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

Dear Mr. Taylor,

It is an honor to be able to write in support of a call for a science-based, peer-reviewed study examining the conditions for the operation of carriage horse tours in the urban environment downtown.

The ASPCA has a long and positive history of supporting equine welfare. We introduced the first horse ambulance in 1867, even before ambulances for people were in use. We installed water fountains for carriage horses, we developed the first rescue sling for horses, built our first hospital for horses, pioneering the use of anesthesia for equines in 1918. We even conducted the first operation on a horse with a broken kneecap. We are not opposed to the use of horses and other equines in pulling carts and carriages for hire, provided that all of their physiological and behavioral needs are met, housing and stable conditions are humane and their working hours and conditions are carefully regulated to temperature, humidity, proximity to traffic, rest periods, etc.

Charleston is a beautiful and unique city with specific conditions and features that merit study. We believe it would be beneficial for the City to conduct a science-based, peer-reviewed study of its carriage horse operations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Perry
Senior Vice President, Government Relations