



PO Box 26097, Westbank, BC, V4T 2G3
Tel: (250) 768-4803
Email: info@defendhorsescanada.org
Web: www.defendhorsescanada.org

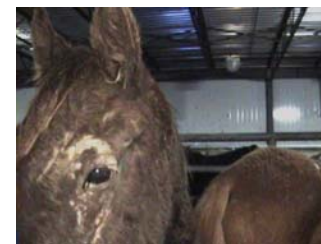
A CALL TO END HORSE SLAUGHTER IN CANADA

In June 2008, the Canadian Horse Defense Coalition (CHDC) released a second investigative report on the horse slaughter industry at Natural Valley Farms in Saskatchewan, Canada. This report confirms that horses experience severe neglect, abuse and suffering during handling and throughout the slaughter process. Every week, thousands of horses meet their awful fate in Canadian slaughter houses. In the last months of 2007, after the last US horse slaughter plant closed in September, the number of horses dying in Canadian plants increased over 120%. In December 2007 alone, the number almost reached 10,000 horses, a 160% increase over the previous year. It is estimated that Canada will slaughter over 102,000 horses in 2008, a 200% increase from just two years ago!

This hidden industry has existed in Canada for years, but the very significant increase is a result of the closure of all US horse slaughter plants, which was due to the will of the people. However, until the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act is passed, horses will continue to be exported to Canada and Mexico for slaughter. A market for horse meat for human consumption exists in Europe and Asia. However, the majority of Canadians do not support it and a 2004 Ipsos-Reid poll reveals that 64% do not believe in killing horses for human consumption.



These images are of horses whose lives ended in the kill box at Natural Valley Farms, Saskatchewan



Our mission is to bring together like-minded individuals and groups, to collectively help protect equines in Canada from slaughter and the export of live equines for slaughter, by raising public consciousness through education, and achieving the enactment of legislation that will ban these practices in Canada.

On our website, find reports and research describing why horse slaughter is not a form of humane euthanasia, nor is it a "necessary evil". It is in fact a predatory business that sustains a culture of cruelty to horses.

YOU ARE THE HORSES' VOICE - SPEAK OUT FOR THEM

The CHDC asks Canadians and Americans to contact Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency – 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! These agencies are directed by:

Hon. Gerry Ritz
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
613 Confederation Bldg., House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Email: Ritz.G@parl.gc.ca
Website: www.gerryritzmp.com/
Tel: 613-995-7080; Fax: 613-996-8472

Ms. Carole Swan, President
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9
Email: swanc@inspection.gc.ca
Website: www.inspection.gc.ca/english/toce.shtm
Tel: 613-221-3737; Fax: 613-228-6608

Dr. Brian Evans, Chief Veterinary Officer of Canada
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive, Floor 1, East Room 100
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9
Email: bevans@inspection.gc.ca
Website: www.inspection.gc.ca/english/toce.shtm
Tel: 613-221-4191; Fax 613-228-6608

Also contact your Member of Parliament via this link. Click on his or her name to find their contact information: <http://webinfo.parl.gc.ca/MembersOfParliament/MainMPs/CompleteList.aspx?TimePeriod=Current&Language=E>. Email, send letters, fax or phone our legislators and ask them to introduce a Private Members' Bill or support a Bill that will close this industry in Canada and end the slaughter of North America's horses. Remember to personalize your message and include your name and contact information. Key points can include:

- Horses have not traditionally been raised for human consumption in Canada. In our country, 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 now 7 federally licensed horse slaughter plants in Canada (4 more than in 2006).
- Horses are shipped in crowded trailers over long distances, and often arrive injured, sometimes fatally.
- The CHDC has documented evidence of horse neglect and abuse, as well as severe suffering as a result of poor slaughter practices (see our website).
- Dr. Nicholas H. Dodman, of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists, said of our June '08 report: "horses experienced sheer terror", "some horses were not properly stunned", "if people knew what was going on they would be up in arms" and "this practice should be banned".
- The Federal Health of Animals Act is not enforced, which would protect sick, pregnant and unfit horses, and prohibit overcrowding.
- 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.
- The horse slaughter process itself is not humane euthanasia.