



**Horses Without Carriages International™**  
global support for a ban on horse-drawn carriages

## Carriage Horse Collides With Car and Breaks Free

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Saturday, August 18, 2012

North/west corner of Central Park South & Fifth Ave. near horse statue

By *ANDY NEWMAN, MATT FLEGENHEIMER and VIVIAN YEE*



Robert Caplin for The New York Times The runaway horse went down in the roadway of Ninth Avenue after being shot with a tranquilizer dart, but later stood up and was loaded into a police truck.

Updated, 5:18 p.m. | A spooked carriage horse burst out of line collided with a car near Columbus Circle, dumped its driver, overturned its carriage with at least two passengers inside, shed the carriage and ran free for at least four blocks before being captured by the police on Thursday afternoon, the authorities and witnesses said.

The horse and carriage hit the car at Central Park South and Seventh Avenue at 4:20 p.m., the Fire Department said. One person was injured and taken to New York Hospital, a fire official said. The horse ran to Ninth Avenue, where it was tranquilized and loaded into a police van.

One witness, Sayed Elgandi, who works in a juice stand, said the red and white carriage overturned at the intersection of Broadway and West 60th Street with a man and a woman who appeared to be in their 30s inside. Mr. Elgandi said that he and other bystanders rushed over and helped right the carriage and pull out the man and woman. He said they were both taken to the hospital but did not appear to be seriously injured.

Another witness, who gave his name only as Alvin P., said that after spilling the carriage, the horse continued west with part of the carriage still attached, clipped a livery car, shed the rest of the carriage and fled west on 60th Street.

On Ninth Avenue, two long blocks west of the initial accident scene, Joe Guarino, who works at a restaurant called Whym, was taking a break in front of the restaurant when “the horse comes bolting down the street.” At 57th Street, said Mr. Guarino, 27, “He slowed to a stop right behind the cars and waited for the light.”

A passer-by tried to grab it by the harness and lead it onto the sidewalk, Mr. Guarino said.

The horse, Mr. Guarino said, “was terrified. He was rearing, licking his chops.”

With the help of a police officer, the passer-by led the horse to the sidewalk, Mr. Guarino said. An officer tied the horse to a pole, and the horse was shot with a tranquilizer dart, Mr. Guarino said.

At first, Mr. Guarino said, the horse struggled. “He kept trying to break free.”

Finally, the horse slumped to the ground, he said. But it was able to stand up and get into the police truck that drove it away just before 5 p.m.

Accidents involving carriage horses happen periodically on the streets surrounding Central Park, helping feed a [growing campaign by animal advocates](#) to ban the carriage-horse trade in New York.