Animals’ Angels Compilation Report Horse Slaughter
2007/2008/2009

1. Introduction

Animals’ Angels investigations of horse slaughter focuses on conditions and treatment of horses at slaughter plants, auctions, feedlots and during transport. We found that horse slaughter encompasses public safety issues, public health concerns, environmental issues as well as the obvious and very significant concerns regarding cruelty and inhumane treatment.

Our investigations during 2007 to the present made clear that at the instant a horse is designated a ‘kill horse’, handling and treatment change radically from that normally given horses. A ‘kill horse’ is treated with cruelty, with indifference at best, but more typically with violence and aggression. Cruelty increases, while safety, health and welfare - its care and humane treatment are so diminished it is virtually nonexistent.

These horses are “only passing through,” say the veterinarians as well as the ‘kill buyers.’ If the ‘kill horses’ had been normal horses under the care of a different type of owner, humane officers and police would have required, in keeping with state animal cruelty laws, proper veterinarian care and sufficient access to food, water and shelter. The ‘kill horse’ is outside the protection of cruelty laws.

Based on our observations, a horse in the slaughter pipeline will likely be subject to:

- Dangerously overcrowded pens
- Aggressive, rough handling
- Suffering that is observed and tolerated
- Transport with no rest, no water and no food for 28 hours by law, for longer by actual practice
- No food, water, shelter for extended periods - at auction, during transport, at feedlots and export pens
- Transport in double decked trailers between auctions and feedlots
- Sold at auction in seconds. Normal buyer has little chance to bid on a ‘kill horse’
- Injuries are accepted and untreated. Ensuring the horses’ protection from injury is of little or no importance. Even those whose job is to be their protectors, do not.
- Different handling, different auction rings, different behavior. The handling changes as soon as the horse is defined as a kill horse;

Horse slaughter plays a major role in the suffering of horses and their inhumane treatment. The abuse begins long before the horse is felled by the captive bolt, puntilla knife, or gunshot at the slaughter plant.
2. Investigations

a. Auctions

Date: 1/12/2007
Location: Sugarcreek auction, OH
Observations:

- Violating state cruelty laws: Mare down in pen barely moving, gums white, sporadic, barely audible groaning. Auction veterinarian immediately notified but refuses care, or to possibly euthanize, says would be too disruptive to auction visitors. Mare dies after 8 hours.
- Extremely rough handling of horses by auction employees, cursing, hitting with wooden sticks, horses very agitated;
- Acutely crowded pens, horses packed shoulder to shoulder

Date: 1/26/2007
Location: Sugarcreek auction, OH
Observations:

- Very chaotic, noisy; extremely rough handling of horses. Pens dangerously overcrowded.
- Auction employees use wooden sticks, striking horses with full range of motion and force. Horses attempt to avoid sticks, crash into gate and wood fencing.
- Horse unable to bear weight on all four limbs appears panicked, struggles to remain upright in chaos. Veterinarian refuses to examine horse saying she is only there to draw blood for Coggins test.
- Horse sold to kill buyer and transported to Rushville horse slaughter collecting station next morning.
Date: 3/9/2007  
Location: Shipshewana horse auction, IN  
Observations:

- Horse with severe knee injury apparently acquired in crowded pen, bleeding profusely. Auction veterinarian refuses care saying, ‘Horse is going to slaughter anyway, so there’s no need to do anything.’
- Horse unable to bear weight on all four limbs; auction employees hitting horse with unrestrained force.
- Horse with severe knee injury and horse unable to bear weight on all four limbs are quickly loaded by kill buyers after sale.
- Handling of horses at this auction facility extremely rough. Handlers hit horses with unrestrained force, marked impatience (gestures and screaming) to the point of seeming rage, hitting with a “whacking” sound over head and slamming gate aggressively on horses’ midsections, hindquarters, heads and necks.
Date: 6/1/2007
Location: Shipshewana horse auction, IN
Observations:

- As on previous visit to this facility, handling of horses is extremely aggressive and violent. Horses hit with full range of motion, seemingly as hard as possible. Staff appears impatient to the point of rage, hitting horses over their heads and slamming gates on horses as previously noted.
- Kill horses are not walked through auction ring, but sold after 15 to 20 seconds of bidding directly from pen area.
- Kill buyer attaching slaughter tags to horses before transport to slaughter plant in Quebec.
- Violating state cruelty laws, irreversibly starved horse in trailer brought for auction.
- Horses are transported to horse slaughter plant in Richelieu, Quebec. Though required by law, horses are not given access to food, water and period of rest prior to transport.

