

Problem – little to no salvage value for horses, market driven by many factors

- Too many unwanted horses (some “unusable” horses within this category); see web site for definitions

Coupled With...

Troubled Economy – many owners dealing with reduced or lost income + increased cost of living (esp. fuel & food)

Increased Cost of Horse Care – esp. rise in hay & grain prices, also bedding & fuel

People have decreased disposable income to go to competitions, trail rides, etc. (in some cases, simply the cost of horse care has become prohibitive)

In the past, during similar economic cycles, some people would elect to take their horses to low-end auctions... where the salvage value was in going to the slaughter market... this option is now extremely limited & involves horses going to Canada or Mexico

For many, this leads to decreased reason/justification to have the horse

Potential Solution – produce less horses; already doing this in many breeds; but perhaps an unfair burden for horse businesses to bear; this is complicated by the fact that improved health care has horses living longer

Potential Solution – Educate owners to responsibilities of horse ownership; ensure they know the importance of having sufficient financial resources before obtaining horse; ensure they have access to training resources to ensure manageability of horses

Potential Solution – reopen US equine slaughter option; realistic avenue for unwanted and unusable horses; realistic utilization of resources

Potential Solution use taxpayer dollars to build/open/staff horse shelters similar to dog/cat shelters; these places would try to adopt out horses that are dropped off, but would euthanize those animals that are unadoptable (Realistic?)

Realities –there will always be some unwanted and unusable horses, and there will not be enough rescues/retirements for those animals & not enough funding for the facilities that do exist; given other current US crises, is this the most appropriate place to put taxpayer dollars?