



Canadian Horse Defence Coalition



November, 2011

Visit our
web site:



<http://www.defendhorsescanada.org>

Our blog:

<http://canadianhorsedefencecoalition.wordpress.com>

We're on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/18138089278/>

New Website and Horse Protection Initiatives

Have you seen our new website yet?

<http://www.defendhorsescanada.org/index.html>

We believe that funding and subsidies are key to creating solutions for protecting and preserving our horses. With this in mind, we are promoting our **Horse Protection Initiatives** program which helps facilitate adoptions and offers euthanasia assistance.

Our goal is to help more horses and owners, but this will only be achieved with enhanced funding. You can assist with the success of this program.

Find out more at:

<http://www.defendhorsescanada.org/horse-protection-initiatives.html>

National Farm Animal Care Council (NFAACC) – Equine Survey

The NFAACC is participating in updating the Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals, and is asking for stakeholder input on the **Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Horses**:

<http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/equine>

You're asked to participate in a survey that addresses Body Scoring, Breeding and Transport (only preparation for transport as the codes only pertain to on-farm practices). You can provide your comments, as well as your judgments on the level of importance of the choices provided on the survey.

(When completing the survey, this writer wrote a comment suggesting that information be provided in the new Codes so people know who to contact to provide assistance to a horse when found with a low body condition score. A suggestion was also made to inform people that it is not acceptable to allow old or sick horses to deteriorate to a low body condition score due to poor health or inability to process food any longer. Recommendations must be made for euthanasia in such cases. Regarding transport, mention can be made that the allowable 36-hours for transport to slaughter is unacceptable, and should be shortened significantly.) Revisions to the Equine Code of Practice are slated for completion in

summer 2013.

USDA Bans Double Decker Transport of U.S. Horses to Slaughter

While this was announced in September 2011, it's significant news worth reviewing:

<http://www.horse-canada.com/horse-news/usda-bans-double-decker-transport/>

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced a complete ban on the use of double-decker trailers to transport American horses to slaughter. Previously, the 2006 regulation only prevented the transport of horses in double-decker trailers if they were en route directly to slaughter plants. The new rule extends protections to horses that are first delivered to a feedlot or stockyard during their lengthy trip to foreign slaughtering plants in Canada or Mexico.

If you see a double decker with horses on both decks, please make note of the hauling company, D.O.T. # if possible, license plate #, date, time and location and report it to the CFIA at:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/util/contact/commene.shtml> and the CHDC at info@defendhorsescanada.org.

While the CFIA discourages use of both decks on double deckers for the transport of horses:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/trans/20080430e.shtml>, it is not a law in Canada as yet. What the CFIA does recommend however:

“Vehicles must also provide adequate space and headroom to allow the horses to stand in a natural position. Transporting horses on double deck trailers does not provide sufficient headroom for most horses. Because of their size, horses over fourteen hands can suffer head or back injuries in these vehicles.”

CFIA Implements New Measures for Feeder and Slaughter Horses Entering Canada from the U.S.

On October 31, 2011, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced it's implementing new measures to verify that horses are being humanely transported in accordance with the *Health of Animals Regulations*:

Regulations:

<http://inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/trans/20111031inde.shtml?mid=51919>

“Effective January 1, 2012, all shipments of feeder and slaughter horses entering Canada from the United States by ground transportation will be required to proceed through designated ports of entry. Shipments will only be accepted during the CFIA's regular hours of operation. The designated ports of entry have appropriate unloading facilities for horses and are staffed by CFIA veterinarians.”

It would appear these measures not only to speak to concerns from horse welfare advocates (such as the CHDC) who have communicated with the CFIA in the past about late night transports through border points without inspectors present, but also likely encompasses further crackdown measures pertaining to the requirements set out by the European Commission for countries that ship horsemeat to Europe:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/meavia/man/ch17/annexe.shtml>

As most Canadian horse owners are aware, it is now mandatory for all

operators of CFIA inspected facilities in Canada engaged in equine slaughter for edible purposes to have complete identity and medical records for all animals, including horses, (domestic and imported) presented for slaughter.

European Commission Audit Report

At Canadian Horse Slaughter Plants – Nov-Dec 2010

While this report does not come down hard on deficiencies in the safeguards in place to meet European standards, it does imply there is much room for improvements:

“The objective of the audit was to evaluate the capacity of the Canadian authorities to implement and to enforce the sanitary measures and the control systems put in place to fulfill the requirements for fresh meat, meat products, minced meat and meat preparations of bovines, pigs, horses and large game (farmed and wild), and casings for human consumption intended for export to the European Union (EU)”:

<http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1101655399670-211/FVO+Inspection+Report+Canada+2010.pdf>

“Since August 2010 horses destined for slaughter should be accompanied by an Affidavit (EID) signed by the last owner, documenting the identity of the horse, medical treatments for the previous six months and confirming that growth promoters have not been used. The majority of horses slaughtered for EU export are imported directly from the US and this requirement also applies.

