



Animals' Angels

Annual Report 2015

Animals' Angels, Inc. • PO Box 1056 • Westminster, MD 21158
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

My dear friends,

I'm happy to provide our Annual Report to you, which details our work & accomplishments for 2015. "***We are there with the animals.***" That's the mission statement of Animal's Angels and it's a mission that we take very seriously. Thanks to our generous donors it was also "Mission Possible" during 2015. Now is the perfect time to look back on what we've accomplished and to set goals for the coming year.

This past year was an extremely busy one for us at Animals' Angels. Our investigators were in the field conducting a demanding schedule of **165 investigations** throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Along with bringing the cruel and abusive operations of kill buyers and auctions across the nation into the public eye through our in-depth investigative reports, we're quite proud to have had other noteworthy achievements as well. While there is no way to list all of our activities in a summary report, we did want to highlight a few of our major projects from 2015 as well as our goals and initiatives for 2016.

Sincerely,

Sonja



2015 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **EU Campaign Going Strong**

The year started with the sweeping action that the EU Commission took against horse meat imports from Mexico. The [ground-breaking ban](#), which took effect in March 2015, was implemented after an audit carried out in Mexico by the EU Food and Veterinary Office confirmed what our coalition had communicated to the EU Commission all along. One of the key issues was the inhumane treatment of horses being shipped from the United States to Mexican slaughter plants. We at Animals' Angels are very proud of our coalition's EU Campaign and the impact it had.

In yet one more win for our cause, another major European importer, [GVFI International](#), announced that they will no longer be buying horsemeat from overseas. GVFI received meat from both Bouvry and Viande Richelieu in Canada, so no doubt this will be a substantial loss to both suppliers.

Animals' Angels is grateful to see that the dangerous work of our investigators continues to reduce the market for American horse meat. We will move ever forward in our work to ensure that the demand declines until the horses are safe from this horrendous industry altogether.



- **Government Transparency or Lack Thereof**

Animals' Angels uncovered grave issues within the [USDA Market News Service](#) showing there is absolutely no transparency regarding their protocols for determining the slaughter horse export figures on their weekly Market Reports. The USDA's inability or unwillingness to release copies of documents, along with the reporting agencies' admitted irregular record-keeping (counting donkeys and mules as horses), makes the accuracy of the export numbers completely suspect. It's important for both the general public and those in the animal advocacy world to realize that with no verifiable protocols in place, and no internal records kept, there is no way to confirm that the information provided by the USDA Market News Service every week is accurate.

- **Victory in the Courts**

We're thrilled to report that the [New Holland Sales Barn](#) was convicted of animal cruelty for an incident of horrific neglect. The case hinged on an investigation conducted by Animals' Angels that included footage clearly showing a sheep with strong signs of hypothermia, flat on its side and barely alive, along with a goat that had something terribly wrong with its legs and was unable to get up. Both were thrown away like trash and left to die on a "dead pile," in the middle of other, already dead, animals. Due to the weak laws regarding farm animals, it is almost impossible to garner charges against an auction, let alone a conviction, so we were thrilled that our persistence in investigating this auction paid off in the courts. **This was our second successful conviction against the New Holland Sales Barn.**

EXPOSING CRUELTY & PROTECTING ANIMALS

Over the course of the year, our investigations resulted in more exposure, awareness, and education for a variety of important animal related issues from farm animals that are being needlessly abused and exploited to horses shipped to Mexico and Canada for slaughter to dogs trapped in tiny cages, being sold at roadside auctions -- and promoted much needed change for the animals we all love.

Sadly, AA investigations in 2015 confirmed yet another horrific notch in well-known kill buyer Dennis Chavez' belt: he was the consignor of over 350 stallions and a large number of mares and geldings from the iconic [Dann Sisters herd](#). With Chavez in charge of these horses, there were few options open for their future. In fact our [follow-up investigation](#) into the whereabouts of these celebrated horses found that the majority were indeed shipped to Mexico for slaughter.

AA revealed yet another way humans exploit horses; this time to garner multi-million dollar profits for none other than pharmaceutical companies. Shocking evidence uncovered the existence of "[blood farms](#)" in the U.S. as well as in countries like Argentina and Uruguay. Blood farms are a high dollar enterprise where "donor herds" of horses are kept for blood extraction purposes only. We're happy to say that our [reports and footage](#) caused this once highly unregulated industry to come under scrutiny by government agencies as well as promoting much needed changes in regulations.

