

# HAWC - EYE

**Voice of the Hooved Animal Welfare Council**  
PO Box 7154, Erie, PA 16510 (814) 739-9680

## 2009 NEWSLETTER

**Annual General Meeting for Election of Officers on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m at  
9907 East Peach St., Girard, PA**

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**Election of Officers:** Elections will be held on June 23rd for Vice President (Sandy Blount), and Secretary (Linda Wheeler) as well as two board member positions (Joan Rutledge and Rea Dalla Torre) and one open position.

**June Membership Drive:** Please send in your membership or renewal for 2009 now. Family memberships are still \$20.00 and Single memberships \$15.00. All memberships are tax-deductible. Your membership dollars go directly towards the cost of rehabilitation of livestock and humane officer training. Our humane officers must attend the mandatory 10-hour Humane Officer's training in Harrisburg to remain certified in Pennsylvania. So we need your membership and donations to continue with our rescue efforts now more than ever. Won't you tear off the attached membership form and send it in now.

### Complaint Contacts

HAWC continues its success in improving conditions for livestock through education of owners on proper animal care; but remember you must be willing to give your name along with other pertinent information in order for our humane officers to investigate a complaint. All complaints are strictly confidential. HAWC handled 18 complaints last year; all were resolved satisfactorily by educating the owners on proper care. The cases involved goats, ponies and horses. Thanks to everyone that notified us about your concerns. Please do not hesitate to notify us if you see neglect or abuse. Call our volunteer Humane Investigating Officers listed below. If you would like to adopt a horse or other hooved animal, please call Linda at 739-9680 so we can put you on our list of potential adopters. HAWC rescued one emaciated horse in 2008 that is being rehabilitated in a wonderful foster home and doing very well.

Sandy Blount

(814) 774-2800

Robin Kulik

(814) 756-5090

Darlene Rosthauser

(814) 899-0960

**Adoptions –** Currently we have a Morgan mare available for adoption. Call Sandy at 774-2800 for details. One horse was adopted in 2008.

**Remember, Pennsylvania Law §5511, Cruelty to Animals states:** (c) Cruelty to animals. –A person commits a summary offense if he wantonly or cruelly ill-treats, overloads, beats, otherwise abuses any animal, or neglects any animal as to which he has a duty of care, whether belonging to himself or otherwise, or abandons any animal, or deprives any animal of necessary sustenance, drink, shelter or veterinary care, or access to clean and sanitary shelter which will protect the animal against inclement weather and preserve the animal's body heat and keep it dry.

**Animal Care Coordinator for Erie County** is Duane Osborn. Duane can be reached at 814 438-7834 to answer questions on livestock care and farming practices.

**Website Address:** Please check out the HAWC website at [www.hawc-eye.org](http://www.hawc-eye.org) with links to help you find information on livestock care and issues. Remember you can donate to HAWC by purchasing items thru the iGive site (over 600 stores to choose from) and Jeffers (for pet and livestock supplies). If you go to our website and click on their logo to order online, a percentage of your order will be donated to HAWC by Jeffers (8% of your total) and iGive. It's easy and a great way to donate.

HAWC has received many emails from people visiting our website. We will continue to do our best to answer all questions accordingly so do not hesitate to email us at [majek25@hotmail.com](mailto:majek25@hotmail.com).

## **2009 Events**

**Dan Rice Days** is our biggest fundraiser of the year and lots of fun for everyone. It will be held August 7th and 8th in downtown Girard, PA. Take a chance on the Chinese Auction. If you would like to help at the booth or donate an item, please call Sandy Blount at 774-2800. Hope to see you there!

**Foster Homes Needed** – We are still in need of foster homes to help rehabilitate livestock. If you have a barn and pasture and are experienced in hooved animal care, please call us so we can add you name to our list. Rehabilitating an animal can be very rewarding. Call Sandy Blount at 774-2800.

## **Presentations**

If you would like a presentation about HAWC for your community group, contact Sandy at 774-2800 or Linda at 739-9680.

## **UPDATES ON LIVESTOCK LEGISLATION**

The Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009 (H.R. 503/S. 727) – Recently introduced by House Judiciary Chairman John Conyers (D-MI) and Representative Dan Burton (R-IN), and in the Senate by Senators Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and John Ensign (R-NV), the bill addresses the cruelty of horse slaughter by criminalizing the practice. Although horse slaughter doesn't currently occur on US soil, more than 100,000 American horses were sent to Mexico and Canada last year for slaughter. The meat is consumed in Europe and Asia where it is considered a gourmet delight. With strong penalty and enforcement provisions, the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act will ensure that our horses are no longer exported for slaughter, and will prevent the establishment of new plants in this country. For more information, please visit

[www.awionline.org/legislation/horse\\_slaughter](http://www.awionline.org/legislation/horse_slaughter).

Visit [equineadvocates.com](http://equineadvocates.com) to take action today. This site gives the contact information for you're United States Senators and your Congressman or Congresswoman in the House of Representatives.

**Another Bill, The Proposed Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2009 (HR 305)** would make it illegal to transport horses across state lines in any vehicle that has two or more stacked levels.

