

Dear Teachers,

I have started a letter-writing campaign for children in the United States called, "KIDS FOR HORSES". Students are being encouraged to write letters to their respective legislators asking them to support Bill HR 6598 to help end the slaughter of American horses, including our wild horses and burros in the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008, which would amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain conduct relating to the use of horses for human consumption.

The "KIDS FOR HORSES" campaign would also make a wonderful mini-civics lesson, teaching America's future, about democracy and letting them know that just because they are children, doesn't mean they can't have a voice in helping shape our laws. They will learn about how a bill is introduced, voted upon, then either passed or vetoed. For example, ABC Night News did a story on 1/11/08, in Miami, Florida. A student wanted to know what restaurants did with left-over food. When he found out that the law prohibited it from giving it to nearby shelters because of possible lawsuits-he decided to get the law changed. It is now happening in Washington, D.C. because of one 11yr.old boy! Imagine what our children can do for the horses!

The idea of our "KIDS FOR HORSES" campaign came about when I was reading a story about a little secretary from Nevada in the 1950's named Velma Johnston, better known as "Wild Horse Annie". She started a letter writing campaign with students to end the inhumane methods of catching and slaughtering wild horses and burros. Her story ended up going nationwide after the newspapers picked it up and was a great influence on getting the bill eventually passed. The protection of wild horses and burros was ended in 2004, after Senator Conrad Burns "snuck in" an amendment into a 3000 page bill that President Bush signed, making it legal once again!

Our goal is to take this campaign nationwide and throughout schools everywhere, to "overwhelm" legislators with letters, and to create enough interest that Anderson Cooper of CNN would want to do "The Real Story" complete with the pictures that congress won't let us show, of what a horse traumatically goes thru on his way to the slaughterhouse. Most people are not aware of the Horse Slaughter Industry. Even though the slaughterhouses in the U.S. shutdown, it has not stopped people from buying horses and slaughtering them across the border into Canada and Mexico. Horses bound for slaughter are usually shipped in double decker trailers, which dangerous and much too cramped for horses to ride is safely or comfortable. They are supposed to be outlawed, however some states are allotting 5 more years before they enforce the law. They go hours without rest, water, or food. Once they arrive at their destination, they are all thrown into holing pens together, foals, adult, stallions, mare, geldings, big and small. They wait in the holding pens for their turn to be slaughtered. There is also the misconception that there isn't enough land for our wild horses. This is untrue, there is enough unused government land that if put together, would fill up an area the size of France! At one time, the United States had 2 million wild horses and burros, however now the counts are down to about 25,000!

The key to ending the slaughter of American horses is to spread awareness. I need your help and your inspiration. Please, if we don't speak up for the horse, who will? They are depending on us. Look at the response to Barbaro and his story. People can't solve the problem if they don't know there is one!

I have contacted over 600 horse rescues and sanctuaries thus far, 200 riding clubs or stables, 125 farriers, 100 trainers and veterinarians, 45 Thoroughbred farms, 36 horse protection agencies, therapeutic programs, and owners. Everyone is "getting the word-out" to get this campaign rolling all across America. We would appreciate your help with introducing this writing campaign to your students.

The "KIDS FOR HORSES" campaign has the total support of the Animal Welfare Institute of Washington.D.C., you can find out more about them by visiting their website <http://www.awionline.org>. Also on board are the Vets for Equine Welfare, their website being <http://vetsforequinewelfare.org> and Best Friends Animal Society has a wonderful teen section and will be publishing our article in near future, it can be found at <http://network.bestfriends.org/teens/news/>

For more information about the "KIDS FOR HORSES" campaign, please visit Indiana Horse Rescue's website, <http://www.indianahorserescue.com>. WE actually have a full color brochure and letter templates that you can download and print right from home or school! Compassion Index also has a wonderful reference for finding senators and congress members in your area. Just go to <http://www.compassionindex.org>, type in your zip code, and it will give you a list of senators and congress members for your area.

Please help us spread the word, help your student be a part of the future and make a difference!

Sincerely,
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Please feel free to forward this letter to anyone who might be interested in helping save our horses!