



Kevin O'Neill
Senior Legislative Director, Western Region
1230 Gold Express Drive, #310-360
Gold River, CA 95670
kevin.oneill@aspca.org
916.214.0476

March 5, 2013

The Honorable Jackie Dingfelder, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

RE: SB 790 – Equine Tripping - Support

Dear Senator Dingfelder:

On behalf of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and our more than 2.5 million members and supporters nationwide, including more than 25,000 Oregon residents, I wish to express our support for SB 790, which would create the offense of equine tripping.

Horse tripping is the cruel practice of roping the front or hind legs of a galloping horse, causing the terrified animal to trip and hurtle to the ground. Horse tripping can cause the horse fatal injuries. Eleven states have already banned this incredibly inhumane practice.

It has been strongly suggested that horse tripping is not occurring in Oregon. However, video of a horse tripping event at a rodeo in Jordan Valley clearly demonstrates that it does indeed occur in Oregon.

Interestingly enough, a similar argument was made in Nevada in 2011 by opponents of a measure to ban horse tripping in that state. A couple of months after that measure was defeated, video of a horse being tripped at a rodeo in Winnemucca, NV was published.

Two different states with identical outcomes during the same timeframe – are these the only two horse tripping events happening in the entire West? Was it simple luck that they were captured on video? That is not likely.

The ASPCA has a long history of promoting animal welfare, especially horse welfare. The ASPCA's very founding in 1866 was the direct result of founder Henry Bergh's witnessing of horse neglect and abuse on the streets of New York City.

Since the time of our founding, the ASPCA has worked passionately to safeguard horses from abuse through legislative and regulatory initiatives, as well as backing up our efforts through the substantial grant making that we do to help local groups improve horse welfare across the country. In 2012 the ASPCA granted close to \$2 million specifically to help horses through cruelty seizures, emergency hay, vet services, rescuing racers, etc. 2011 saw similar numbers.

Protecting horses is simply part of the ASPCA's culture and banning the inhumane practice of horse tripping is integral to the culture ASPCA has fostered through our nearly 150 years of existence in North America.

Protecting animals from cruelty is a value that is shared across cultures. SB 790 simply follows in these footsteps by demonstrating Oregon's support for preventing this inhumane practice.

For these reasons, we strongly support SB 790 and thank you for considering this important measure. If you have any questions about the ASPCA's position, please feel free to contact me at Kevin.oneill@aspca.org or 916.214.0476. Thank you for your time in considering our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin O'Neill".

Kevin O'Neill
Senior Legislative Director, Western Region

cc: The Honorable Alan Olsen, Vice Chair
The Honorable Alan Bates, Member
The Honorable Bill Hansell, Member
The Honorable Mark Hass, Member