

Veterinarian's Oath

Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine,

I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of livestock resources, the promotion of public health and the advancement of medical knowledge.

I will practice my profession conscientiously, with dignity, and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics.

I accept as a lifelong obligation the continual improvement of my professional knowledge and competence.

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By their very own oath, the veterinarian's mission is to cure, not to kill. Therefore, I am dumbfounded by their stance advocating the slaughtering of the thoroughbred horses that they have sworn to protect. I cannot imagine how they can come to the conclusion that "the relief of animal suffering" is achieved by condoning the horrible, bitter end that the shipping and slaughtering of these innocent horses brings about.

Surely there is a better fate for our dear friend the horse than this awful, tragic conclusion. I would earnestly urge the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the American Veterinary Medical Association to re-consider their position.

Arthur Hancock
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