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July 12, 2013

Mr. David Swanson, Chair
Board of Directors
Calgary Airport Authority Springbank
Airport 175 MacLaurin Drive
Calgary, Alberta
T3Z 3S4

Dear Mr. Swanson and Members of the Board:

We would like to draw your attention to violations that occur routinely at Calgary Airport with regard to the transport of horses to Japan for slaughter. *The Health of Animals Regulations* prohibit the transportation of all animals under conditions that would expose them to undue injury or suffering.

Covert footage and photographs sent anonymously to the Canadian Horse Defence Coalition show large draft horses being placed in wooden crates so small that they cannot stand in their natural position. These acts violate *Section 142 of the Health of Animals Regulations* ("No person shall transport or cause to be transported animals in a railway car, motor vehicle, aircraft or vessel unless each animal is able to stand in its natural position without coming into contact with a deck or roof.") Some horses were even crated together, in violation of *Section 141.8 of the Health of Animals Regulations*, which specifies that horses over 14 hands high need to be segregated for air transport. These transportation conditions are not only inhumane, but also are likely to lead to injuries and potential deaths during transport. In addition, such overcrowding of large, often unpredictable animals poses certain risks to the safety of humans who are on board the aircraft during travel.

As depicted in the enclosed undercover video, horses are often left to wait airside in crates, where they are exposed not only to winter weather extremes but to deafening noise blasts as aircraft prepare for takeoff, and also to *jet blasts and residual spraying of glycol*, used for de-icing the aircraft. We question whether the flimsy-appearing crates would be strong enough to contain large, powerful draft horses in the event of a panic-driven situation causing one or more animals to potentially break out and collide with moving aircraft. Also of concern are the inevitable flight delays, which result in horses being crated without access to food or water for over 36 hours (the maximum time required by law for equine to be confined for purposes of transport).

Your attention to this matter and a prompt response to our concerns would be appreciated. Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinikka', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Sinikka Crosland, Executive Director
Canadian Horse Defence Coalition
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