



EQUINE
ADVOCATES

HOW TO REPORT EQUINE CRUELTY CASES



Mikey, shortly after he arrived at Saratoga Equine Veterinary Hospital where he and two other severely neglected Thoroughbreds were taken after their rescue by Equine Advocates.

Mikey was 250 lbs. underweight when *Equine Advocates* came to his rescue and the rescue of two other Thoroughbreds who were abandoned and left to starve on a New York horse farm back in January 2007. Sadly, abuse and neglect cases involving horses, ponies, donkeys and mules occur all over the United States on a daily basis. With your help, those who abuse and neglect them, can be charged and prosecuted.



Just six months after his rescue, *Mikey* was thriving and a changed horse!

According to *Sue McDonough*, a retired *New York State Police Officer* and a former President and current Board Member of the *New York State Humane Association*, there are definite steps one can take if one witnesses a case of equine cruelty. Here is what she recommends you do:

- Contact your local or state police immediately.
- Document as much as you know and how you know it before making a report.
- Be sure to get the name of the officer with whom you spoke. If you get no satisfaction, ask to speak to a supervisor and report the case again.



Today, *Mikey* is a happy, healthy horse. He still remains under *Equine Advocates'* care and lives on a horse farm with his two best friends, the other two horses who were rescued that same day back in January 2007.

McDonough says that the formation of special task forces in every county across the *United States* that deal specifically with animal cruelty cases are extremely important. One such task force was recently formed in *Rensselaer County* in *New York State*. *Equine Advocates* accompanied the task force on a raid in August 2007 where two horses were seized. *Equine Advocates* immediately transported them to an equine hospital where they remained for 21 days and will continue to care for them indefinitely. The individual who abused and neglected these two horses was charged with *animal cruelty*.

"Although the police are mandated by law to arrest for animal cruelty, they don't always recognize what constitutes cruelty, especially if they are not familiar with the species of animal that is being abused or neglected," *McDonough* said.

What is the best way for the average citizen to assist law enforcement with respect to animal cruelty cases? "Report cruelty by calling police and lodging a formal complaint," says *McDonough*. "Support organizations that assist police by caring for animals that have been seized as a result of neglect and/or abuse."