

Setting the floor for horse haulers

Thank you for giving S. 1283/HR. 2433, the Safe Commercial Transportation of Horses for Slaughter Act, the attention it deserves.

One comment. Under the six amendments we require to reform this bill, you imply that horses should not be hauled in double-decked vehicles because they defecate and urinate on one another. Actually, horses should not be hauled in double-decked vehicles first because the center of balance of a horse is two feet higher than that of cattle, and double-decked cattle trucks were not designed, built, or safety-tested for horses. Therefore, they are top-heavy and a public safety hazard. As one trucker told me, "Thank God I've never been pulled over, because I'd flip for sure."

Second, requiring that equine transport vehicles be one level will automatically eliminate the use of double-decked cattle trucks.

If we are going to regulate the commercial transport of horses, whether to slaughter or the Kentucky Derby, we should require them to be transported in vehicles designed, built, and safety-tested for horses.

—Cathleen Doyle

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