To read the entire bills and track their progress, go to: [www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h503/show](http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h503/show) and [www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h305/show](http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h305/show).

**Downer bill has passed April 8, 2009** - Senate Bill 5974 is intended to make the effort to stop "downer cows" from getting into the food chain more practical. Cattle too sick or injured to walk, or downers, often harbor diseases, including mad cow disease or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Besides the obvious public health risks of allowing downers in the food supply, the animals suffer terribly when workers try to force them, by merciless physical abuse, to move toward the slaughter line. Farm Sanctuary at [www.farmsanctuary.org](http://www.farmsanctuary.org) continues to urge for federal legislation to end the marketing of ALL downed animals, including pigs, sheep and other livestock.

**Looking for a Home for Your Horse or Pony?** \_With the economy down and people losing their jobs, some find it necessary to find new homes for their animals. If you don't want to sell your animal at an auction, here are some website that offer information on how to find a good home. Animal Welfare Institute at

[www.awionline.org](http://www.awionline.org), Unwanted Horse Coalition at [www.unwantedhorsecoalition.com](http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.com), Humane Society of the United States at [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org) and Homes for Horses Coalition: [www.homesforhorses.org](http://www.homesforhorses.org).

## **Premarin Update**

**PMURescue.org**, the online database of adoptable horses once used in the manufacture of the hormone replacement drug Premarin, has connected 2,759 horses with new homes. Visitors to **PMURescue.org** can search for horses based on gender, location, breed or color. Photos of each horse are included, with notes about temperament and health. A local PMU rescue "For the Love of Horses", located in Fairview is listed on this site. Check out [www.loveofhorses.org](http://www.loveofhorses.org) to view what horses are available for adoption locally.

### **A NEW DRUG MADE FROM HORSE URINE - Aprela**

In 2002, sales of drug giant, Wyeth's Premarin and PremPro, the estrogen and hormone replacement drugs made from pregnant mares' urine (PMU), plummeted after a major study linked their usage to breast cancer, heart disease, heart attacks, blood clots, strokes and dementia. Wicked Wyeth, notorious for its fiasco's with the diet drug Fen-Phen and for being sued by thousands for adverse effects to PremPro®, is now determined to continue using and abusing horses to produce a new horse urine drug, called Aprela, which combines estrogen (from PMU) with an osteoporosis drug.

The fact is that Premarin® or conjugated estrogens can be manufactured in a lab without the use and abuse of horses. FDA approval of Aprela could come as early as March 2009. If that happens and the PMU industry expands, horses in greater numbers will once again be turned into four-legged drug machines and tens of thousands annually will again be sold for slaughter. Wyeth estimates that sales from Aprela could reach \$2 billion a year.

Just when it seemed that the PMU industry was finally dying a most welcomed death, Wyeth comes up with new ways to keep it going. This follows the FDA's recent approval of Wyeth's low-dose Regimen of Premarin® Vaginal Cream in 2008 which was a real set-back due to the increase of PMU production. Since 1942, it is estimated that well over a million or possibly multi-millions of horses have suffered and then died, many butchered in slaughterhouses as the result of the cruel and inhumane PMU industry. We will never really know the true number of how many have perished, but isn't it time for the FDA to stop approving drugs that are made in this barbaric fashion?

### **WAYS YOU CAN HELP PROTECT HORSES**

1. Be Their Voice – Your vote is your greatest weapon to actively support legislation that protects and preserves populations and living standards of all equines.
2. Be An Informed Consumer – Some products are made from horses, and some, like Premarin, are created through their suffering. Your spending dollar is a weapon – use it wisely.
3. Share Your Knowledge – Many people are not aware of what happens to racehorses after their racing days are over, or where Premarin comes from. You can help expand awareness by discussions with friends and family.
4. Report Cruelty – Any animal cruelty can be an indicator or cruelty to other species-including humans.
5. Keep Your Companion Horse Safe and Healthy – If you own a horse, you already know the importance of maintaining it's health through regular vet care. But horses are also social animals, and their emotional wellbeing is a factor in their overall health. Behaviorists recommend getting your horse a buddy. A horse, burro or donkey make a "best friend", but goats work well, too.
6. Plan Ahead For Your Horse's Care – Changes in your health, your horse's health or your financial situation are just a few of the reasons why you might need to find a new home for your horse one day. It's a good idea to research your options ahead of time. Let your loved ones and family know what has been done to ensure a happy, healthy future for your horse.

**HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER**



HAWC  
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Erie, PA 16510

- June is HAWC membership month, so please remember to renew your membership for 2009

**NEGLECTED AND ABUSED ANIMALS CAN'T HELP THEMSELVES;**  
*On Behalf of the animals, THANK YOU*

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
FOR THE HOOVED ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL (HAWC)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Single Membership \$15.00**

**Family Membership \$20.00**

Donations gratefully accepted

**Make check payable to: H.A.W.C.**

**Mail to: P.O. Box 7154, Erie, PA 16510**

**All donations are tax deductible**

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