

Blondie One Year Later: Has Anything Really Changed?



NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE HAS CHANGED SINCE BLONDIE COLLAPSED ON A CITY STREET DOWNTOWN LAST JULY. CHARLESTON ANIMAL SOCIETY CEO JOE ELMORE EXPLAINS:

Does Charleston Animal Society want to shut down the carriage tour industry?

JOE ELMORE: No. Charleston Animal Society is not opposed to the carriage industry if it is operated under humane conditions. But, we consider the conditions in Charleston cruel. We must see true reform in the industry regarding heat, load, and congestion or we believe the public will grow weary of seeing these beautiful animals put in harm's way.

We see horses out pulling carriages in this extreme heat, what can be done?

JE: We strongly feel the "official thermometer" should be relocated closer to street level in order to measure the temperature in the actual environment in which the horses are working. Right now, the city thermometers are located on top of a theater and a hotel, far above the asphalt where carriage animals work.

When should horses be pulled off the street because of heat?

JE: The city doesn't pull horses off the street until the temperature reaches 98°F (in two consecutive readings) or the heat index reaches 125°F! We find this cruel and unacceptable. When adopted (over objections from Charleston Animal Society)

the 98°F/125°F threshold was supposed to be temporary while the issue was studied further.

We are prepared to lead this important discussion with the community, the tour operators and city officials.

So many tourists are packed onto the carriages. Is anyone monitoring the weight being pulled?

JE: No. Under city ordinance, the combined weight of the carriage, passengers, and drivers cannot exceed three times the weight of the carriage animal. Yet, nowhere in the process are the carriages with passengers weighed. The city should acquire and use appropriate scales to weigh carriages before each trip. Charleston Animal Society is willing to purchase a set of scales for the City's use, so that the law can be enforced immediately.

If I see something that concerns me regarding carriage animals, what should I do?

JE: Call (843) 709-1985 and a tourism enforcement officer will respond. Then, please send an email with photos or video to cruelty@charlestonanimalsociety.org.



70%

THINK CARRIAGE TOURS SHOULD BE STOPPED IN CHARLESTON

POST & COURIER - 11/15

78%

THINK THE HEAT LIMIT SHOULD BE LOWERED

CHARLESTON MAGAZINE - 9/14

79%

THINK CARRIAGE HORSES SHOULD NOT BE USED IN CHARLESTON

NBC NEWS 2 - 7/15

