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ERS IN CHARLESTON AND THE ISLANDS

## Commission wants carriage horse policy reviewed

Of The Post and Courier Staff

sider the welfare of horses used in the city first mentioned the issue. to be stabled two months after the carriage tour industry has ye A decision on whether to recon

advise the commission. Charleston has a good policy, but Operators of North America. He the carriage operations and here from Minnesota to evaluate representatives invited Miller it should be reviewed regularly Commission consulted Miller, president of the Carriage Last week, the city's Tourism commission

were created in 1993 based or lution to take "a fresh look" at the city's regulations, which The commission passed a reso-

> whether we have proper animal welfare." "Carriage horses aren't going away. The question is

Alan Berger, executive director and CEO of the John Ancrum SPCA

ent group to study how the horsbe sent to City Council should recommend an independmonth. A final proposal would before the full commission this dation is expected to come carriage horse subcommittee The commission also decided its

mal-rights groups. Council then sent the issue to the commission carriage tour operators. concerns from residents and aniv Council in February following the study to Charleston City after hearing opposition from The commission recommended

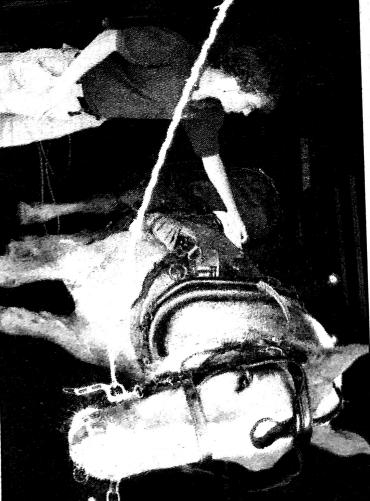
tained the horses are healthy Tour operators have main-

and the companies follow city Broderick Christoff, general

opposed a new study fearing special interest groups would manager of Classic Carriage welcome an independent investicarriage tour business. He said he felt operators originally he thinks tour companies would push their agendas and hurt the Tours on Guignard Street, said

we're afraid of," he said. tor and CEO of the John Ancrum Alan Berger, executive direc-"It's not the study itself that

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ADAM FERRELL/STAFF

William Pitonyak, a tour guide with Carolina Polo and Carriage Co. on Hayne Street, cleans up the tack on a horse named

## Horse carriage industry large

## HORSE from Page 1

SPCA, urged the commission to support a new study and said that should lead to a city ordinance with enforceable regulations that is periodically reviewed.

"Carriage horses aren't going away," he said. "The question is whether we have proper animal welfare."

Commission member and Charleston City Councilman Henry Fishburne said concern about pulling horses off the street as the temperatures become hot and about who will make that decision are the most important issues.

"I think the issue here is more of an issue of self-regulation," he said.

Miller said the best situation would be to have a city employ ee monitor the temperature of the horses as well as the ambient temperatures.

Currently, tour operators keep their own horse-care records, but a veterinarian paid by the city makes random inspections.

Miller said that with some 33,000 carriage tours sold last year, Charleston has the largest carriage operation in the country besides Mackinac Island, Mich., where the only motor vehicles allowed are ones for emergency services.

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