



August 3, 2023

Derron Heldt  
Vice President, Racing  
Prairie Meadows

Dear Mr. Heldt:

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 urge you to cancel the appearance of Budweiser Clydesdales at Prairie Meadows. You may not be aware that Anheuser-Busch cruelly amputates the tailbones of these magnificent horses. PETA exposed the company's practice 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 and permanent disfigurement that causes immense pain, affects the horses' balance, and leaves them without natural protection from flies and 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. 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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