



May 30, 2023

Ludington City Council

Via e-mail

Dear Council Members:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to share some troubling information. It's our hope that, after you read this letter, you will prohibit the Budweiser Clydesdales from making an appearance in Ludington. PETA exposed the company's cruel treatment of these animals in a recent undercover investigation. Please see the [video here](#).

The amputation of the horses' tailbones, either by severing the tailbone or putting a tight band around the tail to cut off blood flow, is done just to make the horses look a certain way. It's an unnecessary permanent disfigurement that causes immense pain, affects the horses' balance, and leaves them without natural protection from flies or other biting insects. Horses also depend on their tails to communicate with herdmates and with humans.

Both the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the American Veterinary Medical Association condemn severing horses' tails unless it's medically necessary. Many European countries, including Belgium, where Anheuser-Busch is headquartered, have banned this practice, as have 10 U.S. states.

If Budweiser is concerned that tail hair might become entangled in a wagon's hitch equipment, simple braiding and wrapping of the tails would prevent this possibility.

Budweiser presents the iconic Clydesdales as symbols of traditional American values, but harming horses is the antithesis of what Americans hold dear, and the company's lack of concern for these iconic animals would reflect poorly on your community. Allowing the Budweiser Clydesdales to make an appearance would unfortunately and inadvertently condone the company's inhumane practice. We hope you will speak with Anheuser-Busch executives and urge them to discontinue tailbone severing and, in the meantime, cancel the upcoming scheduled appearance.

Thanks very much for your consideration. May I please hear from you?

Sincerely,

Kathy Guillermo  
Senior Vice President  
Equine Matters Department

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

Washington  
1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles  
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

Norfolk  
501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

Info@peta.org  
PETA.org

Entities:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)