

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**

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**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Baltimore City Health Department Seizes 19 Arabber Horses For Unsanitary Conditions

**BALTIMORE, MD** (November 10, 2009) – The Baltimore City Health Department’s Bureau of Animal Control, with the assistance of the Baltimore City Police Department, has exercised a warrant to seize 19 Arabber-owned horses from stables located at 650 S. Fulton Street. Owners and drivers of the horses were found to have violated numerous Health Code provisions, and unsanitary conditions in the stables pose a health risk to the animals, their keepers and the public.

A routine inspection of the facility by Animal Control on Nov. 3 showed evidence of standing water, mud and other unsanitary conditions. Upon entering the site yesterday, Animal Control officers observed a rat infestation, lack of proper bedding for the animals and trash and debris. Several horse stalls were in severe disrepair, posing additional dangers to the animals.

“Conditions at these stables are deplorable, leaving us little choice but to remove the animals,” said Interim Commissioner Olivia D. Farrow. “Our chief concern is the safety of the animals. Our investigation is continuing, and the owners potentially face several citations for code violations.”

The Health Department is working with the Humane Society of the United States to safely remove and transport the horses to a temporary shelter. Humane Society workers will medically assess each horse and provide safe and humane housing and care at a location to be determined.

Arabbers employ horses to pull carts carrying a variety of vegetables and food items through the neighborhoods of Baltimore.

“This has been a long, drawn-out process. We have tried to come up with a plan that accommodates the needs of the Arabbers, who have a long, proud entrepreneurial tradition in Baltimore,” said Reggie Scriber, deputy commissioner Office of Community Services. “However, our main priority is the protection of the animals. The Housing Department will continue to work with them to remedy this situation.”

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