

The Amish are Cruel

By Curtis Jerry Smothers



Perhaps the most iconic image of the Amish is their use of the horse and buggy in this age of the automobile. A story is told of an Amish woman riding down the street alone in her horse-pulled buggy. She was clop-clopping along minding her own business as the auto traffic whizzed by. She was surprised to hear the siren and see the lights of the country sheriff's patrol car right behind her.

"Pull over, please, Ma'am," said the deputy through his loud speaker.

The woman pulled over; the deputy got out of his cruiser and had a particularly unpleasant look on his face. The woman looked back at the deputy demurely "What's the matter, Officer?" she asked. "I wasn't blocking traffic and I definitely know I wasn't speeding," she chuckled.

"Ma'am, I pulled you over because you are mistreating your horse. You are in violation of our cruelty ordinances." He pulled out his citation pad and asked for her name and address.

"I beg your pardon," the woman asked. "I'm just using the horse to pull my carriage. I'm definitely not mistreating the animal. Jethro there is like a member of the family. I would never mistreat him. Why the very idea that you believe I mistreat one of God's creatures is somewhat insulting, if you don't mind my saying so."

"Well, ma'am," said the deputy testily, "I beg to differ. I see you have your reins wrapped around that horse's genitals." The deputy gestured towards the hind quarters of the horse where the left leather rein was carefully wrapped around the horse's testicles. He snapped a photo on his cell phone and then ordered the woman to unwrap the reins.

"But..." sputtered the woman. "You don't understand, Deputy. "It's just that..." But the deputy would listen to no explanation.

"Save it for the judge," the Deputy interrupted. "I'm writing up a citation."

Confused and upset, the woman, after unwrapping the reins from Jethro's sensitive parts, proceeded home.

Her husband was waiting in the barn to help her unhitch the horse and put the buggy away.

"So how did your trip to town go?" he asked.

"Well, I got this here summons from the police."

"Really? What's it all about?" he asked.

"I'm not quite sure, but I think it's something to do with the emergency brake."