



In 2003, we came together to end horse slaughter in Canada and CHDC has been a registered non-profit organization since 2009. Your donations help to make our goals possible.

### **DID YOU KNOW THAT HORSE SLAUGHTER IS AN ONGOING BUSINESS IN CANADA?**

In 2007, the U.S. government defunded inspections of their equine slaughterhouses and this legislative move prompted the business to shift to Canada.

There are currently two federally licensed slaughterhouses operating in Canada that are permitted to slaughter horses. One is in Alberta and the other in Quebec; both are owned by the same company, Bouvry Exports Calgary.

Efforts to end horse slaughter and the live exports of draft horses to Asia for slaughter are ongoing.

Live draft horses are shipped primarily to Japan for slaughter for human consumption. These horses are crowded up to three or four large animals per wooden crate. The crates are considered to be completely inadequate for this purpose.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for overseeing the business of horse slaughter and has not fulfilled its role adequately.



In 2020 Canadian icon, Jann Arden, joined our fight to end the trade of the live draft horse shipments. Since then, we have seen a sharp increase in awareness and demands for the trade to end.



In 2024, 3265 draft horses were exported to Japan for slaughter.

**Please contact your MP 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. Mark Carney.**

**Find MPs and the PM at:**

<http://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/constituencies/FindMP>

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. 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. Remind your MP that the live draft horse trade as well as the domestic slaughter trade are giving Canada a black eye in the international community.

---

#### **Hon. Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health**

Email: [marjorie.michel@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marjorie.michel@parl.gc.ca)

Web: [https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/marjorie-michel\(122684\)#contact](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/marjorie-michel(122684)#contact) Tel: 613-947-9299

---

#### **Hon. Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food**

Email: [heath.macdonald@parl.gc.ca](mailto:heath.macdonald@parl.gc.ca); Tel: 613.992-2406

Web: [https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/Heath-MacDonald\(109891\)#contact](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/Heath-MacDonald(109891)#contact)

---

#### **Paul MacKinnon, President, Canadian Food Inspection Agency**

130 Colonnade Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

CFIA Web: <https://inspection.canada.ca/en>

Contact: <https://active.inspection.gc.ca/netapp/contactus/contactuse.aspx>

---

#### **Dr. Mary Jane Ireland, Chief Veterinary Officer, CFIA**

Email: [Mary-Jane.Ireland@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:Mary-Jane.Ireland@inspection.gc.ca)

Tel Toll-free 1-800-442-2342

<https://active.inspection.gc.ca/netapp/contactus/contactuse.aspx>.

---

#### **Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food**

Email: [AGRI@parl.gc.ca](mailto:AGRI@parl.gc.ca); Website: [AGRI - Home - House of Commons of Canada](http://www.agri.ca) Tel: 613.992.3150

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

**Safe Food for Canadians Act:** <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/S-1.1/>

**Regulations:** <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2018-108/index.html>

## **THE FACTS**

- Most horses in North America are not bred for human consumption. A large percentage 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.
- Drugs not permitted in horses intended for human consumption can be found here <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/food-guidance-commodity/meat-products-and-food-animals/equine-information-document#a6>
- In 2024 the total value of horse meat exports was **\$12,180 million** (Source: Statistics Canada).
- In comparison, the live horse industry has been deemed to be worth **\$19 billion** (Source: Equine Canada Study, 2010).
- Horses are considered by most to be companion animals and working partners. A 2019 Nanos poll conducted by the Parliamentary Group, revealed that almost 7 out of 10 Canadians do not support horse slaughter for human consumption. <https://canadianhorsedefencecoalition.org/nanos-poll-majority-of-canadians-oppose-horse-slaughter/>
- A 2020 Research Co. poll found that: "The export of Canadian horses abroad for slaughter is rejected by 67% of respondents, and 65% of respondents think it is inappropriate to consume horses."

The slaughter of horses, no matter how it is done, is not and never will be peaceful euthanasia.



The majority of horses sent to slaughter come from auctions here in Canada and the U.S. These auctions are the gateway to slaughter. Horse dealers known as “kill buyers” frequent auctions looking for fit, healthy horses to fulfill their contracts with the slaughter plants.

