



American Association of Equine Practitioners  
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April 27, 2026

Dear Representative Beyer,

On behalf of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and our more than 9,000 members across the country, we commend your leadership in introducing H.R. 5544. This legislation, which would prohibit the transportation, sale, and purchase of donkeys or donkey hides for the production of ejiao, as well as the sale of products containing ejiao, is necessary and long overdue.

Donkeys often suffer in this trade, with up to 20% dying during transport due to stress, injury, or inhumane conditions. Slaughter practices in many countries fall far short of humane standards, compounding the cruelty.

Beyond these welfare concerns, global demand for ejiao is driving a steep decline in the world's donkey population. This has serious consequences not only for the animals, but also for rural communities across the developing world that depend on donkeys for essential daily tasks such as fetching water and transporting goods to market. The loss of a single donkey can be economically devastating to a family. Alarming, the United States imports approximately \$12 million worth of ejiao each year, ranking as the third-largest importer worldwide, behind only Japan and Hong Kong.

At the same time, there is no credible scientific evidence supporting the efficacy of ejiao for its purported uses, while bioequivalent alternatives can be produced through cell culture without relying on animal-derived materials.

While companies like eBay, Jet.com (a Walmart-owned entity), and others have taken voluntary steps to remove ejiao products from their platforms, only a federal ban will deliver a clear and decisive message that the U.S. will no longer support this industry.

We strongly support passage of the Ejiao Act and appreciate your commitment to making this happen. Please contact Dr. Ashley Morgan at 703-517-1196 or [amorgan@aaep.org](mailto:amorgan@aaep.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Reuss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Reuss, VMD, DACVIM  
AAEP President