-profit racehorse rescue CANTER-MI and ultimately started six additional affiliates in other states. She is the recipient of the 2001 Michigan Horse Council's Catalyst of the Year Award and the 2005 recipient of Thoroughbred racing's Dogwood Stable Dominion Award presented at Saratoga for assisting over 4000 racehorses nationwide. Her dedication to all equines includes co-authorship of research articles including publication in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. She resigned from CANTER in 2006 and has sought to expose the plight of America's racehorses and passage of legislation to prevent horse slaughter. She is honored to have been a friend of racing's outspoken advocate of all horses, the late and great John Hettinger.

Joy Aten has had horses as part of her family for 20 years, but her love for them has been life-long. In addition to her personal experience in competitive equine events, Joy was an avid Thoroughbred horseracing fan. Shortly after the creation of CANTER in 1997, she became a board member of the Thoroughbred racehorse rescue and placement program. In the shed rows, Joy became aware of the dark side of racing and of what happens too often to the noble creature that is the very heart of the racing industry. After nine years of service to CANTER-Michigan, working with the owners and trainers, rehabilitating and retraining the off-the-track Thoroughbreds, Joy resigned but continues to work towards bringing an end to the suffering and death of America's racing Thoroughbreds. She remains active through personal and group efforts in the rescue and placement of retiring racehorses, as well as those from the direct-to-slaughter pens at auctions.

Debra Lopez is known for her extensive background in animal advocacy and rescue work. She is the Executive Director of Animal Fairies Charities, Producer and Host of Animal Advocate TV and President of Caveman Productions. Lopez, through Animal Fairy Charities created the first ever Musical Horse Aid in 2008 which brought attention and much needed funds that helped support horse rescues around the country. Inspired by her love for thoroughbreds and most recently by the late great Barbaro, Lopez co founded Americans Against Horse Slaughter, a non funded national grass roots organization in effort to help end the slaughter of American horses. Ms Lopez is also a popular singer/ songwriter and a (WAMI) Nominee for Songwriter/ Producer of the Year. She continues her campaign in quest of raising public awareness for the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act with a song she recently wrote called "Racing For Time".

Sonja Meadows: Founder and executive director of Animals' Angels USA, a 501c (3) non-profit organization that investigates and exposes farm animal cruelty. Animals' Angels also works together with law enforcement and government agencies to improve conditions for all farm animals and to ensure that individuals violating animal protection laws are being held responsible for their actions. Sonja Meadows was an attorney before she founded Animals' Angels. Ms. Meadows is also an experienced animal cruelty investigator and her extensive documentation of the horse slaughter industry has supported the effort to pass a federal ban on horse slaughter in the United States.

Valerie James-Patton; since joining the fight against horse slaughter in 2003, she has performed extensive research on the subject and its many complexities. Based on this research she has written widely on the subject. As one of the leading members of a research team, she participated in fact-checking dozens of "abandoned horse" articles by going to the government, corporate and private sources sighted. Her report, "Deleting the Fiction", definitively exposed and documented a trail of gross disinformation and deceit in major publications. During another investigation of the Sheldon Wildlife Sanctuary Ms. Patton was able to help expose that their supposed "mass adopters" had close ties to the horse slaughter industry.

Lisa Jacobson, DVM: Equine veterinarian, owner of Big Sky Equine Veterinary Services, President of Montana Horse Sanctuary. Having been actively involved in the equine world for the last 40 years, Dr. Jacobson's life has always revolved around horses. Her passion for horses was evident as a very young child, and she never outgrew that love for the horse. As a young girl, she started with riding lessons, then on to training, then teaching, then healing by becoming an equine veterinarian and most recently completing the training to become a veterinarian chiropractor. As an equine veterinarian, she has been lucky enough to work on some of the country's most valuable equids as well as the treasured backyard pony. Her opposition to "the horse slaughter system" became known as she vocally opposed legislation that unfortunately became law in the state of Montana in 2009.

Nancy Stanley: Animal Therapy pioneer; Ms Stanley was the Founder, National Media and Public Relations Director of Tender Loving Zoo, a nonprofit organization that introduced “Animal Therapy” to severely handicapped children and to convalescent hospitals for the elderly. Nancy authored and published “Pillow With a Heartbeat”, the heartwarming tale about a little dog, Truffles, who finds his big purpose. This book’s mission is to continue Truffles’ journey, bringing children of all nations together with Truffles as their “Pied Piper”, particularly children who are battling life-threatening diseases. Nancy Stanley is presently a wish- grantor for the Make-A-Wish Foundation in San Diego. It was as a wish- grantor that Nancy was inspired by a very special child, to write “Pillow With a Heartbeat”. She’s worked and cared for a variety of animals as a Veterinary Assistant as well as at the Los Angeles Zoo caring for baby gorillas. Nancy also works to support the rescue and retirement of thoroughbred horses in a transition to Equine Assisted Activities programs.

THE FILMMAKER

Katia Louise is a filmmaker and journalist. She also works to investigate and expose animal cruelty as the Founder and Executive Director of Wild for Life Foundation a CA nonprofit public benefit corporation. Katia is a highly regarded spokesperson and champion for the health and welfare of animals and their habitats and she is active in the field of Equine, Canine, Avian & Reptile Rescue.

Katia’s background in the production of film and broadcast media goes back over ten years. She launched the film division of WFLF, Humanion Films and organized one of the most powerful coalitions to ban horse slaughter in the U.S. Katia’s unique approach and journalistic style serve to motivate and educate the public with new insight and inspiration while exposing the raw reality of animal life as impacted by human cultures around the world. Her savvy investigations and radio talk shows broadcast to an international audience with fans and supporters tuning in from over 100 countries. Katia Louise is also the CEO of IMA Studio Films a production art house in LA, CA.

www.SavingAmericasHorses.org