



A registered Canadian non-profit established in 2004. Our continued work to end horse slaughter is made possible with your donations.

## 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.*

Since 1989, over 2.2 million horses have perished in Canadian slaughter plants. In 2018, approximately 31,000 horses died in Canadian slaughterhouses, down 8% over 2017. The industry has been on a steady decline since its peak in 2008. In recent years the numbers were down significantly (↓20% in 2016 and ↓38% in 2017). The drop in recent years is due to the tightening of European Union regulations. Any horse going to slaughter must now have an accompanying document including a declaration of any vaccines or medications administered in the previous 6 months. In 2017, an additional rule was implemented whereby Canadian establishments that export horse meat to the EU must ensure that horses imported into Canada are resident in Canada for six months before slaughter and export.

There are currently two federally licensed plants operating in Canada (one in Alberta, and one in Quebec). Both are owned and operated by one company, Bouvry Exports. According to the Canadian government, 3,396 horses were exported to Japan for slaughter in 2018, a decrease of 29.9% over 2017. In 2018, the CHDC filed a lawsuit against the CFIA stating that violations of the law are occurring, by allowing the overcrowding of horses and by allowing horses' heads to touch the tops of crates. Horses are shipped in small wooden crates, 3 or 4 per crate. Former NDP MP Alex Atamanenko previously introduced 3 bills to end horse slaughter in Canada that did not gain the needed support in a Conservative majority government. Under the current Liberal majority government, we must now re-establish legislation to end this industry in Canada.



**Thousands of horses reside on equine feedlots in Alberta. These young, healthy horses are inventory on a Bouvry Exports feedlot . August 2018**

**Please contact your Member of Parliament and ask that they support or consider introducing legislation that would prohibit the slaughter of horses in Canada. Also contact the Prime Minister, Right Hon. Justin Trudeau. Find MPs and the PM at: <http://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/constituencies/FindMP>**

Gather signatures on the petition available on the CHDC website. Sign e-petitions. Send emails and letters, then follow up by phone. Remind your MP and PM 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. Former MP 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 the Ministry of Health, 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. Patty Hajdu , Minister of Health

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### Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

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### Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food

Email: [AGRI@parl.gc.ca](mailto:AGRI@parl.gc.ca); Website: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Committees/en/AGRI>  
Tel: 613.992.3150

Health of Animals Act: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/H-3.3/>  
Meat Inspection Act: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-3.2/>



**Once these foals are of age, both they and their mothers will be slaughtered at the Bouvry plant in Alberta. They are branded with the "U" brand registered to Bouvry Exports.**

- Horses are not traditionally raised for human consumption in North America. Over 50% of horses killed in Canada are from the US where no identification system for horses exists. Canada's Equine Identification Document system is highly flawed and does not guarantee truth or accuracy.

Horse meat products are likely to contain prohibited substances such as Phenylbutazone, Ventipulmin, and Nitrofurans.

CFIA list of drugs not permitted for use in equines:

[http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/meavia/man/ch17/annexe\\_e.shtml#e5](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/meavia/man/ch17/annexe_e.shtml#e5).

- The European Union banned the sale of horse meat from Mexico in January 2015, as it does not meet food safety standards. On March 1, 2017 the EU imposed a 6-month residency rule for horses imported into Canada. These actions were taken to stop, or make difficult, the importation of US horses for slaughter, as the EU is cognizant of the risks of North American horse meat.

- The CFIA has stated that they are not responsible for the oversight of equine feedlots, where horribly neglectful conditions exist. The CHDC has reported on the vast Alberta feedlots where thousands of horses are held prior to slaughter in filthy, overcrowded and bio-hazardous settings, where medical oversight is practically non-existent. See the CHDC's "The True Faces of Horse Slaughter: Inside Alberta's Horse Feedlots".

- Horses are companion animals and working partners and are considered to be man's second best friend. Most Canadians believe that this industry must be abolished on humane grounds. A 2019 Nanos poll revealed almost 7 out of 10 Canadians do not support horse slaughter for human consumption. 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, animal behaviour expert at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine said this of our 2011 "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."

Also, Dr. Debi Zimmermann, DVM in Alberta, 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, which would protect sick, pregnant and unfit horses and would prohibit overcrowding, is not enforced. 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. Horses are shipped in crowded trailers over long distances and often arrive injured – sometimes fatally.

Mare and foal at Drayton Valley, AB auction - Oct. 2012



Mare with injured eye at Beaverlodge, AB auction. Oct. 2018



Emaciated half-blind mare at Tofield, AB auction - Sept. 2018

Rural horse auctions act as enablers and are dumping grounds for uncaring owners who knowingly send their old, sick and neglected horses to auction.

The majority of horses sent to slaughter come from auctions, which are a gateway to slaughter. Horse dealers known as “kill buyers” frequent auctions looking for fit, healthy horses to fulfill their contracts with the slaughter plants.

3 Belgians in a wooden crate, about to be loaded for air shipment to Japan for slaughter. Calgary Airport - Aug. 2018



Belgian and Percheron yearlings with auction tags soon to be air shipped to Japan. Summerview Feedlot, AB - Nov. 2018

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Canada shipped 3396 horses to Japan and South Korea for slaughter in 2018.

Web: <https://canadianhorsedefencecoalition.org/>  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CanadianHorseDefenceCoalition](http://www.facebook.com/CanadianHorseDefenceCoalition)  
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