



PRESS RELEASE

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director@kansashorsecouncil.com

785-776-0662

GAO Report Determines Decline in Horse Welfare

The Government Accountability Office, GAO, released its report on June 22, 2011, regarding the action needed to address the unintended consequences from the cessation of domestic slaughter.

The 63 page report made a number of findings including:

- Exports to Canada and Mexico have increased with nearly the same number of U.S. horses now processed in those countries (138,000 in 2010), as were in the U.S. before the state bans on slaughter and the restrictions on paying USDA employees involved in the process were put in place.
- GAO found that the Congressional ban on funding for the inspection of horses bound for slaughter had impeded the USDA's efforts to protect horse welfare.
- GAO analysis indicates the prices for horses have declined by 8 to 21 percent and the economic downturn reduced prices by about 4 to 5 percent.
- Horse welfare has declined; although the precise extent is unknown. State, local government, and animal welfare organizations reported a rise in investigations for horse neglect, straining their resources.
- State and local governments, tribes and animal welfare organizations, especially rescues, are facing growing pressure to care for abandoned and neglected horses at a time of economic recession and tight budgets.
- GAO found that clearly the cessation of domestic slaughter has had unintended consequences, most importantly, perhaps, the decline in horse welfare in the U.S.

If you want to see USDA inspections reinstated and processing facilities reopened in the U.S. you need to make a call TODAY.

Kansas Senator Jerry Moran, **202-224-6521**, is on the Senate Appropriations Ag Sub-Committee which will soon be receiving the Ag Appropriations Bill. The bill currently contains an amendment that would ***prohibit*** funding USDA inspections, but we can change that.

Please take a minute to call Senator Moran's office, **202-224-6521**, and leave a message with the office staff requesting that Senator Moran "*Please support funding in the Ag Appropriations Bill for USDA inspections at horse processing facilities in the U.S.*" It's that simple, just call and leave a message.

The next stop for the bill will be the conference committee before going to the full Senate early this fall. It's vital that legislators hear our voice. We don't have a hoard of lobbyists in Washington, but a unified voice from horse owning constituents will make a difference.

[Click Here](#) to access the full report.

For Immediate Release

Contact: Pattie Stalder

785-776-0662

Kansas Horse Council

director@kansashorsecouncil.com