

Email: info@defendhorsescanada.org
 Web: www.defendhorsescanada.org

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 June 16, 2010, New Democrat Agriculture Critic, Alex Atamanenko tabled Private Members Bill C-544, that would effectively shut down the slaughtering of horses for human consumption in Canada.

According to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada statistics, 93,812 horses died in Canadian slaughterhouses in 2009. This translates to over 1,800 horses every week that meet their awful fate in Canadian slaughterhouses. There are currently 5 federally licensed horse slaughter plants in Canada (2 in AB, one in ON, and 2 in QC).

About half of the horses are exported from the U.S., where slaughter plants have closed, but exports still continue. Horse slaughter has been in Canada for years, but U.S. imports have increased as a result of the 2007 closure of the last U.S. plant. U.S. citizens fought hard to close the industry. However, until H.R. Bill 503 is passed, horses will continue to be exported 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.



YOU ARE THE HORSES' VOICE SPEAK OUT FOR THEM

Contact Your Member of Parliament via this link. Click on his or her name for contact information:
<http://webinfo.parl.gc.ca/MembersOfParliament/MainMPsCompleteList.aspx?TimePeriod=Current&Language=E> .

Ask your MP to support Bill C-544!

Email, send letters, fax or phone. They must be informed that drugs which are prohibited for use during the life of any animals destined for the human food supply are routinely being administered to horses. Mr. Atamanenko states, "It is irresponsible for Canada to allow the sale of meat from horses as a food item when they have never been raised in accordance with the food safety practices required for all other animals."

You can also contact Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) – the federal agencies responsible for the business of horse slaughter in Canada. Speak out for the horses. Tell them why it is wrong and demand that horse slaughter end in Canada! These agencies are directed by:

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

Email: Ritz.G@parl.gc.ca
 Website: <http://www.gerryritzmp.com/>
 Tel: 613-995-7080; Fax: 613-996-8472

Ms. Carole Swan, President

Canadian Food Inspection Agency
 Email: carole.swan@inspection.gc.ca
 Website: www.inspection.gc.ca/english/toce.shtml
 Tel: 613-773-6000; Fax 613-773-6060

Dr. Brian Evans, Chief Veterinary Officer of Canada

Canadian Food Inspection Agency
 Email: brian.evans@inspection.gc.ca
 Website: www.inspection.gc.ca/english/toce.shtml
 Tel: 613-773-5763; Fax 613-773-6060



These photos show horses in the holding pens at Viande Richelieu in Quebec, and at an Ontario kill buyer feedlot.

TALKING POINTS:

- Horses have not traditionally been raised for human consumption in Canada. Horse meat products are likely to contain prohibited substances. Horses are considered sport and companion animals. Many Canadians believe that this industry must be abolished on humane grounds. 64% of Canadians do not support it. (There are 5 federally licensed horse slaughter plants in Canada. (2 in AB, 1 in ON, and 2 in QC.)

- The CHDC has compelling evidence of horse cruelty and suffering as a result of rough handling and poor slaughter practices at 3 Canadian horse slaughter plants. See "Black Beauty Betrayed" (2008) and "Chambers of Carnage" (2010) on the CHDC website.

- Dr. Nicholas H. Dodman, of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and Member of the Leadership Council of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, said of our June 2008 report on Natural Valley Farms plant in SK: "horses experienced sheer terror", "some horses were not properly stunned", and "this practice should be banned".

- 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 decker trailers are still allowed. Horses are shipped in crowded trailers over long distances, and often arrive injured, sometimes fatally.

- The horse slaughter process itself is not humane euthanasia. It is a predatory business that sustains a culture of cruelty to horses.