Animals’ Angels
Annual Report 2016
FROM THE PRESIDENT

My dear friends,

I’m happy to present AA’s Annual Report, which highlights the work we completed in 2016. We are proud to share the many accomplishments we’ve had over the last year, and to detail our goals for 2017.

In 2016, our investigators in the field carried out a demanding schedule of 158 investigations throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Through the reports of our investigations over the last 12 months we have continued to highlight the abusive operations of auctions and kill buyers to more and more people across the country. Our success has been two-fold – not only have we been able to expose the maltreatment to which defenseless animals continued to be subjected, but we have brought these atrocities to light in order to raise the much-needed awareness to the many issues plaguing the animals we all know and love. This awareness is the key to bringing hope of a brighter future to thousands of animals everywhere.

We will always be there for the animals.

Sincerely,

Sonja
2016 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **EU Campaign Going Strong**
  New data obtained by Animals' Angels directly from our sources at the USDA Foreign Agricultural Services confirms that shipments of U.S. horses to Mexico in 2016 continued to **greatly decrease** from the 2015 numbers. We're thrilled to see that the EU ban against horsemeat from Mexico continues to have a **positive impact** in the fight against horse slaughter.

As the only U.S. organization invited to make a presentation to the EU Commission regarding horse slaughter, we are grateful for the opportunity to **shine a light** on the atrocities of this predatory industry. We **routinely provide reports and documentation** evidencing the stark realities of horse slaughter and the money-driven business built on the exploitation and suffering of animals. While we have succeeded in opening their eyes to the cruelties and animal welfare concerns, we have also provided in-depth documentation as to the fraudulent health records accompanying many horses which speaks to the grave risks horsemeat represents to consumers due to the pharmaceuticals given to the animals over their lifetime.

- **Blood Horse Report**
  Our Blood Horse investigation from 2015 had far reaching results in 2016 - the **media abroad** was outraged by the findings in our report, which prompted changes at government and enforcement levels. Most importantly, the European Parliament demanded a complete import stop for PMSG sourced from cruel productions, which is a huge step in the right direction.

  During a meeting in Brussels with Vytenis Andriukaitis, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, all of the evidence from the investigation was reviewed and the **Commissioner acknowledged that improvement was needed**. This is advocacy in motion and reaffirms our stance that awareness is the key to the positive changes the animals need and deserve.

- **A Secret Empire Exposed**
  Our comprehensive report detailing the extensive slaughter horse network operated by long-term kill buyer **Mike McBarron** was publicized and raised much-needed awareness as to the exorbitant amounts of money being made, not only in the slaughter trade, but in the side business of kill pens as well.

  Our report and accompanying evidence was then **shared by these officials to enforcement agencies in other states** to increase the visibility of McBarron's reach, support ongoing cases involving individuals in McBarron's network, and to raise awareness among agency personnel of the internal workings of kill pens and broker programs.
2016 Key Accomplishments continued...

- **Sentient Beings are the Stock-in-Trade**
  
  Our investigators were able to expose conditions at First Monday Trade Days in Canton, TX; a monthly flea market that, among other things, deals in live animals.

  The evidence uncovered during our investigation raises serious questions regarding the inconsistencies found at the location and the definite lack of regulatory enforcement.

  More awareness is needed regarding this and other open-air flea markets that are selling animals across the U.S. It is high time we as a society put an end to flea markets and roadside vendors who exploit animals and profit from their indiscriminate sale.

- **Kill Pens in the News**
  
  We were thrilled to see not only the Stanley Brothers' operations but also the issue of horse slaughter brought before the public by KNOE 8 News in Louisiana. The exposé, "The Kill Pen" by KNOE Reporter Tim Bragg, focused on the inherent cruelty and often hidden predatory nature of the horse slaughter industry.

  We at Animals' Angels were pleased to be able to assist Mr. Bragg with his research into the Stanley Brothers and just how kill pens and kill buyers operate, as well as what happens "behind the scenes" for horses caught in the slaughter pipeline. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Tim Bragg and KNOE 8 News for airing this detailed report and bringing much needed attention to such an important issue.
RAISING AWARENESS

Animals Are Not Freight
In 2017, Animals' Angels participated for the first time in the Animals are Not Freight campaign, an important global day of action highlighting the suffering and all too often horrific conditions animals face in transport.

Thanks to your support, we were able to reach out and educate the public on a large scale and now more people than ever are aware of the cruelties inherent in long distance transport.

With knowledge comes wisdom and with wisdom comes the desire to create change in the world around us - this global day of action will have broad reaching results, thanks to the help of kind-hearted and compassionate people like you.

INITIATIVES

We reached out to our supporters and many answered the call to voice their outrage over the conditions at the Kalona Sales Barn in Iowa and the inhumane treatment of the animals in their care. We will continue to speak out regarding this auction, most especially the urgent need to remove the hydraulic gate currently in use.

City of Presidio Landfill - A Step Forward
We were happy to provide documentation from our reports on the Presidio export pens to Council members and other legislators in the City of Presidio to assist in the decision-making process regarding landfill fees for dead horses brought out from the export pens. While the increase was not as high as we, or the Town Administrators, had hoped for, it will nonetheless put a serious financial strain on the operators of the pens.

More important, it is a positive step for the horses. Now facing a greater financial loss, these individuals will be more inclined to better evaluate the horses they ship and not risk shipping weak, injured, and debilitated horses, which in turn would reduce the suffering of thousands of horses shipped through Presidio each year.
GOALS FOR 2017

- We will continue to put a major focus on our EU Campaign in the coming year as our horses are still not safe from the slaughter pipeline and until they are, this is an area that continues to need our attention.

- In 2016 we documented the continued cruelty at Escalon Auction, but neither law enforcement nor the District Attorney's Office have acted or investigated. In 2017, we will heighten our investigations at Escalon Auction in an effort to force the D.A.'s office to finally do their job and take action against the auction.

- Our unique training program geared to law enforcement personnel which debuted in 2013 will continue to make the rounds as we meet with enforcement agencies to provide this one-of-a-kind opportunity. The program has been a great success and has not only provided valuable resources to those officers in the field dealing with a cruelty case, but will also establish a line of communication and a support network for animal welfare calls.

- We look forward to our 2nd year with Animals are Not Freight, as we believe this is an amazing platform to bring to light so many transport issues that animals face here in the US.

- We will of course continue our investigations into auctions and transport to not only raise awareness but to also protect the animals from cruel and inhumane conditions. We want nothing more than to be in the field as much as possible. We plan to take on an even more rigorous schedule of investigations as we ramp up several of our campaigns aimed at informing and educating not just the general public, but legislators as well - both here and abroad.
Organization Info

Animals’ Angels Inc.
PO BOX 1056
Westminster, MD 21158
443-821-3343
www.animalsangels.org
info@animalsangels.org

Board of Directors:
Sonja Meadows – President & CEO
Keith Meadows – Treasurer
Wendy Kowal – Vice President/Secretary
Brandi Turner – Board Member
Elizabeth Hopkins – Board Member


Programs 83%
Fundraising 12%
Programs use .85¢ per $1.00
Mgmt 5%

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.