

John Holland | Charles Stenholm Debate [North Platte Telegraph](#)

Slaughter Supporter Post:

bobhorse lover wrote on Mar 11, 2011 9:45 PM:

" Mr Holland states"PETA & Animal Rights" people are not to blame for shuttering the slaughter industry,having one believe it's only well-intentioned horse owners.Nothing could be further from the truth-one as concerned as Mr Holland is about factual data should be careful about his "facts".Elementary fact - taking would find that slaughter was ,in fact,shut down due to the actions of non other than the HSUS! Mr.Holland,what other facts are you failing to reveal? Someone as well-read as you surely didn't miss something as well-known as this fact!C'mon, you can tell us,you're in bed w/the HSUS!That's why you never bash the HSUS and spew your version of facts to benefit the HSUS and their agenda(commonly referred to as lies).Let's get it straight in the future! March 11,9:45 p.m. "

John Holland Responds with the Facts:

John Holland wrote on Mar 14, 2011 5:29 PM:

" Bobhorse Lover,

You say "Elementary fact - taking would find that slaughter was ,in fact, shut down due to the actions of non[e] other than the HSUS!"

You apparently confuse your strongly held opinion with fact and apparently know absolutely nothing of the history of the anti-slaughter movement.

I hate to provide such a brief recounting of the battle, because I will only be able to mention a few folks out of the hundreds who deserve mention. But here goes...

The California law was the work of Cathleen Doyle and the California Equine Council who started the "Save the Horses" campaign that eventually led to Proposition 6 and the slaughter ban in California in 1998.

Humane Farming did one of the most powerful early videos inside a horse slaughter plant which galvanized a lot of the early opposition to slaughter.

Rescues began forming in increasing numbers to try to save horses from slaughter during the late 90s. In time, these became more active in opposing slaughter.

The Texas plants were closed largely as the result of a woman named Mary Nash. Mary owned a horse farm adjoining the Dallas Crown plant property and originally started the web site called Kaufmanzoning.net to try to get the plant closed. She watched the beautiful horses being brutally killed every day and it spurred her into action.

Mary had friends, including Mayor Paula Bacon, Jerry Finch (Habitat for Horses) and Julie Caramante (HfH, now with Animals' Angels) who became involved and they teamed up with folks from the Boggy Bottom neighborhood.

They studied Texas law trying to find something to use to stop the plant. That is how the 1949 law was discovered. They went to the State Attorney General who took some time to determine that the law was in fact still in effect. He ordered the plants to close.

Meanwhile, the Kaufman Board of Adjustments ordered the plant to close because of its countless sewer and other health violations. The plant managed to tie that order up in court and to stay open.

Mary died of cancer before the plants were closed but she fought them to the very last day she drew breath. Her web site is still the best single repository for information about the struggle.

The plants filed a suit against the State of Texas to stay open and got a TRO (temporary restraining order) for a considerable time.

During the early 2000's the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) had worked to introduce the first federal anti-slaughter bills. They also helped start one of the first national anti-slaughter web groups called "Against Slaughter" which is still active today.

Various groups formed out of this effort, including Alex Brown Racing (ABR) and Americans Against Horse Slaughter and many others.

In Illinois, Gail Vacca (a TB trainer) and her friends worked on Illinois legislation that failed the first time it was introduced. AWI worked relatively closely with Gail and others.

HSUS first became significantly involved in 2006 as I recall. In fact, they were a relative late comer to the battle. By then, even I had been in it for 4 years.

The two Texas plants had a TRO (pending a Supreme Court appeal) at the time of their closings, but it was us advocates who discovered it did not cover the Airlines hauling the meat and when we passed this to HSUS, they got the Airlines to stop shipping and the plants closed. Their appeal was eventually refused by the Supreme Court, closing the issue.

AWI and DDAL (Doris Day Animal League) also sued the Illinois Cavel plant for its sewage discharge violations. That suit was based on records uncovered by a different group of folks who were working in DeKalb studying plant's operations. That suit never got to court because the state law closed them first.

PETA has never taken an active role, partially because the anti-slaughter community asked them not to (for fear they would bring their enemies to the battle). Of course, pro-slaughter people could not leave them out, so they have continually argued that PETA is behind everything.

PETA took an undercover video of horse slaughter in Japan, but that is about their only participation.

You really ought not to claim people are hiding things when you don't know anything about the subject. "