# HORSE TRADE SUMMARY

## Quarterly - YTD as of December 2024

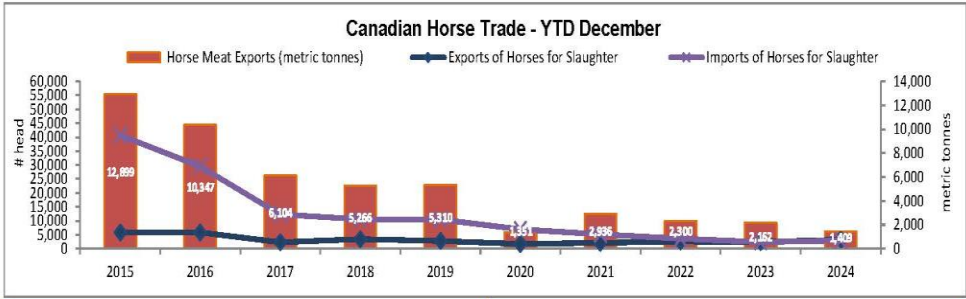
CANADIAN LIVE EXPORTS							CANADIAN LIVE IMPORTS FROM U.S. (# head)						
# head			('000 \$ CDN)				# head			('000 \$ CDN)			
December YTD	2024	2023	% chg 24-23	2024	2023	% chg 24-23	December YTD	2024	2023	% chg 24-23	2024	2023	% chg 24-23
Horses for slaughter	3,265	2,438	33.9%	26,157	18,337	42.6%	Horses for slaughter	2,939	2,373	23.9%	1,928	1,477	30.6%
Others	9,746	9,832	-0.9%	67,415	70,625	-4.5%	Others	3,790	3,514	7.9%	59,753	61,810	-3.3%
Total	13,011	12,270	6.0%	93,572	88,961	5.2%	Total	6,729	5,887	14.3%	61,681	63,287	-2.5%
Annual	2023	2022	% chg 23-22	2023	2022	% chg 23-22	Annual	2023	2022	% chg 23-22	2023	2022	% chg 23-22
Horses for slaughter	2,438	2,579	-5.5%	18,337	18,894	-3.0%	Horses for slaughter	2,373	3,627	-34.6%	1,477	2,200	-32.9%
Others	9,828	10,261	-4.2%	70,605	73,075	-3.4%	Others	3,514	4,338	-19.0%	61,810	59,664	3.6%
Total	12,266	12,840	-4.5%	88,942	91,970	-3.3%	Total	5,887	7,965	-26.1%	63,287	61,864	2.3%
CANADIAN MEAT EXPORTS (metric tonnes)							CANADIAN HORSE INVENTORY						
December YTD	2024	2023	% chg 24-23	2024	2023	% chg 24-23		2021	2016	2011	2006	2001	1996
	1,409	2,162	-34.8%	12,180	21,588	-43.6%	# of farms	20,645	39,164	47,454	54,169	53,925	56,707
Annual	2023	2022	% chg 23-22	2023	2022	% chg 23-22	# of horses & ponies	183,733	291,561	392,340	453,965	460,569	443,889
	2,162	2,300	-6.0%	21,588	24,265	-11.0%							

Source: Statistics Canada

Source: Statistics Canada - Census of Agriculture

Source: Statistics Canada

Source: Statistics Canada - Census of Agriculture



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



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

No horse is safe from the slaughter pipeline. Some people will send unfit and sick horses to an auction rather than taking care of the horse themselves.

**Bill C-355**, initiated by MP Tim Louis to ban the export of live horses to slaughter, passed the House of Commons and was being considered by the Senate when Parliament prorogued in January 2025 and an election was called. Please contact your Member of Parliament and ask for their support once again in ending the live exports of horses for slaughter.



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

Nov 14 2018 09:47 AM

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CanadianHorseDefenceCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianHorseDefenceCoalition)  
Web: <https://canadianhorsedefencecoalition.org/>  
Twitter: [@defendhorsescan](https://twitter.com/defendhorsescan)  
Instagram: [cdnhorsedefence](https://www.instagram.com/cdnhorsedefence)  
YouTube: [defendhorsescanada](https://www.youtube.com/defendhorsescanada)  
Contact us: [info@defendhorsescanada.org](mailto:info@defendhorsescanada.org)  
Blue Sky: <https://bsky.app/profile/chdc.bsky.social>  
[@chdc.bsky.socia](https://chdc.bsky.socia)