Date: 9/1/2007
Location: Los Lunas Auction, NM
Observations:

- Dismembered horse leg found in the auction parking lot. Small leg indicating a foal, appears to be recent with hair firmly attached, no decay or odor.
- Several extremely emaciated horses present, all are 1.4 and less on Henneke body scoring.
- Sustained and extremely rough handling for duration of auction; hitting on head and hip bones with heavy wooden sticks.
- 4 double deck trailers present, all owned by a kill buyer.

Federal laws prohibit transport of horses to slaughter in double decked trailers. However, it is not a violation of federal law unless transported directly to a slaughter facility according to USDA interpretation of Commercial Transport of Equines to Slaughter Regulations.
Date: 1/11/2008  
Location: Sugarcreek Auction, OH  
Observations:

- Extremely brutal handling of horses; auction workers unnecessarily aggressive, hitting in face and jabbing in eyes.
- Horses in one of crowded pens very agitated and trying to escape. Extremely chaotic and noisy with horses kicking, horses biting, others trying to evade being kicked.
- Mare kicked in the chest or head [pen too crowded to be certain which] immediately drops to the ground dead.
**Date: 1/12/2008**  
**Location: Mount Hope, OH**  
**Observations:**

- Horses have no access to food or water during all day auction.
- Driver for kill buyer very rough, causing horses to panic. Cursing and impatient, with rough wild jerking motions, he takes shoes off hind legs as required by Canadian horse slaughter plants.
- Driver continues aggression by forcing too fast 5 to 6 horses at a time into chute to load onto trailer, whipping horses over the head, hips and legs.

![Image](image_url)
**Date: 6/28/08**  
**Location: Middleburg auction, PA**  
**Observations:**

- Violating state cruelty laws, several extremely emaciated horses present.  
- Horse with knee injury; no veterinarian is found on premises.  
- 85 degrees. No water or food available for most of the horses during all day auction.

**Date: 8/2/08**  
**Location: Euclid auction, CA**  
**Observations:**

- Several emaciated horses present.  
- Most horses have no food or water provided. Temperatures in area range from 102 to 109 degrees on this day.  
- All horses selling for under $150 purchased by “DM.”
Though it is illegal to buy horses for slaughter by California state law, we were unable to convince the District Attorney to investigate. This buyer has a record of selling horses at Nevada, New Mexico and Texas “slaughter” auctions.

Date: 8/3/08
Location: Mira Loma, CA
Observations:

- One day after auction in Euclid, CA (above), “DM” buys a full load of horses here.
- Heavily pregnant mare extremely emaciated, a 1 on Henneke body scoring. Auction visitors pity her and throw hay into pen which she attacks vigorously, grabs and chews very quickly, and swallows.
- Horses among the most emaciated observed at any auction; 80 % are emaciated to extremely emaciated.
- Worker at auction claims horses are being held for the “humane society” and “fattened up.” Further investigation proves this to be void of any factual content.
Date: 1/16/09  
Location: Sugarcreek, OH  
Observations:

- Very cold, horses are in barn open at one end.
- Several horses without winter coats shaking from the cold.
- Horses covered with ice crystals, not moving at all and very lethargic.
- Several very thin horses tagged for slaughter, also shaking from the cold.
- One horse, tagged for slaughter, dead in the pen area, frozen to ground. Overnight temperature minus 13 degrees Fahrenheit, maximum temperature today 3 degrees, with wind at 14 mph.
- Frozen horse is pushed out into the parking area and left in parking lot for the 3 days investigators present.
- Horse injured in pen area bleeding profusely from badly thorn ear, blood is frozen on face and neck, tagged for slaughter.

