

Animal Advocates Press Case for Congressional Oversight of BLM after Report of 840 Wild Horses Destined for Slaughter

Adoption Incentive Program fails to prevent horrific outcome for animals it was designed to protect

WASHINGTON, D.C., UNITED STATES, July 28, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Animal Wellness Action](#), the [Center for a Humane Economy](#), and the [Animal Wellness Foundation](#) renewed their call for congressional oversight and reformation of the Bureau of Land Management's wild horse and burro program in the wake of a new investigative report released by wild horse advocacy group American Wild Horse Campaign.



BLM round-ups of wild horses are bad enough. Must they also lead to slaughter?

That report revealed that at least 840 formerly wild BLM horses and burros that had been adopted through the agency's infamous Adoption Incentive Program (AIP) ended up at kill pens and slaughter auctions.

The AIP first attracted national attention last August when the New York Times published a story that documented horses and burros shunted from off-range holding facilities to the slaughter pipeline via unscrupulous adopters who exploit the AIP. The agency pays adopters \$1,000 per animal they adopt and allows adopters to take possession of up to four animals. After holding the animals for a year, the BLM sends the adopters title certificates, at which point the animals are the legal property of the adopters. The report detailed how groups or families of adopters pocketed tens of thousands of dollars, with one family taking \$82,000 in taxpayer money in adoption incentive funds. Those adopters then further enriched themselves by taking the animals to the slaughter auction after they secured ownership certificates from the BLM.

Allowing formerly wild horses and burros to go to slaughter violates both the mandates of Congress and the BLM's own policy statements. Since there are no longer equine slaughter plants in the United States, the animals not saved by rescues, sanctuaries or private buyers are trucked to slaughter plants in Canada and Mexico. After the New York Times story, the BLM



This report demonstrates what we in the larger wild horse advocacy community have long said: the BLM's Adoption Incentive Program cannot be reformed but must instead be immediately terminated."

Scott Beckstead, director of campaigns, Animal Wellness Action

pledged to make reforms to prevent horses and burros falling into the slaughter pipeline, but the AWHC report makes plain that those reforms are woefully inadequate.

"This report demonstrates what those of us in the larger wild horse advocacy community have long stated: the BLM's Adoption Incentive Program cannot be 'reformed,' but must instead be immediately terminated" said Scott Beckstead, director of campaigns for Animal Wellness Action and Center for a Humane Economy.

"If Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland and BLM director Tracy Stone-Manning are unwilling to step in and cancel this disastrous adoption program, then Congress needs to

immediately step in and exercise some oversight," he said.

"Once again we see that the BLM will never do the right thing because it's the right thing to do," continued Beckstead. "At this very moment wild horses are being stampeded into traps, many are injured, and some are killed in the BLM's horrific helicopter roundups, and their plight is even more distressing knowing that those who survive the carnage of the roundup will then be placed at risk of being killed and butchered in a foreign slaughter plant."

"We are grateful for the good work of AWHC in conducting this investigation, compiling the findings, and making the report available to the public and policymakers," he said.

Animal Wellness 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.

The Center for a Humane Economy is a non-profit organization that focuses on influencing the conduct of corporations to forge a humane economic order. The first organization of its kind in the animal protection movement, the Center encourages businesses to honor their social responsibilities in a culture where consumers, investors, and other key stakeholders abhor cruelty and the degradation of the environment and embrace innovation as a means of eliminating both.

The Animal Wellness 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](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/583430220>

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.

© 1995-2022 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.