

animal wellness action

William T. “Marty” Irby, Jr.

Marty Irby is the Executive Director of Animal Wellness Action in Washington, D.C. Irby worked in the United States House of Representatives for Congressman Ed Whitfield (KY-01) serving as Communications Director and Policy Advisor where he counseled the Congressman on matters related to animal protection, the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, and U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Irby is a former President of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders’ and Exhibitors’ Association, the breed registry established in 1935, where he led the charge to bring an end to the painful practice of “soring” Tennessee Walking, Racking, and Spotted Saddle horses, one of the most egregious abuses in the equine world.

He is a former Senior Director of the Humane Society of the United States where he oversaw the equine protection and rural affairs departments and served as Senior Advisor for the Humane Society Legislative Fund. Irby is a native of Mobile, Alabama who grew up on a horse and cattle farm, graduated from the University of South Alabama with a degree in Communications, and attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.,

Irby was named by The Hill as one of nation’s Top Lobbyists for 2019 and serves as the volunteer President of the American Horse Protection Society, and a member of the board of directors of Equine Collaborative International. His works on equine protection have been published in USA Today, The Chicago Daily Herald, The Daily Caller, The Hill, Horse Nation, The Tennessean, Pennsylvania Capital-Star, Washington Examiner, Albany Times-Union, and numerous other outlets across the nation.