

## Intended Consequences by Mindy Patterson

It did not require rocket science to conclude that the consequences of the 2007 ban on horse processing would produce bad results for the U.S. horse industry, but no one could have predicted the horrific outcome that haunts America and the welfare of horses today. Resulting in today's estimated three hundred thousand unwanted, and infirmed horses nationwide, their unfortunate destination has been that of abandonment on public and private lands, only to face unnecessary and painful death from starvation and thirst. Meanwhile, the increasing population of un-adoptable horses are left to live out the last of their years in crowded shelters across our nation, many requiring financially burdensome care, costing tax payers a pretty penny, and in many cases, are forced to suffer further when funding is not available. That sure doesn't sound like a 'humane' outcome to me.

One could argue that these circumstances are the 'unintended' consequences resulting from the 2007 ban on horse processing. However, things just don't add up to support that argument. Horses are definitely suffering. Isn't that the queue for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to come galloping to the rescue and deliver on their fund raising promises to "help protect America's horses?" So, where is the Humane Society of the United States and their millions of dollars to stop the pain and distress of horses nation-wide?

The silence is deafening. Further proof that HSUS is a fraud.

Gee, you don't suppose HSUS is using the images of distressed horses from circumstances *they* created to raise more money? Sadly, they probably are and therein lies their true intentions... the real 'intended' consequences.

HSUS pretends to be the savior of distressed animals, but in actuality they spend only half of one percent of their \$130 million intake of annual donations for the hands on care of animals nationwide. The rest of their massive budget goes toward lobbying, funding ballot measures state by state (they spent over \$4.85 million here in Missouri for Prop. B in 2010), media and commercial advertisements, celebrity endorsers, employee pension

plans, and public stockholding in restaurants, grocery store chains, and pharmaceutical companies.

Hopefully Americans are waking up to the real intentions promoted by this radical animal rights organization. HSUS uses emotional images that border on outright fraud in order to procure donations from caring, animal loving people who believe that their contribution will go directly to the hands on care of distressed animals. The money instead money goes to funding the advancement of an animal rights agenda, and their tactics include coercing legislators and voters with their emotional messages to further regulate farmers, livestock producers and domesticated animal breeders with their so-called “anti cruelty” campaigns imposing unnecessary, onerous, prohibitive and costly regulations that will result in the complete elimination of all pet and livestock breeding, farming and agriculture in America. This strategy follows a pattern in many states across America, which have already fallen to HSUS-driven campaigns at the expense of fewer farms, fewer farmers, higher food prices, and a growing concern of a domestic food shortage.

It is difficult to argue that these are not the intended consequences of HSUS’ anti-meat, animal rights activist agenda, and it all presents a very grim future for animal agriculture in the United States. Just consider the goal of HSUS’ lead policy director and vegan activist, J.P. Goodwin who has gone on record by saying, “My goal is the abolition of all animal agriculture.”

Tragically, the horse industry has diminished at lightening speed since the 2007 ban on horse processing. Today, more than three hundred thousand horses across our country face dire circumstances as the direct outcome of federal legislation resulting from the reaction to dishonest emotional propaganda driven by the radical animal rights organization, HSUS and their well funded campaign using emotion and misinformation to pressure lawmakers to outlaw horse processing in the United States. The results have not only created a horrible situation for horses, but have deflated the horse market and have devastated all the horse related industries from saddle makers to feed producers. Meanwhile, HSUS continues their emotional campaign without taking responsibility for the heartbreaking circumstances that they have created, leaving those who own horses, or who are a part of the horse industry, to solve this disgraceful dilemma.

As indicated by the Government Accounting Office (GAO) report released in June 2011, and as testified to by practically every horse industry and agriculture organization in the U.S., appropriation-riders and bills that seek to eliminate any possibility of humanely processing horses in the U.S. offer zero solutions. The GAO report also revealed that the lack of horse processing in the U.S. has exacerbated the suffering of horses, increased the number of needless and wasteful deaths, and has caused more abandonment, neglect, pain, and misery for horses nation-wide.

Reestablishing humane horse processing in America is a viable solution, one that would restore much needed balance in the horse markets and horse industry, while profoundly improving the state of horse welfare. We are currently witnessing the outcome of the alternative. In order to avoid the ‘intended’ consequences of the HSUS agenda, it is essential that animal agriculture policies are driven by people who understand, and who are a part of the industry, not by elitists who live behind a desk and know nothing about animal husbandry or agriculture, but claim they know “what’s best.”

United Horsemen is a national organization run by professional and knowledgeable horsemen and horsewomen who have been working with legislators at the federal level to restore humane and regulated horse processing in the United States. United Horsemen is a growing grassroots member based organization striving to ensure the best possible fate for all horses nationwide, and to protect America’s vibrant horseback culture, heritage, industries, and its people.

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