

# 50 Horse Deaths at U.S. Tracks in 2021 Underscore Need for Further Reforms in Horse Racing

*West Virginia, New York, and California Lead in Body Count*

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, USA, March 9, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Racehorses continue to die on American tracks with alarming frequency, reminding the industry and the American public that the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) enacted on December 27, 2020, has not taken effect and that rampant doping still menaces horses and jockeys in competition.



John Velazquez and "Shackleford" (against the rail) nose out Rajiv Maragh and "Caleb's Posse" to win The Metropolitan Handicap at Belmont Race Track on May 28, 2012, in Elmont, NY. Photo credit: Shutterstock royalty-free stock photo ID:103796159 By Cheryl

According to racing industry data from Equibase, the New York Racing Association (NYRA), California Horse Racing Board (CHRB), and other racing authorities and reports, 50 racehorses have died in 2021 at U.S. tracks, the majority at one track in Charles Town, West Virginia operated by Penn National Gaming, and at tracks in

New York and California ([a complete list can be found here](#)). As active horse racing continues amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the reported deaths follow a February Associated Press story on the [first three deaths at Charles Town Race Course](#) and an investigative report that revealed 113 deaths in Florida since early 2019.

“

Our iconic American equines deserve better.”

*Marty Irby, executive director at Animal Wellness Action*

“The continued rash of racehorse deaths across the U.S underscores the need for aggressive implementation of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act and adherence to higher welfare standards in American horse racing,” said Marty Irby, executive director at Animal Wellness Action in Washington, D.C. [who testified](#) before Congress on the subject of horse racing welfare concerns in 2020. “Race track operators and racing authorities should immediately ban the use of the whip, evaluate track surfaces and safety, and implement new policies to prevent American racehorses from ending up slaughtered as slabs of meat on foreign dinner plates. Our iconic

American equines deserve better.”

The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA), which takes effect mid-2022 bans the use of race-day medication and creates a uniform national standard for drug testing in the U.S. overseen by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA).

Irby, who was recently honored by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, II for his work to protect American equines, led the charge within the animal protection space in support of HISA and has long advocated ending the use of the whip, and for the passage of the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act, led by U.S. Reps. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Vern Buchanan (R-FL), and U.S. Sens. Bob Menendez (D-NJ), and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) that would ban horse slaughter on U.S. soil, and ban the transport of American equines for the purposes of slaughter. Nearly 100,000 American equines end up in the slaughter pipeline each year.

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.



Entrance sign at the Hollywood Casino Charles Town Races complex | Photo credit: George Sheldon (Shutterstock Royalty-free stock photo ID: 1640257198)



Animal Wellness Action Executive Director Marty Irby

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.

Marty Irby  
Animal Wellness Action  
+1 202-821-5686

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)



AWA executive director Marty Irby testifying at a House hearing on H.R. 1754 in January 2020

animal  
wellness  
foundation

animal  
wellness  
action

Animal Wellness Brands Logo

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/536572849>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2021 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.