

Canadian Horse Defense Coalition

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July 10, 2008

Carole Swan
President
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9

Dear Ms Swan,

As you are aware, the Canadian Horse Defense Coalition (CHDC) recently released its June 2008 report, including photos and video footage, of Natural Valley Farms horse slaughter plant in Neudorf, SK.

This report brings many issues to light including improper or lack of CFIA inspections, transportation violations, poor holding conditions for horses (a complete lack of food or water), non-segregation of sick horses, cruel handling of horses in the kill box, improper design of the kill box and slaughter line, and most importantly, improper stunning practices where some horses are seen still conscious with mouthing, tonguing and paddling their legs as they are strung up and butchered.

Included in this package are the following:

- The CHDC's June 2008 report, "Black Beauty Betrayed".
- Complete video footage of horses slaughtered, obtained by an anonymous source on April 30, 2008 (11 DVDs), including a full footage index.
- A shorter compilation DVD of the slaughter of select problematic cases from the complete video (1 DVD).
- Video footage from two after-business-hours walk-throughs of the plant, obtained by an anonymous source, on April 27, 2008 and April 30, 2008, and one walk through the rendering pit on May 1, 2008 (1 DVD).
- Comments provided by Dr. Nicholas H. Dodman, BVMS, Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists and American College of Veterinary Behaviorists Professor.

This evidence has been painstakingly compiled, and will take numerous hours to review. However, it is essential that all of the evidence be examined before any conclusions are drawn. The images and videos have not been altered in any way. They are indicative of usual practices at Natural Valley Farms when plant employees and the CFIA inspector were not aware that they were being videotaped. It is clear that horses are suffering immensely as a result of the growing horse slaughter industry in our country. For this reason, the CHDC calls for a ban on horse slaughter and the immediate closure of Canada's horse slaughter industry.

I look forward to your response after taking the time to examine the evidence.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sinikka Crosland".

Sinikka Crosland
Executive Director

