

The issue: Controversy has existed for many years regarding humane working conditions for animals pulling tourist wagons in downtown Charleston, including multiple injuries of both humans and animals, including the death of both.

There has never been a science-based study to collect data regarding stress levels of these animals.

Charleston Animal Society proposes:

A prospective¹, science-based², peer-reviewed³ study, the results of which will inform our community, including all interested parties, regarding humane conditions for the operation of carriage tours in the urban environment downtown.

¹"Prospective"-one in which the data to be studied are yet to be generated, the events having not yet occurred. Data is gathered as it occurs, under the conditions of the study parameters.

²"Science-based"- generally involving the observation of phenomena, the formulation of a hypothesis concerning the phenomena, experimentation to test the hypothesis, and development of a conclusion that confirms, rejects, or modifies the hypothesis.

³"Peer reviewed"- an academic term for quality control. Each article published in a peer-reviewed journal was closely examined by a panel of reviewers who are experts on the article's topic (that is, the author's professional peers...hence the term "peer review"). The reviewers look for proper use of research methods, significance of the paper's contribution to the existing literature, and integration of previous authors' work on the topic in any discussion (including citations). Papers published in these journals are expert-approved.

The late Dr. John Malark, founder of Edisto Equine Clinic and equine veterinarian to carriage companies in Charleston said "studies need to be focused on these horses. If you want answers, then you have to fund the research." *Veterinary Care of Carriage Horses*, DVM360 Magazine, August 1, 2009.

In addition, a veterinarian hired by Palmetto Carriage Works to look at carriage animals in Charleston stated "Further studies are needed to define acceptable minimum standards for carriage animals throughout the United States. Particularly, prospective studies should be performed to collect objective, evidence-based data regarding stress levels in the animals." "Retrospective Review of Carriage Horse and Mule Welfare in Charleston, South Carolina (2009-2012)" *Journal of Equine Veterinary Science* Julie M. Rosser, DVM, Anna Ardis, BS, BA, MAT.

In addition to these two veterinarians' recommendations, Charleston Animal Society's suggestion for a study has been endorsed by:

- The Humane Society of the United States
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
- American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP)
- Dr. Ken Marcella, expert equine veterinarian (has published over 100 articles in DVM360, was part of the team which established heat regulations for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, and has been a FEI (International Equestrian Federation) veterinarian for over 25 years, with the highest FEI ranking, based upon ability and experience)
- The Historic Ansonborough Neighborhood Association
- The Charlestowne Neighborhood Association
- Pet Helpers
- Hallie Hill Sanctuary

The study will measure various physiological responses of the carriage animals in response to their work. Measurements will be under actual conditions, on dates representative of various times of year (especially including the hottest and most humid). Charleston Animal Society has offered to pay for the cost of the study, which would be designed and conducted independently by university researchers.

The study will be independent of any party with financial ties, directly or indirectly, to the carriage horse industry enterprise.