



Rome Eyes ER for Carriage Horses

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by Justin Smith - ANSA Rome, May 22 - Hauling Rome's tourist buggies is a hazardous job, but it may be getting safer as the city council considers setting up an emergency veterinary service for horses injured in the line of duty.

Proposed by municipal commissions on the environment and personnel, the service would consist of an on-call veterinarian and horse ambulance capable of transporting the animal to the "emergency room" at an equine clinic run by the Italian mounted police. "The veterinarian would need to be able to reach the animal on site in order to assess the situation and administer first aid and pain medication before accompanying it back to the clinic for further treatment," explains Donatella Loni, president of the Rome chapter of the National Order of Veterinarians, who was consulted in devising the plan. The proposal comes after a pair of incidents last year in which carriage horses were seriously injured while on the job."