

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

11 June 2019

Dear Mr Rule,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to suggest an addendum to your book *Winx: The Authorised Biography*. We propose adding a chapter describing how Winx's half-brother, Bareul Jeong – who brought in the equivalent of AU\$62,000 across 17 races – was violently killed in a South Korean abattoir, likely when he was not yet 4 years old. We believe that releasing a new edition of her biography updated with this information would offer readers a more in-depth, accurate picture of the mare's unusually good fortune in the horse-racing industry.

Most Australians know the story of Winx, but until last week, very few knew about the horror her half-brother faced. Certainly, this omission in your book is not as unfair as the fact that some horses are publicly celebrated while others are secretly dismembered on a blood-soaked abattoir floor, but it still results in an unbalanced portrayal of her life and the industry in which she laboured.

We realise your book has already been published. However, we believe Australians deserve to know that not all horses bred for racing are revered like Winx is. While her successes graced television screens and news headlines – not to mention your book, now in the hands of royalty – by contrast, Bareul Jeong's biography had to be dug up out of slaughter records kept by the Korea Racing Authority.

Winx actually has hundreds of half-siblings through her father, and Bareul Jeong is just one example of the discarded progeny of a top sire. The breeding (and subsequent killing) of horses is so prolific that the racing industry defies biology and doesn't even recognise offspring as being "half-siblings" unless they share the dam.

The horse-racing industry quite literally rides on the back of a small percentage of horses who manage to avoid the injuries sustained by most of their stablemates. For its profiteers, it's simply good business to hide horse deaths behind fashion parades and champagne. It falls to writers like you – who report on this industry and tell the tales of the horses within it – to ensure that the broken-down, slow, and old horses who don't make the grade aren't forgotten and that the plight of horses like Bareul Jeong isn't ignored.

The slaughter of 3,000 Australian horses and their offspring for their flesh in South Korea to date is but one of the shocking chapters in racing's history, and it's one that needs to be written. Only when there's transparency in horse racing will people see it for the exploitative exercise it is – in which the lucky head to a podium and the rest to an early grave.

Kind regards,

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