All told, we conducted a grand total of [165 investigations](#) throughout the US, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, and Europe. Our organization continues to be a leading force in exposing animal cruelty. We do not plan on easing up and have a full schedule planned for 2016.



RAISING AWARENESS

Documentaries

Our footage was featured in three superb anti-horse slaughter documentaries: Kill Pen, Saving America's Horses, and Their Last Ride. Over the past year, each of these films was highlighted at numerous festivals, including the well-attended Equus Film Festival in New York.

Our footage and research was also used in a three-part documentary series by Alex Brown entitled Horses: Sports, Culture, and Slaughter.

2015 Equus Film Festival

Our founder and President, Sonja Meadows, was invited to be a panelist for the Horse Defenders Panel at the 2015 Equus Film Festival. This interactive panel gave us the opportunity to discuss our horse slaughter investigations in front of an interested and packed audience. It's imperative to reach out to new audiences and seasoned advocates alike in every possible venue.

Magazines

Animals' Angels and our work uncovering the cruelty of the horse slaughter pipeline at auctions across the U.S. was showcased in a [lengthy exposé](#) in the Blood-Horse Magazine.

The Blood-Horse is a well-known publication catering to the racing industry and its followers. We were extremely pleased that they decided to run this comprehensive article, which not only features the work of Animals' Angels but also explains how Thoroughbreds all too often find themselves at kill auctions.



INITIATIVES

In 2015 Animals' Angels made great strides with our dairy cow initiative. While we have not been able to make all of our investigations public just yet, we continued our dairy cow initiatives from 2014 to garner justice for these poor creatures.

Our in-depth investigations uncovering appalling abuse at the [Escalon Livestock Auction](#) in California have, unfortunately, shown quite clearly that law enforcement is unwilling to pursue charges even when the documented cruelty and abuse is overwhelming. However, our undercover team has worked hard to obtain new evidence and will continue to apply pressure until justice is served. You can read our reports [here](#) and [here](#).

As promised 2015 saw our investigators hard at work tracking and investigating puppy mills. We conducted investigations in Missouri, a state known to have a great number of "problem" mills with substandard conditions. Unfortunately we cannot make these investigations public as of yet because they are still ongoing. Oftentimes these investigations can take some time and we definitely don't want to jeopardize any charges we might be able to secure against the perpetrators.

We will continue our fight against puppy mill breeders in 2016 and expand our investigations to open air venues like flea markets and roadside auctions.



GOALS FOR 2016

- While our EU Campaign speeds ahead, we will continue to pressure the EU Commission, now working the Canadian angle, to end all horse meat imports from the Americas.
- We will also continue our focus on in-depth projects here in the US. Our commitment to having “boots on the ground” is steadfast and we have always maintained a full schedule of investigations, but we plan to add even more locations to our schedule in 2016. Among other things, we will be maintaining our busy schedule of investigations into auctions, feedlots, and kill pens across the nation so that those abusing and exploiting animals in an effort to boost their bottom line will not only be held accountable for their inhumane and cruel actions but also be exposed so they can no longer conduct their shady business hidden behind a veil of secrecy.
- Other projects for 2016 include striking at the heart of animal peddlers nationwide as we work in the field to obtain the evidence necessary to raise awareness on flea markets and roadside auctions where sentient beings are the stock-in-trade. It is way past time to restrict the unfettered sale of dogs and other animals at such unregulated sites. Flea markets where animals are a cheap commodity to be hawked by dubious sellers to a crowd of nameless visitors have no place in our society today. We will work towards shutting down these venues.
- We have sessions scheduled for our one-of-a-kind slaughter horse transport training program geared specifically for law enforcement with a variety of police departments and we are anxious to get these enforcement agencies onboard with the information they need to protect the animals they encounter. We are striking at the predatory horse slaughter industry at every angle possible in order to hold violators accountable.



Financial Report for 2015

Organization Info

Animals' Angels Inc.

PO BOX 1056

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www.animalsangels.org

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Board of Directors:

Sonja Meadows – President & CEO

Keith Meadows – Treasurer

Wendy Kowal – Vice President/Secretary

Brandi Turner – Board Member

Elizabeth Hopkins – Board Member



Program Expenses 87%

Fundraising Expenses 8%

Management 5%

Funds avail for programs
use .86 cents per \$1

Total End Net Assets
\$516,881

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

