

Animal Wellness Action: Indictments Are Critical Step in Reforming Horseracing, But Legislation Needed to Stop Doping

WASHINGTON, DC, USA, March 9, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In response to the FBI raiding multiple horseracing facilities across the U.S. and federal prosecutors charging racehorse trainers, veterinarians and drug distributors for involvement in a corrupt scheme to rig race outcomes, Animal Wellness Action lauded federal authorities for treating the problem seriously and renewed its call for lasting reform by passing national legislation to end doping of horses on race day.

The arrests come on the heels of a recent hearing in the U.S. House of Representatives on the Horseracing Integrity Act, H.R. 1754, led by U.S.

Reps. Paul Tonko, D-N.Y., and Andy Barr, R-Ky., that would ban race-day doping in American horseracing and create a uniform national standard for drug testing and regulation under the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA). Animal Wellness Action has been leading the charge to pass the legislation and [testified](#) before the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee in support of the bill in January.

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Marty Irby, executive director at Animal Wellness Action

“Unscrupulous trainers that drug horses are not only putting animals and jockeys at risk of life and limb, but they are rigging the system and making a mockery of anyone who bets based on their knowledge of the athletes involved,” said [Marty Irby](#), executive director at Animal Wellness Action, and a lifelong horseman. “The betting public will no longer tolerate the racing industry’s drug addiction, and we applaud the Department of Justice for

stopping doping abuses. What more evidence does Congress need to step up and pass comprehensive legislation to end performance-enhancing drugs in American racing?”

U.S. Sens. Martha McSally (R-Ariz.), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) introduced a similar measure in June of 2019, S. 1820 in the U.S. Senate.

This landmark measure is backed by a broad base of industry players which range from the Jockey Club, The Stronach Group, The New York Racing Association, The Breeders’ Cup, Keeneland, and countless trainers, owners, and breeders invested in American horseracing.



The Preakness Stakes

Horseracing operates under an outdated, state-based, balkanized patchwork of medication rules that creates confusion and risk for owners and trainers and contains gaps in rules and enforcement. The Horseracing Integrity Act would greatly improve regulatory standards, ban the use of all medications on race day, and level the playing field for everyone invested in horse racing.

The Animal Wellness Foundation (Foundation) is a Los Angeles-based private charitable organization with a mission of helping animals by making veterinary care available to everyone with a pet, regardless of economic ability. We organize rescue efforts and medical services for dogs and cats in need and help homeless pets find a loving caregiver. We are advocates for getting veterinarians to the front lines of the animal welfare movement; promoting responsible pet ownership; and vaccinating animals against infectious diseases such as distemper. We also support policies that prevent animal cruelty and that alleviate suffering. We believe helping animals helps us all.

Animal Wellness Action (Action) is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) organization with a mission of helping animals by promoting legal standards forbidding cruelty. We champion causes that alleviate the suffering of companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife. We advocate for policies to stop dogfighting and cockfighting and other forms of malicious cruelty and to confront factory farming and other systemic forms of animal exploitation. To prevent cruelty, we promote enacting good public policies and we work to enforce those policies. To enact good laws, we must elect good lawmakers, and that's why we remind voters which candidates care about our issues and which ones don't. We believe helping animals helps us all.

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