

## 2015-K998

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 20th Anniversary of Equine Advocates on February 27, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those individuals and organizations who would faithfully dedicate themselves to the care and protection of animals; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Equine Advocates, to be celebrated on Saturday, February 27, 2016; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, Susan Wagner founded Equine Advocates, a national non-profit equine protection organization after rescuing her first horse, Gandalf, from slaughter; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable organization strives to rescue, protect and prevent the abuse of horses through education, investigation, rescue operations, the dissemination of information to the public and the cooperation of a horse sanctuary for slaughter-bound, abused and neglected horses; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its 20 years of service, Equine Advocates has rescued thousands of equines, including horses, ponies, donkeys and mules from slaughter, abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Susan Wagner and her incredible staff at Equine Advocates, established Equine Advocates Rescue and Sanctuary, a 140-acre facility located in upstate New York from which it now operates; and

WHEREAS, Equine Advocates Rescue and Sanctuary has truly become a haven for horses; it is an equine village where horses get to live out their lives in a natural environment which allows them to socialize with each other; and

WHEREAS, Currently, 85 equines reside at Equine Advocates Rescue and

Sanctuary, receiving lots of tender loving care; most of these wonderful animals were slaughter-bound and/or came from abusive situations and have earned their retirement at the sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Equine Advocates Rescue and Sanctuary proudly opened its Humane Education Center where they welcome groups and individuals of all ages from many different parts of the country to learn about equine issues, responsible horse guardianship, humane horse handling, natural horsemanship, and many other important subjects which affect the welfare of our equine friends; and

WHEREAS, The staff always stresses the importance of people taking responsibility for the equines under their care, ensuring them a safe and kind existence during their lives and a peaceful, dignified experience in death; and

WHEREAS, The Humane Education Programs offered at the sanctuary are continually expanding; they offer tours and present lectures and classes on a variety of equine-related subjects and issues; in addition, they have held Symposiums on Equine Cruelty for law enforcement where experts discussed how to recognize abuse/neglect cases and how to effectively enforce the cruelty laws; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, in the outdoor arena right outside the Education Center, staff members hold lecture demonstrations and also allow visitors, especially young children, to meet some of their more gentle horses such as Dolly and Queen; and

WHEREAS, Equine Advocates Rescue and Sanctuary produced its first children's book for young children, entitled, DO HORSES SLEEP STANDING UP? written by their Development Director, Karen Wagner; this educational book features many of the horses who live at the sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Accredited status to Equine Advocates Rescue and Sanctuary; one year later, it was one of

only 42 organizations to be awarded Accredited status by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA); and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Equine Advocates is also an award-winning organization, honored by the New York State Humane Association and the Thoroughbred Charities of America for excellence in equine protection and rescue work, including numerous multi-horse rescue operations; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, Equine Advocates has focused both on horse rescue and advocacy, exposing the cruel horse slaughter and pregnant mares' urine (PMU) industries and other forms of equine abuse; and

WHEREAS, Since 2006, Equine Advocates has focused on teaching humane equine practices to horse owners and young people, in particular, because they are the future horse owners of America; and

WHEREAS, The staff at Equine Advocates has originated and participated in many televised and print undercover investigations which have taken it across the United States and Canada to expose horse slaughter auctions, horse slaughterhouses, the tragic fate of most camp horses, the abusive treatment of many mules, buggy horses and work horses by some Amish farmers, the unhappy lives of PMU mares, the urban carriage horse trade and other informative reports exposing equine abuse and other forms of exploitation; and

WHEREAS, The success of Equine Advocates is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated staff and volunteers, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of this institution and the animals it serves; and

WHEREAS, Under the illustrious guidance of President Susan Wagner, Equine Advocates will continue to provide the best possible service to its diverse equine community for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of

the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Equine Advocates on February 27, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

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mitted to Susan Wagner, President, Equine Advocates.