

# **Straight from the Horse's Heart**

## **A Spiritual Ride through Love, Loss and Hope**

### **Proposed Florida Bill would make Horse Slaughter a Felony Charge**

Posted by R.T. Fitch Posted on May 9, 2010



Thoroughbred “Ginerous Legacy” (Harley) rescued from slaughter by Habitat for Horses – Photo by Terry Fitch

[Florida](#) Representative Luis Garcia (D-Miami) and Florida Senator Victor Crist (R-Tampa) have filed identical bills to enact legislation making horse slaughter in Florida illegal. HB 765 and SB1708, identical bills for the House and Senate would make it illegal to:

*“knowingly transport, distribute, sell, purchase, or possess horsemeat for human consumption that is not clearly stamped, marked, and described as horsemeat for human consumption or horsemeat that is not acquired from a licensed [slaughterhouse](#).”*

It would also be a third degree [felony](#) for anyone to illegally kill, maim, mutilate, or cause great bodily harm or permanent breeding disability to any equine. The penalty would carry a minimum of one year in prison and a \$3500 fine.

The proposed bill is the result of 21+ illegal theft and slaughter of horses in the South Florida area. Most of the illegal slaughter farms are located in the C-9 Basin area near Miami. [Black market horse meat](#) is on the rise and can bring up to \$40 a pound. In some areas of Miami a horse is worth more dead than alive. A harvest of 300 pounds of horse meat can bring in hefty profits.

In January, Richard “Kudo” Couto, of Animal Recovery Mission helped to organized the task force operation entitled Miss Piggy and Mr. Ed bringing in more than 100 officers and county, state and federal agencies to cite violations and close illegal slaughter farms. So far twenty-two illegal farms have been shut down.