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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 2010. This translates to over 1,700 horses every week that meet their awful fate in Canadian slaughterhouses. There are currently 4 federally licensed plants in Canada (2 in Alberta and 2 in Quebec).

More than 60% of horses are 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
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Mr. George Da Pont, President Canadian Food Inspection Agency
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 Email: George.DaPont@inspection.gc.ca
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Dr. Brian Evans, Chief Veterinary Officer of Canada Canadian Food Inspection Agency
 Email: Brian.Evans@inspection.gc.ca
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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 considered man's second best friend and are sport and companion animals. 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 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 deck trailers are still allowed, and horses shipped in crowded trailers over long distances often arrive injured, sometimes fatally.