Date: 2/2/09  
Location: Kalona, IA  
Observations:

- More than 350 horses from many locations across the country (Texas, Oklahoma, Virginia, etc.) designated for slaughter.
- Approximately 350 slaughter horses are put in outside pens, very cold. Minimum temperature is 1 degree Fahrenheit for this day with 32 mph wind gusts.
- Pens overcrowded, kicking, fighting, horse with fresh fetlock injury.
- Horses moved into pens with low 6 foot ceilings though many normal pens available. Still overcrowded, fighting continues and horses’ heads hit ceiling with loud “bams” as they jerk about to avoid being kicked or bitten. Several tall draft horses forced to hold head low to the ground to avoid beams in low ceiling but kicked in face in fighting.
- Heavy wooden beams of pen ceiling are lined with lights. All bulbs are broken within 3 to 5 minutes, horses’ heads bleeding.
• Extreme hitting in the face and poking in eyes with wooden sticks by cursing auction workers.
• Workers rush too fast already greatly agitated horses with yelling and hitting sticks, causing some horses to slip and fall as they run thru alleys.
• Hydraulic gate, very heavy and noisy. After first horse goes thru, gate begins to close but crushes other following horses with full force across body, heads, causing horses to panic and bolt, hitting heads on overhead pipes. Some horses appear to be extremely dazed, stand stock still as other horses rush past them.
• All 350 kill horses sold in one hour, 28 minutes at the average rate of 1 horse every 15 seconds. In sharp contrast, 130 horses sold as riding horses took 4 hours to sell.

It is not easy for normal buyers to bid on designated “kill horses.” Such a horse’s chances of being purchased by a normal buyer are very limited. They are hurried in and out of the auction arena in a matter of seconds. We have observed horses not offered in the arena at all but sold directly from pens to small group of “kill buyers.” In addition treatment of horses designated as riding horses is extremely different, handling is calm, pens are uncrowded.
Date: 4/04/09  
Location: Euclid auction, CA  
Observations:

- Again as on visit in August 2008 kill buyer “DM” buying a full stock trailer of horses, paying average of approximately $100 per horse. Each time “DM” bids on horse, many different individuals in different areas of the audience whisper, ‘That’s the meat man,’ or ‘Oh my god, it’s going to be killed,’ or simply ‘That poor horse.’

Violating California state law which prohibits buying, selling, transporting horses for slaughter for human consumption, “DM” apparently continues to sell horses for slaughter at Nevada, New Mexico and Texas auctions.

---

b. Transport

Date: 1/30/2007  
Location: Interstate (Texas – Mexico)  
Observations:

- Violating federal law, four trucks with horses tagged for slaughter are loaded onto both decks of double decker. Four double decked trucks leave the Presidio export facility, crossing the border without intervention while USDA office closed.
Date: 6/3/07  
Location: Interstate (Michigan – Quebec)  
Observation:

- Horses transported from Fairhaven, MI to slaughter plant in Richelieu, Quebec.  
- Upon arrival at plant, horse is unloaded dead; several others are limping severely.  
- No veterinary inspection upon arrival.

Date: 8/26/2007  
Location: Interstate (Colorado – Illinois)  
Observations:

- Horses transported from Carter feedlot in Longmont, Colorado to Cavel horse slaughter plant in Illinois.  
- Violating federal laws, solo driver makes 18 hour trip exceeding maximum driving time by 7 hours; does not take required 10 hour break, raising public safety concerns.
• Violating federal law driver does not check the condition of the horses on the trailer during the 18 hour transport as required by federal law.

Date: 1/25/2008-1/27/2008
Location: Interstate (Ohio – Texas)
Observations:

• Horses loaded onto both decks of a double-deck trailer bound for slaughter feedlot in Morton, TX.

Not a violation of federal law unless transported directly to a slaughter facility according to USDA interpretation of Commercial Transport of Equines to Slaughter Regulations

• Violating federal laws, solo driver makes 34 hour trip exceeding maximum driving time by 23 hours without taking the two required 10 hour breaks, raising significant public safety concerns.
• Also a violation of federal law, horses were confined on trailer for 34 hours and 15 minutes, exceeding maximum by 6 hours.
• Additional violation of federal law, driver never checks condition of horses during the entire 34 hour trip.
Date: 10/16/2008-10/17/2008  
Location: Interstate (Texas – Mexico)  
Observations:

- Horses transported on open trailer unsuitable to protect the health and well-being of equines during transport.
- Horses wedging their heads between overhead metal rods, also hitting their heads on rods. Some horses keep heads down to avoid metal rods overhead.

