



February 16, 2017

Bridget Lidy, Director
Tourism Management and Ambassadorship Department
City of Savannah
P.O. Box 1027
Savannah, GA 31402

Dear Bridget,

Thank you for reaching out to Lowcountry Large Animal Veterinary Services (LLAVS) to discuss the revisions to the Horse-drawn Carriage Ordinance of 1977 and heat policy. We provide large animal and equine care to South Carolina's Lowcountry and Georgia's Coastal Empire.

The proposed changes are much improved from the previous ordinance and comprehensively address the well-being of the horses. For example, language has been added limiting the number of hours a horse can work during a shift and providing a rest period every hour when touring.

Modifications have also been made to address animal care once the ambient temperature reaches 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Carriage companies will now be required to monitor the condition of the horse by taking its rectal temperature reading and respiratory rate at the end of every tour prior to hosing down the horse. A sweat scrape must be used to remove excess water from the horse's body once it is hosed down.

The most significant change is horse-drawn carriages will not be permitted to tour on city streets once the ambient temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit or the heat index reaches 110 degrees.

I feel as though the revisions to the document provide much improved protections for the health, safety and welfare of the animals used in the tourism industry.

Sincerely,

Emily J. Mitchum DVM

Emily Mitchum, DVM