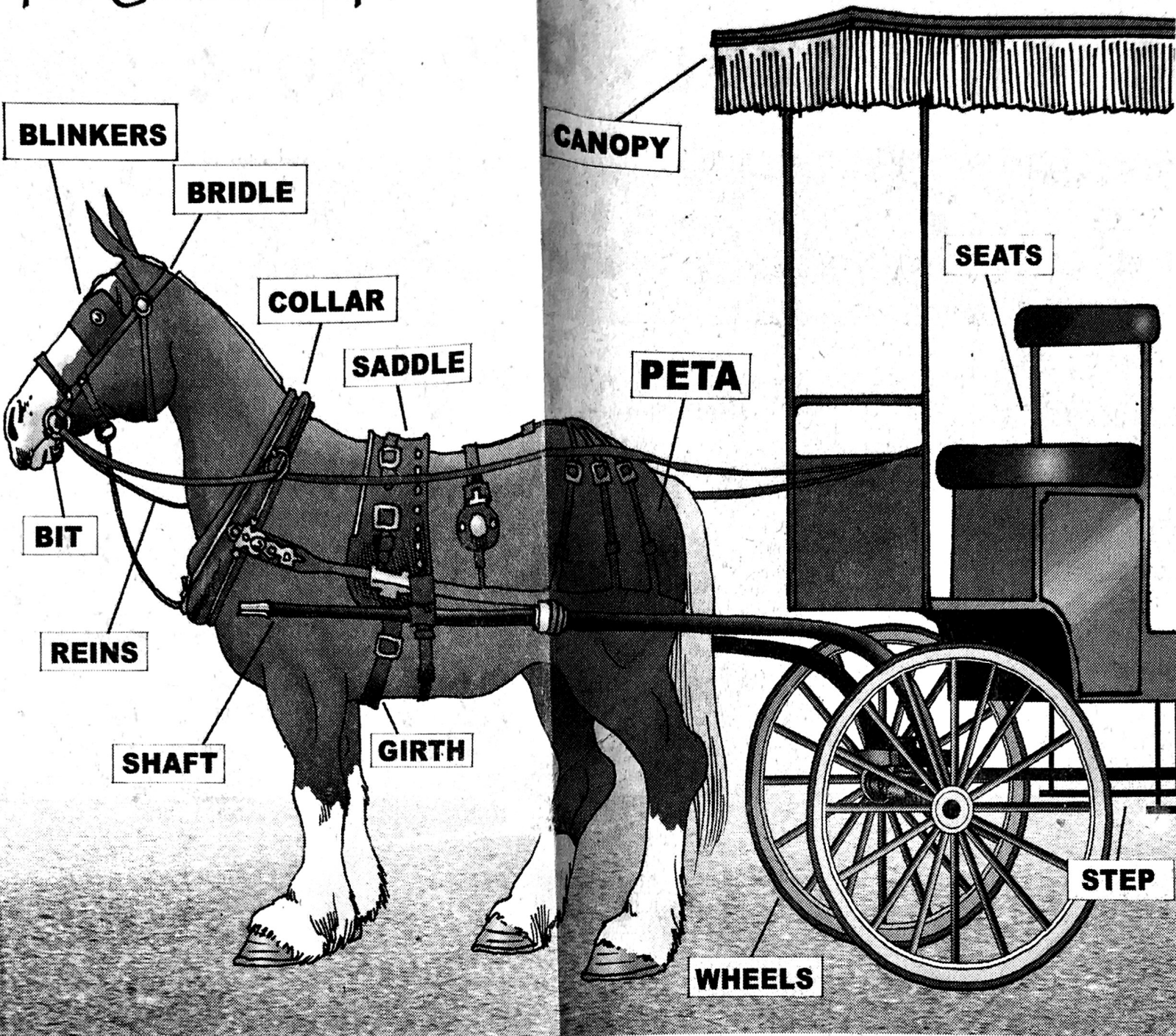


The Charleston Tour Carriage



PETA prompts debate on carriage horses

Better off

Desiree Acholla of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is incredibly naive if she thinks ending the carriage tours would suddenly send all the horses to idyllic pastures. Most of them, unless they could get work pulling carriages in another city, would likely wind up as dog meat.

These magnificent animals are perfectly capable of using their working strength to earn their day's keep, not unlike their human counterparts who daily do manual labor.

Like humans they thrive on being in good shape and interacting with others. You can bet that they are better cared for, in terms of diet and medical care, than many manual laborers, not to mention the homeless folks.

In the heat of summer they

and trucks. Did anyone really check the horses then, and how about those in localities that were not flat like Charleston? If they could talk, I bet every Charleston horse would choose his current life over the glue factory.

FRED SALES
Lawton Harbor Drive
Charleston

Try this, Brian

Here's a semi-serious challenge to columnist Brian Hicks' April 10 column:

Let's see how you feel after pulling a cart filled with about 600 pounds (three times your weight, give or take a few pounds) around downtown for an hour.

Carriages in Charleston often are jammed with up to 17 people, which means horses

tling the crux of PETA's message — that carriage animals here need better treatment and that City Council ought to get off its "high horse" to revisit the issue.

I'm not the biggest fan of PETA — and I'm still irked at how the group treated Mepkin Abbey's monks on their chickens. But don't ignore the broad message just because you don't like the messenger.

ANDY BRACK
McClain Street
Charleston

Day of protest

It seems like every time I turn around I read about another carriage accident in Charleston caused by a horse spooking. So it is puzzling why Mayor Joe Riley would

Charleston is the only city that packs 16 passengers plus a driver into a carriage pulled by one horse driving through the sweltering heat and humidity on blazing hot asphalt. That is clearly inhumane.

These beleaguered and exploited horses are no better than horse slaves, and it is time Charleston closed down this exploitative trade.

The best thing to do for tourists who want a taste of the South is to boycott Charleston and visit other Southern cities that do not cater to this industry.

Cities all over the world are coming together on June 6 for a day of protest and recognition of these suffering beasts of burden under the banner of Horses Without Carriages International.

More and more people are