

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CENTRAL PARK CARRIAGE HORSES



Transport Workers Union Local 100 is proud to now represent the approximately 300 horse-carriage drivers and owners providing scenic tours through Central Park for both tourists and New Yorkers alike.

Local 100 has been a champion for blue-collar bus and subway workers for more than eight decades. In recent years, our ranks have expanded to include employees at Big Bus Tours, New York Waterway, and other companies in the tourism economy.

Local 100 believes strongly in workers' rights and animal welfare.

We look forward to discussing how we can possibly work together on such important issues in the future.

Here are some facts about the Central Park carriage horses and drivers



LOVED

The Central Park carriage horses are loved. They receive excellent care and treatment. Many of the carriage drivers and stable hands are immigrants raised on farms in their home countries, or first-generation Americans who learned their trade from their parents. They have a unique bond with these magnificent animals, which were bred for centuries to work with people.

The NYC horse-carriage workers are wholeheartedly committed to animal welfare.



HEALTHY

Carriage horses live long, healthy lives. Every equine veterinarian who has examined the NYC carriage horses has remarked on their good health and care. The American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and the New York State Veterinary Medical Society have all endorsed horse-carriage rides in New York City.

Carriage horses are not stressed by the city. The overwhelming majority of rides are in bucolic

Central Park. A study of cortisol levels in NYC carriage horses by Dr. Joe Bertone of Western University concluded they have exceptionally low levels of this stress hormone while working in the city, and they appear to be more stressed while vacationing on the farm.



VACATIONS and REGULATIONS

Each horse gets at least 5 weeks of vacation on a farm every year. They are subject to some of the most extensive horse regulations in the country, and are overseen by 5 city agencies, including the Department of Health and the NYPD Mounted Police Unit.

Carriage horses can't work in extreme heat or cold. They can't work more than nine hours per day. They must have stalls large enough to turn around and lie down comfortably. They are examined by veterinarians at least four times year: two regularly scheduled exams, and exams before and after their vacations.



RESCUED

More than 100,000 horses are slaughtered in the United States every year. These horses didn't have anyone capable or willing to take care of them.

Many of the Central Park horses were put up for sale by their previous owners at horse auctions - where they teetered on the edge of a death sentence. The Central Park horse carriage owners and drivers rescued these horses from a horrible fate and have given them a purposeful, happy life. These are domesticated animals that want to interact with people, and they spread joy to tourists from around the world, as well as to everyday New Yorkers.



POLITICS AND REAL ESTATE

There are 68 licensed carriages and more than 100 horses in three stables on the West Side of Manhattan. Each carriage owner essentially is a "mom-and-pop" business. They support hundreds of blue-collar jobs.

The horse-carriage folks have been subject to harmful lies and allegations that they abuse their horses. One group in particular stands out: NYCLASS.

NYCLASS was founded by the real-estate industry and is funded by the real-estate industry. Why? There are three stables on the West Side of Manhattan and that land now is very valuable. Developers would love to get their hands on these properties to build skyscrapers with high-priced apartments and commercial space.

NYCLASS is a smokescreen for an insidious land grab that would put hundreds of blue-collar workers out of work.



SAFE

Not a single horse has been killed in a traffic accident in the last 15 years - and new regulations enacted in recent years have increased safety further. The city banned cars from Central Park in 2018. More than 2,100 pedestrians, meanwhile, were killed by cars and trucks in the city over the last 15 years.



UNION

The horse-carriage drivers are represented by Transport Workers Union Local 100, which has been a champion for blue-collar New Yorkers for more than 80 years. TWU Local 100 is comprised of 46,000 men and women who operate and maintain the MTA's bus and subway system; the employees of Big Bus Tours, New York Waterway and Liberty Lines Transit; and several school bus companies in the metropolitan area. Local 100 is part of TWU of America, "America's Fighting Democratic Union," with more than 150,000 members across the country in the transportation sector.

