



**ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR  
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
42 WEST 44<sup>th</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10036-6689

**COMMITTEE ON LEGAL ISSUES PERTAINING TO ANIMALS**

**Intro. No. 44**

**Council Members Avella, Gerson, Mark-Viverito, Nelson, Palma, Sears and Stewart**

**A LOCAL LAW to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York in relation to horse drawn carriages.**

**THIS BILL IS APPROVED**

Intro. No. 44 modifies Section 20-381.1 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, as amended by Local Law 22 of 2002, and prohibits the operation of a horse drawn cab in any area of the Borough of Manhattan other than in the area inside or immediately adjacent to Central Park. This Committee offers its approval of the proposed amendment.

Repeatedly, incidents occur in which horses, spooked by traffic, have bolted through the congested streets putting their passengers, driver and pedestrians, as well as the horses themselves, at risk. Indeed, because of such risks, horse drawn carriages have been banned in many large cities such as London, Paris and Toronto. If the City is to permit the carriage horse trade, arguably the only appropriate work place for horses is within Central Park.

While the Committee supports a total ban on carriage horses in New York City, on a more immediate basis, it approves the amendment as an important first step in lessening the risk of accidents involving carriage horses. However, it should be noted that the amendment does not totally ban carriage horses from the streets of New York, as these horses would continue to travel to and from their stables. A more complete solution would be to stable these horses in Central Park and to make these stables a show place for tourists. Carriage horses are the most visible demonstration to the world of the City's attitude toward animals. Unfortunately, the message that is being sent is not a positive one and the City could do much to improve this message.

In addition, for several years the Committee has urged that legislation be enacted to ameliorate the extremely harsh conditions under which our City's carriage horses work and live. This Committee supports a shorter work day, a maximum allowable work period within a week, a redefinition of permissible working conditions to take into effect weather conditions such as humidity in the summer and wind in the winter, weight restrictions on carriage loads, turnout periods, improved stables, stalls sufficient in size to allow a horse to lie down and turn about, periodic inspections to verify that adequate bedding, food and water are made available, and a prohibition on the sale of any carriage horse for slaughter. These and similar measures have been enacted in many U.S. cities to protect the horses who work in their carriage trades. The Committee hopes that New York City will do likewise and would be delighted to work with you to develop the legislation discussed herein.