



Agriculture and Markets

RICHARD A. BALL
Commissioner

January 12, 2022

To whom it may concern:

Please be advised that the Agriculture and Markets Law (A&ML) has been amended to add Section 382, which became effective on January 1, 2022. As of that date, a person or a business entity may not slaughter, for a commercial purpose, an animal known to be a “race horse” (that is, a thoroughbred or standardbred horse eligible to race at a licensed race track), or known to be “breeding stock” (that is, a horse used to produce a foal intended to be used as a race horse). In addition, a person or business entity that owns or is in the process of taking ownership of a race horse or breeding stock may not deal in an animal known to be a race horse or breeding stock with the intent of slaughtering such animal or causing it to be slaughtered.

Please be further advised that a person or business entity that violates one or both prohibitions, as referred to above, is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a monetary penalty. If that person or business entity holds a New York State Gaming Commission license, they may also have their license revoked.

The legislative intent, in enacting A&ML Section 382, is to ensure that race horses and breeding stock, which have brought so much joy to so many, are handled with the respect that they deserve. If you learn of a violation of the prohibition, please inform local law enforcement of the situation.

For additional details on A&ML section 382, please visit nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/AGM/382. Additionally, stay up-to-date with the latest information about horses in New York State at agriculture.ny.gov/animals/horses-other-equidae.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Bennett".

Joy Bennett, DVM MPH DACVPM
Director, Division of Animal Industry