Animals’ Angels

Annual Report 2012

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From the President

Dear Friends,

I’m happy to provide our annual report that details our work and accomplishments for 2012. This past year was an extremely busy and eventful one for Animals’ Angels. Your generous support in 2012 allowed us to complete more investigations than ever before! As well, through extensive investigations we were able to obtain unprecedented documentation detailing the conditions of horses at major slaughter plants such as Bouvry Exports in Canada. In addition, our investigations in Mexico revealed continued non-compliance with EU Standards.

Another positive note for the animals – I had a very successful meeting with the Swiss animal welfare organization “Tierschutzbund Zuerich.” We met to discuss the details of the upcoming consumer awareness campaign in Europe. Footage obtained by Animals’ Angels during investigations in the U.S. and Canada in 2012 will play an important role in the campaign. We’re thrilled to be a part of this affiliation and will keep you updated as the project progresses. Our goal behind the global campaign is to educate the primary consumer on the realities of horse slaughter and the inherent risks in eating horse meat. If we can end the demand for horse meat, the supply aspects dries up as well. Our investigations have proven essential to raising awareness and lobbying for change, not just in the U.S. but in Europe as well.

Thanks to you, our supporters, we continue to be a strong force against horse slaughter. Rest assured, Animals’ Angels, Inc. can be counted on to continue to uncover the facts and expose the truth. We are thankful and grateful for your generous support – we simply could not do it without you! As one of our donors you have taken a firm stand to say that cruelty to animals must stop. Continue to partner with Animals’ Angels – together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,
Sonja
2012 Key Accomplishments

- We began a coalition program with the Swiss animal welfare organization Tierschutzbund Zuerich to help educate the European public about the horse slaughter industry. We feel that our assistance in the program, combined with the outstanding work Tierschutzbund Zuerich does, can make a real difference in how consumer view horse meat.

- Evidence uncovered in our investigations revealed the stark realities of the horse slaughter business.

- Our detailed and lengthy investigations in Mexico revealed continuing non-compliance with EU standards.

- Animals’ Angels conducted an in-depth investigation into the plight of horses caught in the slaughter giant Bouvry’s pipeline.

- Thanks to our well-documented investigations Dennis Chavez, owner of Southwest Livestock Auction in Los Lunas, New Mexico has been charged with 12 misdemeanor crimes which, if convicted, could put him behind bars for up to 11 years. In response to the national public outcry caused by the horrible footage recorded at the Los Lunas feedlot, the state’s Governor Susana Martinez and Attorney General Gary King publicly took a stand against the cruelty of horse slaughter and opposed the plans to start slaughtering horses in New Mexico.

- Our investigation into Kelsey Lefever, a Pennsylvania horse trainer who sent horses in her care to slaughter, resulted in felony charges.

- AA investigations continued to prove that poorly maintained transport trucks and very thin profit margins make the predatory business of horse slaughter not just cruel and inhumane, but a threat to everyone traveling the interstate.
EXPOSING CRUELTY & PROTECTING ANIMALS

In 2012, Animals’ Angels conducted a total of 141 investigations in 28 states over the course of 169 days. In addition, our in-depth investigation methods yielded an unprecedented amount of information concerning the living conditions of horses at major slaughter plants such as Bouvry Exports in Canada.

Also, our rigorous investigations of horse slaughter plants in Mexico revealed a continued trend of non-compliance with EU Standards.
IMPROVING CONDITIONS & ADVOCATING CHANGE

We had a very successful planning meeting with the Swiss animal welfare organization Tierschutzbund Zuerich in which we collaborated on the launch of an upcoming consumer awareness campaign in Europe. The campaign will use footage Animals’ Angels obtained over the year during in the U.S. and Canada. We couldn’t be more thrilled to be such an integral part of this affiliation and will keep you updated as the project progresses.

In February 2012, Animals’ Angels met with Dr. Gary Egrie, Head of the Slaughter Horse Program. During the meeting we discussed sustainable options on how to improve the enforcement of the program by increasing the presence of USDA personnel at the export pens and the border. We also laid out recommendations on how to influence better cooperation between USDA border and Mexican veterinarians and increasing the traceability of kill buyers and horses by establishing a nationwide database with the USDA backtag numbers.

As with many of the auctions we visit, after witnessing how the animals were treated at the Knoxville Auction in Tennessee, AA drafted a list of recommendations that would dramatically improve the conditions. We sent the list to the auction’s management team and have also been in touch with local law enforcement on additional measures that can be taken. We hope that these tools will bring about a safer and healthier environment for the animals at this auction.

After our investigation into the Westminster Auction in Maryland we spoke with the auction’s owner on ways to improve conditions for the animals. Thankfully, he was receptive to our ideas and agreed to make several changes based on our recommendations.

We continued to maintain a full schedule of investigations of auctions throughout the U.S. Our documentation was used to not only raise awareness but also to give law enforcement agencies the ammunition they need to file charges against the perpetrators of abuse and neglect.
RAISING AWARENESS

Sonja Meadows, Executive Director of Animals’ Angels was invited to speak before members of Congress and other state leaders from around the U.S. about horse slaughter and the treatment of horses in the slaughter pipeline. She also met individually with several Senators and Congressmen to discuss this issue in more detail. It was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness by directly addressing the politicians who have the power to pass needed legislation.

Our Light the Sky event was held in Texas this year and it was a resounding success. We were honored to have so many people share their heartfelt stories about their pets and the animals they hold dear.
GOALS FOR 2013

- Animals’ Angels, Inc. and our European partners will broaden our EU campaign to include more and more countries. There is no doubt that increasing awareness affects the choices of the primary consumer of horsemeat. By ending the demand, the supply will disappear as well.

- Additionally, our work against horse slaughter in the U.S. is far from done. Pro-slaughter advocates are pushing hard for the return of horse slaughter to the U.S. We will ramp up our investigation schedule and work even harder to stop the return of horse slaughter to the U.S.

- We plan to increase our research and monitoring of the atrocious dairy cow industry. We also intend to devote more time to the exotic auctions that are starting to pop up around the U.S.

- We are in the planning stages of a truly unique training for law enforcement personnel and will make sure this becomes a reality in 2013.

- In our never-ending efforts to reach out to the public, we plan on participating in a variety of events that will raise awareness of the horrors that livestock face.
Animal’s Angels is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; all donations are tax deductible. All our financial statements are audited by an independent auditor and can be reviewed at www.guidestar.org.

Animals’ Angels received the Guidestar Seal of Excellence for our commitment to transparency.