



May 30, 2023

Manistee 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 Manistee. 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

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