The imported horses were accompanied by the signed Affidavit of the last owner. **Nevertheless, no official guarantee was requested from the United States (US) authorities that Affidavits were verified and could be considered as reliable.** Trichina controls in pig and horse meat were implemented and adequately supervised. Animal welfare controls at slaughter of horses provided an equivalent guarantee whereas such a guarantee for the slaughter of pigs could not be provided. Some shortcomings with regard to certification of export consignments were noted.”

New Enhanced EID Form for Slaughter Bound Horses

Another measure taken by the CFIA to satisfy European Commission requirements is the enhanced EID form now available online:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/for/pdf/c5624e.pdf>

This is now a 5-page document which can be partially completed on-line or printed and filled out by hand. Disturbingly, there is additional space on the form for 3 “transient agents” which provides for multiple agents (i.e. horse dealers and kill buyers) to complete information on the form, highlighting the sad fact that some horses are traded and transported multiple times before their final journey to slaughter.

Bill C-322 Update

As you are aware, NDP MP Alex Atamanenko has re-introduced a new bill to stop horse slaughter in Canada. Private Members' Bill C-322 was tabled on October 5th.

We are pleased to report that Nycole Turmel, MP and NDP Interim Leader of the Official Opposition speaks for the Party and supports Bill C-322:

“Thank you for your previous email in support of Bill C-322, An Act to amend the Health of Animals Act and the Meat Inspection Act (slaughter of horses for human consumption) introduced by NDP MP Alex Atamanenko. It’s a pleasure to hear from you.

First, let me say that New Democrats share your concerns over the treatment of horses. I want to assure you that our caucus will continue to support Alex Atamanenko and his efforts to shut down the slaughtering of horses for human consumption in Canada. You can follow the progress of Alex’s Private Members’ legislation here:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&billId=5133745>

Again, I appreciate hearing from you on this important issue. You can count on our team to continue to press this matter and stand up for the health and wellbeing of Canadians.”

Warmest regards,

Nycole Turmel, M.P.
Interim Leader of the Official Opposition
New Democratic Party of Canada

Canadian citizens, please communicate with Members of Parliament on this important bill. The following will link you to **your MP** and a **letter** you may use, courtesy of Humane Society International:

<http://www.defendhorsescanada.org/do-it-now.html>.

Petitioning for Bill C-322

English Petition:

<http://canadianhorsedefencecoalition.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/petition-bill-c-322-oct-2011-en.pdf>

Supporter Instructions - English:

<http://canadianhorsedefencecoalition.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/chdc-supporter-instructions-bill-c-322-en.pdf>

French Petition:

<http://canadianhorsedefencecoalition.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/appuyez-le-projet-de-loi-c-322.pdf>

Supporter Instructions - French:

<http://canadianhorsedefencecoalition.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/liste-de-consignes-c3a0-suivre-pour-le-projet-de-loi-c-322.pdf>

Bilingual Anti-Horse Slaughter Postcards

Quebechorse advocates, Cynthia and Karen, have pre-printed postcards so constituents can advise their MPs across Canada that they are in favour of Bill C-322.

You can download the images (back and front) and print them at your local printer, or email cynthia@cynthiaderrico.com with your postal address and number of postcards required, and she will gladly send you the cards for distribution!

Postcard campaigns have been done by a number of organizations in Canada and the U.S. with good results, and we hope they will have an

impact on Canadian Parliamentarians. Remember that postage to MPs (Ottawa address) is free of charge while the House is in session. (If you choose to print them yourself, please respect the photographer's copyrights by ensuring to show her name (Deb Harper) on the inside text of the postcard.)

Please go to the CHDC blog to download the postcard images:

<http://canadianhorsedefencecoalition.wordpress.com/2011/10/26/bilingual-anti-horse-slaughter-postcards-available/>



With the Christmas Season coming, if you're looking for that special something for that special someone please take a look at some of the great items we have for purchase. All monies received go directly towards our work in ending horse slaughter in Canada.

<http://www.defendhorsescanada.org/support.html>

Please continue to help the horses!

Your Friends at the CHDC

Web: www.defendhorsescanada.org

Mail: info@defendhorsescanada.org

Blog: <http://canadianhorsedefencecoalition.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/18138089278>

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