

## **CSPCA RESPONDS TO SHOCKING FOOTAGE AT QUEBEC HORSE-SLAUGHTER FACILITY**

Montreal, December 14<sup>th</sup> - Last week undercover video footage and photographs taken at the horse slaughter plant Les Viandes de la Petite-Nation Inc. in St. Andre-Avellin, Quebec, were released by the Canadian Horse Defence Coalition (CHDC): <http://www.defendhorsescanada.org/lpn.html>

After reviewing this evidence, the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (CSPCA) is calling for a prohibition on the slaughter of horses in Canada as well as a ban on the import and export of live horses for the purposes of slaughter.

"The undercover investigation inside this Quebec slaughterhouse reveals serious animal welfare and food safety concerns", said Alanna Devine, CSPCA Director of Animal Advocacy.

"The CSPCA is joining the CHDC, thousands of Canadian citizens and numerous other animal welfare organizations in calling upon the Canadian government to adopt Private Member's Bill C-322 which would end the practice of horse slaughter in Canada and prohibit Canadian horses to be sent to slaughter" said Devine.

For further information on horse slaughter please visit the CHDC website <http://www.defendhorsescanada.org> and contact:

Twyla Francois, CHDC Central Region Director: 204.296.1375 (English media)

Dr. Olivier Berreville, CHDC Scientific advisor: 204.891.8136 (French media)

Alanna Devine, CSPCA Director of Animal Advocacy: 513.735.2711 ext. 2245 (English and French media)



## **CSPCA HORSE SLAUGHTER POSITION STATEMENT**

The CSPCA supports Bill C-322 and prohibiting the importation or exportation of horses for slaughter for human consumption or the importation of horsemeat products for human consumption for the following reasons:

- As reported by experts and demonstrated via undercover footage at horse slaughter plants, due to the specific physiology of horses, and the high failure-to-stun rate, it is impossible, even in well-designed, assembly-line conditions, to humanely slaughter horses.
- Current transportation regulations are so poor that horses may be transported for up to 36 hours without food, water or rest. Horses are often transported in cramped trailers designed for shorter animals such as pigs and cows causing them to travel in uncomfortable positions for long distances. The dead on arrival rate is extremely high.
- Horses used for sporting and recreational purposes are not raised for human consumption and therefore are likely to contain substances that are banned for use in meat animals as they are harmful to human health.
- Humans and horses share a special bond and we see them as our animal partners for companionship, sport and recreation. Sending horses to a cruel death is a betrayal in the relationship we have with them.
- The claim that banning horse slaughter will increase horse neglect is simply not true. This is an emotional argument used by the horse slaughter industry to try and gain support for horse slaughter from animal lovers.
- There are programs to subsidize the humane euthanasia of horses, for those financially unable to afford the cost (for example one offered by The Canadian Horse Defense Coalition). Thus horse slaughter is not the only option for those in financial difficulty.

Furthermore, the CSPCA believes that horse overpopulation and the breeding of horses, solely for the purpose of profit or sport, needs to be further addressed by the government in order to address the underlying issue of “unwanted horses”.