



American Association of Equine Practitioners
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February 15, 2017

W. Kurt Taylor, Esq.
Director of Government Relations
Charleston Animal Society
2455 Remount Rd.
North Charleston, SC 29406

Dear Mr. Taylor,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the request made by the Charleston Humane Society concerning the concept for a study on carriage horses.

The AAEP Welfare and Public Policy Advisory Council recently formed a subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Joe Bertone, to review the issue of working equids in urban environments. The subcommittee, full Council and AAEP Board of Directors are in support of the concept of a study to review criteria pertaining to the use of working carriage horses so long as the study is scientifically sound and controlled, with expert peer review and scrutiny, and is not in conflict with AAEP's position statements on either the health or welfare of horses. The results of such studies and their interpretation will require further scientific review prior to full AAEP endorsement.

Again, we appreciate the consideration and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

R. Reynolds Cowles, Jr., DVM
2017 AAEP President