Timothy Cordes, USDA head of slaughter horse program and investigators agree that use of open trailers is unacceptable. Horses are at risk for severe head injuries, even breaking their own necks having wedged their heads between openings.
c. Feedlots and Collecting Stations

Date: 1/27/2007
Location: Haley Slaughter Horse Collecting Facility, Rushville, IN
Observations:

- Horses have no access to shelter though barns available on the premises; outside overnight temperature 7 degrees Fahrenheit;
- One horse dead in the pen area, frozen to the ground.

Date: 1/28/2007
Location: Slaughter Horse Collecting Facility, Presidio, TX
Observation:

- Four horses with open wounds unattended in pen area; we call police who call veterinarian to treat wounds.
- One horse unable to bear weight on all four legs, limping heavily.
- Violating state cruelty laws, no shelter from sun or other elements provided.
Date: 8/30/2007  
Location: Carter Horse Feedlot, Longmont, CO  
Observations:  

- Violating state cruelty laws, horses in extremely poor condition, appear to be neglected, many emaciated, limping, some coughing with signs of apparent strangles infections.

Typically owner (kill buyer) in a feedlot situation would say horses are only “passing through.” Veterinary care and shelter are not something humane officers are willing to work with investigators to implement. If these or any one of these horses had been under the care of a different type of owner, humane officers would have required, in keeping with state animal cruelty laws, proper veterinarian and care and appropriate shelter.
Date: 1/26/2008
Location: Beltex Slaughter Horse Feedlot, Morton, TX
Observations:

- Violating state cruelty laws, access to shelter is not provided.
- Violating state cruelty laws, many horses in extremely poor condition, appear to be neglected, many emaciated, limping, coughing.
- One horse with no visible signs of trauma dead in pen area.

Date: 5/6/2008-5/16/2008
Location: Bar S Feedlot, Shelby, MT
Observations:

- No shelter.
- Horse with large, steadily bleeding wound from the chest. No veterinarian care observed during 11 days of investigation.
- Many young horses and mares with young foals.
- Very thin horse in obvious pain.
- Dead pit with large numbers of fresh and decaying horse carcasses. Body parts widely scattered in surrounding area.
Observation:

- No shelter.
- Violating state cruelty laws, horses in extremely poor condition, appear to be neglected, many emaciated, limping, coughing, others coughing with signs of strangles infections.
- Horse with large, bleeding wound on neck and chest. No veterinarian care observed during 12 hours investigators present.

Observations:

- Violating state cruelty laws, horses in extremely poor condition, appear to be neglected, many emaciated or starving, limping, some coughing heavily.
• Violating state cruelty laws, no access to available shelter.
• Deep mud making it very difficult for several weaker horses to walk.

Date: 8/3/2008-8/6/2008  
Location: Beltex Slaughter Horse Feedlot, Morton, TX  
Observations:

• 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Violating state cruelty laws, no shelter of any kind is provided.  
• Two trucks loaded with horses pull out at 3 a.m. Once in route both maintain speed of 80 mph, heading to Socorro where federal export pens are.  
• Kill buyer (DOT# corroborates identity) in double deck trailer, horses loaded onto both decks pulls in. Unable to view horses being unloaded or their condition.

Not a violation of federal law unless transported directly to a slaughter facility—even when transport is to slaughter owned and operated feedlot—according to USDA interpretation of Commercial Transport of Equins to Slaughter Regulations.

• Very strong smell of decaying animals on southwest side of the property alongside dirt road. Two men on backhoe transport and off-load dead horse to location. Several fresh horse carcasses visible. Some carcasses are uncovered, some partially buried. Multiple horse parts in separate nearby field. A decomposing foal lies on the side of the road outside fence. Coyotes are observed eating dead horses. Two additional freshly dead horses added to area following day. State agency documents show two horses per day die at this feedlot.

