

A BILL TO BAN HORSE SLAUGHTER IN CANADA

What you can do to help!



MP Alex Atamanenko tabled the Private Member's Bill C-544 during the Parliamentary session that ended with the Federal election in the spring of this year (2011). Because of the election being called, Bill C-544 died.

On October 5, 2011 NDP MP Alex Atamanenko tabled Private Member's **Bill C-322** that would effectively shut down the slaughter of horses in Canada for human consumption. This bill has the same intent and wording as the previously tabled Bill C-544.

<http://alexndp.ca/files/2011/10/atamanenko-re-introduces-bill-to-ban-horse-meat-for-human-consumption/>.

The basis of this Bill is the fact that horses are not food-producing animals and many are treated with drugs that are prohibited from entering the human food chain.

Bill C-322, "An Act to amend the Health of Animals Act and the Meat Inspection Act (slaughter of horses for human consumption)":

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=5159966&File=24>

(Click on the various sub-titles on the left of the document.)

MP Atamanenko stated, "Since I first introduced this bill in the last Parliament, tens of thousands of Canadians have petitioned the government to legislate an end to this practice, I think it's high time the government listened."

According to the BC MP, "the odds are enormous that certain drugs, prohibited for use during the life of any animals destined for the human food supply, are routinely being administered to horses," said Atamanenko. "It is irresponsible for Canada to allow the sale of meat from horses as a food item when they have never been raised in accordance with the food safety practices required for all other animals."

The message to our MPs must be specific to Bill C-322.

Petitioning is an effective way to gain support but we also encourage you to find a way to meet with your MP face to face as this has great impact. But if you cannot schedule a meeting with your MP for any reason, then please do send letters by snail and email.

Please note that only original handwritten petitions are admissible to the Canadian Parliament. Online petitions are not allowed under Parliamentary rules.

Your MP's name and contact information can be found here:

<http://webinfo.parl.gc.ca/MembersOfParliament/MainConstituenciesCompleteList.aspx?TimePeriod=Current&Language=E>

Explain to your elected official that horsemeat may contain drugs that are unsafe for human consumption. Proof of horsemeat toxicity can be found in this recent scientific paper titled "Association of Phenylbutazone usage with horses bought for slaughter: A public health risk":

http://www.equinewelfarealliance.org/uploads/Food_and_Chemical_Toxicology_FINAL.pdf

The CHDC has researched the troubling issue of banned drugs commonly found in horsemeat, and has prepared this paper on what the European Union requirements will mean to North America's horse industry:

<http://www.defendhorsescanada.org/pdf/finaldisc100314.pdf>

For more information on how a bill becomes law, read here:

http://www.defendhorsescanada.org/pdf/leg_proc_canada.pdf

We are asking petitioners to return completed, original petitions to MP Alex Atamanenko's Ottawa address.

However, at the time of a scheduled meeting with a petitioner's own Member of Parliament, it may be possible to ask a supportive MP to table the completed petitions. In any case, the CHDC would appreciate receiving an email stating how many petition signatures were submitted: info@defendhorsescanada.org.

The CHDC would also be happy to answer any questions or provide guidance in your efforts to gather signatures on your petition(s). We can be contacted at: info@defendhorsescanada.org.

We heard a quote from a politician who said: "If we get 5 calls a day on an issue we don't pay much attention. If we get 25, we start and when we get 100 we sit up and take notice".

Make them sit up and take notice!

Please keep us up to date on your progress.

Sincerely
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