

Email: info@defendhorsescanada.org
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A CALL TO END HORSE SLAUGHTER IN CANADA

Our mission is to work collectively with individuals and groups to help protect equines in Canada from slaughter and the export of live equines for slaughter by raising public awareness through education, and helping to achieve the enactment of legislation that will ban these practices in Canada.

On October 5, 2011, NDP MP Alex Atamanenko re-introduced the bill to end horse slaughter in Canada. The new proposed legislation is Bill C-322, an Act to amend the Health of Animals Act and the Meat Inspection Act, thus prohibiting the importation or exportation of horses for slaughter for human consumption.

Statistics from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada show over 89,000 horses died in Canadian slaughterhouses in 2011. This translates to over 1,700 horses every week that meet their awful fate in Canadian slaughterhouses. There are currently 4 federally licensed plants operating in Canada (2 in Alberta and 2 in Quebec).

67.0% of the horses slaughtered were U.S. exports. Horse slaughter closed in the U.S. in 2007, but exports still continue. U.S. citizens fought hard to close the industry, however until legislation is passed to stop exports, horses will continue to be shipped to Canada and Mexico. A market for horse meat for human consumption exists in Europe and Asia. However, the majority of people do not support it and an Ipsos-Reid poll reveals that nearly 2/3 of Canadians do not believe in killing horses for human consumption.



Horses in Canadian slaughterhouse holding pens.

YOU ARE THE HORSES' VOICE - SPEAK OUT FOR THEM!

Contact your Member of Parliament:

<http://webinfo.parl.gc.ca/MembersOfParliament/MainMPsCompleteList.aspx?TimePeriod=Current&Language=E>

Send emails and letters, then follow up by phone. Gather signatures on the petition available on the CHDC website. Plan to meet your MP to discuss why they should support Bill C-322. Remind them that drugs which are prohibited for use during the life of any animal destined for the human food supply are routinely being administered to horses. Mr. Atamanenko states, "It is irresponsible of Canada to allow the sale of meat from horses that have not been raised according to the food safety practices required for all other animals. For example, there is the issue of phenylbutazone. Bute is a known carcinogen that is banned from use in any animal entering the food chain."

Also contact Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the federal agencies responsible for horse slaughter in Canada, as well as members of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food.

Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Email: Ritz.G@parl.gc.ca

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Mr. George Da Pont, President

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Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/CommitteeBusiness/CommitteeMembership.aspx?Cmte=AGRI&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=1>



At an Ontario kill buyer feedlot.

TALKING POINTS

- Horses have not traditionally been raised for human consumption in North America. Horse meat products are likely to contain prohibited substances such as Phenylbutazone. CFIA list of drugs not permitted: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/meavia/man/ch17/annexee.shtml#e5>.

Ontario Min. of Agriculture Horse Health Risk Data:

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/horses/facts/info_pheny.htm

- Horses are companion animals and working partners and are considered to be man's second best friend. Many Canadians believe that this industry must be abolished on humane grounds. 64% of Canadians do not support it. The horse slaughter process itself is not humane euthanasia. It is a predatory business that sustains a culture of cruelty to horses.

- The CHDC has compelling evidence of horse cruelty and suffering as a result of rough handling and poor slaughter practices at 4 Canadian horse slaughter plants. all of which can be viewed on our web site.

- Dr. Nicholas Dodman, an expert in animal behaviour and anesthesiology at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine said this of our "Pasture to Plate" report: "...my final conclusion, after reviewing 150-plus horse slaughtered in this series of videos, is that the process was disgusting to me, terrifying for most of the horses and, in many cases, horribly inhumane."

Dr. Debi Zimmermann B.Sc. (Zoology), D.V.M. (AB) stated upon viewing footage from Bouvry Exports (AB) and Viande Richelieu (QC) in April 2010: "I conclude that the wary and flighty nature of the horse, coupled with the poorly designed kill plant systems currently in place at Bouvry Exports and Viande Richelieu, results in unacceptable levels of suffering endured by horses (both in number of horses and degree of suffering), and poses inherent dangers to plant personnel."

- The Federal Health of Animals Act is not enforced, which would protect sick, pregnant and unfit horses, and prohibit overcrowding, as well, the Recommended Code of Practice for Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation of Horses is not enforced.

- The CFIA does not enforce their own weak rules that slaughter bound horses must not be transported for longer than 36 hours straight and must be provided with feed, water and rest at required intervals. Double deck trailers are still allowed, and horses shipped in crowded trailers over long distances often arrive injured, sometimes fatally.



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Bay horse in LPI holding pen before slaughter - July 2011

**Horses Imported from the US to Canada for Slaughter
2006 - 2011**

Statistics provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	1798	2049	3450	5735	4615	4747
February	1367	2319	2943	4895	3951	3722
March	1958	2422	3510	5033	4568	5877
April	1912	2851	4190	4511	4753	4928
May	1794	3118	3870	4213	4151	5744
June	1846	2335	3251	3737	4115	4618
July	1835	2398	2587	3016	4064	3269
August	2162	3072	3505	3660	4208	5769
September	2231	2907	4409	4903	5420	5490
October	1903	3283	3299	4627	5153	5164
November	1660	3017	3370	4122	5282	5892
December	1243	2681	3934	3953	3554	4523
YEAR TOTAL	21709	32452	42318	52405	53834	59743

Of all horses slaughtered in Canada annually, this is the percentage that are from the US by year	43.2%	40.8%	37.4%	55.8%	60.5%	67.0%
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**Total Number of Horses Slaughtered in Canada
2006 to 2011**

Statistics provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	3824	3788	7181	8492	7361	7306
February	3685	5144	8089	8083	6562	5821
March	4495	5660	9972	8776	8326	8167
April	4106	5243	8957	7184	7442	7244
May	4835	5373	10034	7617	6921	7326
June	4482	6179	11580	8420	7809	8234
July	3934	4225	8604	5375	6710	5027
August	3789	6493	7774	6599	5371	7129
September	4584	9618	12251	10195	9636	9529
October	4328	8855	8945	7964	8094	8049
November	4364	9090	8881	7442	7876	7776
December	3816	9945	10796	7799	6922	7552
YEAR TOTAL	50242	79613	113064	93946	89030	89160

US IMPORTS INCREASED BY 11% IN 2011 OVER 2010

These tables show the number of horses from the US imported into Canada for slaughter, as well as the total number of horses slaughtered in Canada from 2006 to 2011.

In 2011, close to 60,000 US horses were slaughtered in Canada out of a total of 89,160 or 67%.