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## League of Humane Voters of New York

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### Prohibits horse-drawn carriages in New York City

#### Statement of Problem:

New York City is one of the top traffic congested cities in the United States. Carriage horses are out of place in midtown's congested streets and belong to another century when there were far fewer vehicles and pedestrians. When horse-drawn carriages are mixed with cars, taxis, buses, pedestrians, bikes and emergency vehicles – fire trucks, ambulances and police cars – they are a recipe for disaster. New York City has inherent characteristics that make the safe handling of urban carriage horses impossible. Since opening up midtown streets to the horse drawn cabs, numerous accidents have occurred posing grave danger to the animals, passengers, motorists and pedestrians. In September 2009 a carriage driver was seriously injured after a taxi on Fifth Avenue collided with a horse carriage in the middle of the afternoon. The taxi crashed into a wall and the horse and carriage careened around a corner and ultimately stopped but only after the driver suffered serious injuries and was taken away by ambulance and hospitalized. Two years prior in September 2007 a 12 year old horse was spooked by a loud noise while left unattended and she bolted away became entangled in the carriage wheel as she crashed into a tree. The horse went into shock and died at the scene. Prior to this at least 6 other accidents involving horse carriages occurred following another horse fatality in January 2006 where a horse pulling a carriage became startled and galloped down 9th Avenue for several blocks and collided with a vehicle. This resulted in the ultimate death of the horse and serious injury to the driver of the carriage. Unfortunately, this has become an all too familiar scenario in the streets of midtown Manhattan and something must finally be done to prevent these situations from occurring.



Photo: The Persian Horse's Blog

#### Proposal:

The pending bills prohibit the operation of horse drawn cabs in the city of New York; and define the circumstances under which sale or disposal of a horse shall be deemed humane.

#### Just a Thought:

I would like to state unequivocally that I don't believe that horse-drawn carriages and motor vehicles should share the same roadways due to the distressing history of injuries and deaths (both equine and human) that have occurred across the country due to carriage-car collisions. There is no way that cities with their exhaust fumes, hard road surfaces, and busy traffic patterns can provide a humane environment for a carriage horse. -- *Holly Cheever, DVM*