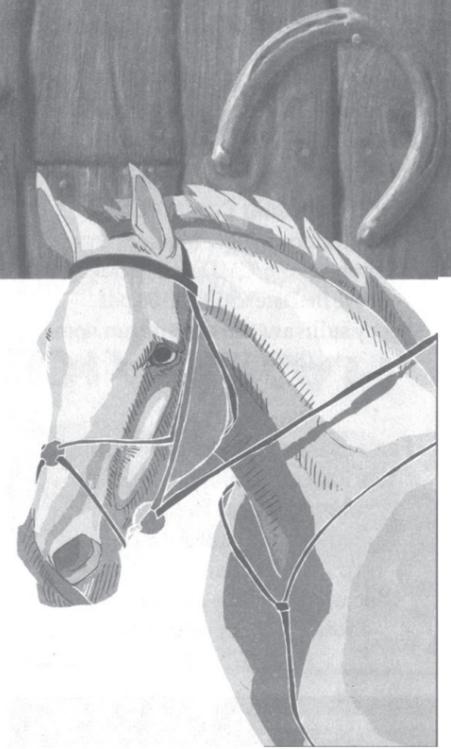




On the Edge of Common Sense

By Baxter Black



Continuing saga of abandoned horses

I had a visit with the president of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) recently about the abandoned horse issue. My question to him was, "Since the problem is a direct result of the banning of equine slaughter plants, for which your group led the charge, what are you willing to do to help those of us who have inherited the responsibility for the mess you have made?"

We discussed the woefully inadequate plan to put them in "refuges." We both agreed that euthanasia is not a bad thing, but dumping your unwanted horse along the roadside, in private pastures or on park land to die of starvation is not humane.

We considered having equine animal shelters, like dog pounds. Maybe one in every state that would accept horses at no charge, hold them for 30 days in hopes they could be adopted, then euthanasia. The facility should include a free pick-up service,

a large "feedlot" to hold them and a rendering plant. He did not readily agree that his group would finance this national program. But they are the richest animal rights group in the world and what better way, I thought, to put their money where their convictions are.

The HSUS has made legitimate criticism of how some horses destined for distant slaughter plants in Canada and Mexico are transported. We livestock people are responsible for the animals in our care from conception until death. We cannot turn a blind eye to double-decked trucks, too-long hauls and mistreatment. The Departments of Transportation and Agriculture should have laws that guarantee the horses' well-being. We should ensure their enforcement.

It's good that we are talking, but this winter the public's awareness of the problem, and their deeper understanding of the cause, seems to be lifting the veil of the ignorance

which often blinds the naive but well-meaning, be they horse lovers, politicians or journalists. Starving horses are not a pretty sight.

Three states, with more to come, North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana, are taking steps to examine the construction of horse slaughter plants to replace the ones the animal rights groups have had banned in Texas and Illinois. The day these new plants open up, the abandoned horse problem, with all its unintended abuse, will disappear. There would be a place for them to go.

There are several groups scrambling around for answers this cold winter to save unwanted horses from the misjudgment of these well-intentioned but irresponsible "animal lovers." I hear from them regularly. I suggest if you are one of these sale barn operators, ranchers, park rangers, farmers or rural residents who have inherited the problem, take photos of the horses, good or bad, that have been dumped in your area. Then when a new state

applies for a permit to build a new horse slaughter plant and the animal rights groups protest, we will have an entire "Gallery of Abandoned Horses" to show the public the inhumanity of their policy. These photos would be very convincing. Our facts versus their perception. Of course, we could put pictures of abandoned horses on milk cartons with the caption "Brought to you by HSUS, PETA and the 'Frenchmen Should Not Eat Horsemeat Society!'" **HG**

PROGRESSIVE HAY GROWER • APRIL 2009

APA revises 'gay gene' theory

(Reprinted from www.onenewsnow.com/Culture/Default)

"An American Psychological Association (APA) publication includes an admission that there's no homosexual "gene" — meaning it's not likely that homosexuals are born that way.

"For decades, the APA has not considered homosexuality a psychological disorder, while other professionals in the field consider it to be a "gender-identity" issue. But the new statement, which appears in a brochure called *Answers to Your Questions for a Better Understanding of Sexual Orientation & Homosexuality* states the following:

"There is no consensus among scientists about the exact reasons that an individual develops a heterosexual, bisexual, gay or lesbian orientation. Although much research has examined the possible genetic, hormonal, developmental, social and cultural influences on sexual orientation, no findings have emerged that permit scientists to conclude that sexual orientation is determined by any particular factor or factors. Many think that nature and nurture both play complex roles..."

"That contrasts with the APA's statement in 1998: "There is considerable recent evidence to suggest that biology, including genetic or inborn hormonal factors, play a significant role in a person's sexuality."

"Peter LaBarbera, who heads Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, believes the more recent statement is an important admission because it undermines a popular theory.

"People need to understand that the 'gay gene' theory has been one of the biggest propaganda boons of the homosexual movement over the last 10 [or] 15 years," he points out. "Studies show that if people think that people are born homosexual they're much less likely to resist the gay agenda."

"Matt Barber with Liberty Counsel feels the pronouncement may have something to do with saving face. 'Well, I think here the American Psychological Association is finally trying to restore some credibility that they've lost over the years by having become a clearly political organization as opposed to an objective, scientific organization,' he states.

"With the new information from the APA, Barber wonders if the organization will admit that homosexuals who want to change can change.

"It's irrefutable from a medical standpoint that people can leave the homosexual lifestyle," he argues. "Homosexuality is defined by behavior. Untold thousands of people have found freedom from that lifestyle through either reparative therapy or through — frankly, most effectively — a relationship with Jesus Christ."

"LaBarbera agrees. 'Change through Christ is possible — and it's one of the most heartwarming aspects of the whole gay debate,' he shares. 'Many men and women have come out of homosexuality, mostly through a relationship with Jesus Christ. The fact that these professional organizations will not study that, will not acknowledge that, shows how 'in the tank' they are for the homosexual movement.'

"LaBarbera stresses that even though elites will not recognize the change, that does not mean the change does not exist."••

Grandma's rocking chair

by Kathleen V. Busman

I love my grandma's rocking chair,
What memories it holds for me.
One look at it and back I go
To the child I used to be.

I often rocked myself to sleep,
It was the perfect spot.
I felt my grandma's arms around me,
I knew she cared a lot.

When grandma tried to find me,
She knew just where to look.
She'd find me curled up in her chair
Reading my favorite book.

Grandma's love still lingers
In that dear old rocking chair,
And I shall always love it
For the memories hiding there. •

Asparagus soup

by Judy Brandow

3/4 pound asparagus, cut up
1 onion, sliced thin
1/2 cup boiling water
1 cup milk
1/2 cup light cream

In covered saucepan, cook asparagus and sliced onion in water 8 to 10 minutes or until crisp-tender. Do not drain. Cool slightly. In blender container, combine the undrained asparagus and onion with the remaining ingredients. Cover. Blend until smooth. Chill before serving. •



Fireworks lit the sky on Friday night, a reminder of how valuable our freedom is and the explosions encountered by generations of American soldiers over the years to guarantee our freedom. (Photo by Harry and Heidi Wojahn)



The gang's all here! (Photo by Mariann Cooper.)



This young lady may have to grow into her new bicycle that she won in the Kids' parade. (Photo by Mariann Cooper.)



A new bicycle made this young cowboy happy. (Photo by Mariann Cooper.)