

Virginia Voters Support The Stopping Of Slaughtering Horses For Human Consumption

Summary: This survey of likely voters clearly indicates that the public sentiment in Virginia is to stop the slaughtering of horses for human consumption. Currently in Virginia there is a low awareness of horses in the United States being sold and slaughtered for human consumption overseas (36% aware to 64% unaware). Despite the low awareness, the electorate strongly agrees with the points made by advocates of stopping the slaughtering of horses for human consumption. Conversely, the electorate disagrees with the points made by their opponents.

Key Findings: As stated in the summary, the electorate concurs with the positions held by supporters of stopping the slaughtering of horses for human consumption. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of the likely voters agree with the statement that "horses are an important part of Virginia's history and heritage, and we owe horses better treatment at the end of their life than abusing them and slaughtering them for human consumption". This overwhelming agreement is evident across all key voter groups. In particular, the intense agreement is shown among agriculture households and horse owners. Two-thirds (67%) of the likely voters agree with the statement "The conditions under which horses are shipped on trucks and the way they are treated in slaughterhouses are cruel and inhumane. We should stop this practice." The support of this statement significantly increases among agriculture households (81% agree) and horse owners (76% agree). Clearly, the voters, especially agriculture households and horse owners, think horses deserve more respect and better treatment than slaughtering them for human consumption.

	Total		Agriculture Households		Horse Owners	
	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>
<i>"Horses are an important part of Virginia's history and heritage, and we owe horses better treatment at the end of their life than abusing them and slaughtering them for human consumption."</i>	74%	19%	76%	9%	74%	23%
<i>"The conditions under which horses are shipped on trucks and the way they are treated in slaughterhouses are cruel and inhumane. We should stop this practice."</i>	67%	17%	81%	12%	76%	20%

Unlike the points made by advocates of stopping the slaughtering of horses for human consumption, Virginia voters disagree with the positions taken by their opponents. Two-thirds (67%) of the voters disagree with the statement that "selling horses for slaughter is often the only way many people can afford to give horses a humane way to end their lives". The majority (55%) disagree with the statement "Slaughtering practices are supervised and slaughtering horses is no different than slaughtering any other type of animal. If we stop the slaughter of horses then people will want to stop the slaughter of pigs, chickens and cows." The survey results demonstrate that Virginia voters believe there are more

affordable and humane ways to end the lives of horses than slaughter and that there is a difference between slaughtering horses and other animals such as pigs, chickens and cows. In addition, they don't believe stopping the slaughtering of horses will cause a movement to end the slaughtering of animals such as pigs, chickens and cows.

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>
<i>"Selling horses for slaughter is often the only way many people can afford to give horses a humane way to end their lives."</i>	23%	67%
<i>"Slaughterhouse practices are supervised and slaughtering horses is no different than slaughtering any other type of animal. If we stop the slaughter of horses then people will want to stop the slaughter of pigs, chickens and cows."</i>	39%	55%

Conclusion: The public sentiment heavily weighs in favor of stopping the slaughtering of horses for human consumption. Despite the current low awareness of the issue, Virginia voters agree with the positions made by supporters of stopping the slaughtering of horses for human consumption and disagree with their opposition's views. The public support increases and is strongest among agriculture households and horse owners. The survey results suggest that public support will intensify as the public becomes more aware of the issue of slaughtering horses for human consumption.

Survey conducted by McLaughlin & Associates on behalf of the [National Horse Protection Coalition](#). This survey or any of the information contained herein may not be used without the express written permission of the National Horse Protection Coalition.