Investigators contact with governing state agency, learn that Beltex horse slaughter feedlot is operating a “concentrated animal feeding operation” (CAFO) without required permits. State agency has recently discovered Beltex has been operating for several years without CAFO permit. Beltex then applied (July 24, 2008) for required permit.
They received Notice of Violation, but no fines or penalties were assessed. In addition, state environmental inspectors find their composting of carcasses is inadequate.

State agency conducts investigation on August 12, 2008 in response to our investigators’ complaint. As on two previous occasions and despite extensive documentation and photographs provided to them, the regulatory authority reported no dead animals or parts were visible.

However, state agency investigators did find the feedlot in violation laws regarding storage of industrial solid waste. On August 29, 2008 another Notice of Violation was issued. Again, no fines or penalties were assessed.

Date: 10/21/2008
Location: Rowan Feedlot, New Albany, MS
Observations:

- Violating state cruelty laws, starving horses with Henneke body score of 1 on the premises.
- No access to food and no hay, very little forage on pasture.

Investigators speak with police, make animal cruelty complaint. Horses disappear during the night.
Date: 10/18/2008—10/19/2008  
Location: Mize, MS auction  
Observations:

- Killer buyer prominently inside the auction ring buying. Returns next day in green pick-up truck with a large three axle, black cattle trailer and packs horses into trailer.
- Violating Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, no license plates on either truck or trailer; no DOT#, no legal name or trade name on the truck.

Public records show that this individual has violated the Commercial Transport of Equines to Slaughter regulations three times (USDA case numbers: TX 03176, TX 04066, TX 04211). In each of three violations, driver transported horses unfit for travel (blind in both eyes, likely to give birth during the trip, not able to put weight on all four limbs, not able to walk unassisted, not older than six month).

On September 11, 2008 individual was sentenced to pay a fine of $12,650.00 (A.Q. Docket No. 06-0006). Whether the sentence has been appealed or the fine paid remains unclear.

In addition to animal related violations, this individual’s federal motor carrier record shows several additional severe violations of regulations, such as failure to maintain a log book, driving while disqualified, exceeding maximum hours without rest, and driver using or in possession of drugs.
Date: 3/01/09  
Location: Beltex feed lot, Morton, TX  
Observations:

- Violating state cruelty laws no shelter is provided.
- Carcasses uncovered and partially covered body parts spread over the area, repeating findings during August 2008 investigation.
- Several horses eating hay on top of dead composting carcasses.

This is startling to investigators and contradicts biosecurity recommendations by the USDA and the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center Consortium. In terms of composting carcasses including horses, they assess the risk of spreading pathogenic bacteria and other matter such as anthrax, FMD, Fecal coliform, Salmonella, toxic fungi and spores, enteric pathogens, pathogenic viruses, bacteria, protozoa (including cysts), helminth [parasitic] ova, etc.

They also report that “microorganisms such as Mycobacterium tuberculosis and spore-formers like Bacillus anthracis [anthrax] will survive the typical composting process.”

They reference the necessity of preventing access by livestock and scavenging animals. “Pathogens which may be present in decomposed material are capable of spreading diseases in soil, plants, and in animals and humans…. “In terms of biosecurity, composting facilities should not be located directly adjacent to livestock production units, and the vehicles associated with operation should be sanitized with appropriate cleaning and disinfecting agents for each trip.” These measures were not observed by investigators.
Date: 3/10/09
Location: Slaughter horse collecting station, Shippenburg, PA
Observations:

- Approximately 60 horses in a loud and violent sounding uproar within dark barn. Horses sound exceptionally agitated—with violent kicking and fighting. Recently dead horse (no rigor mortis) with green slaughter tag lies outside barn next to refuse heap.

d. Export Pens

Date: 9/4/2007
Location: Santa Teresa Export Pens, NM
Observations:

- No shelter provided. 90 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Violating federal law, no food or water provided.
This export facility is operated by the Mexican Chihuahua Cattlemen’s Association.

Violating state cruelty laws, horses in extremely poor condition, majority appear to be neglected. Many emaciated, limping, coughing with signs of strangles infections, one in final stage of strangles with long strings of mucous coming from nose and under jaw. One horse with large bleeding wound on chest appears to be from transport.

Location: Socorro Export Pens, Socorro, TX
Observations:

- Violating federal law, no food. Water troughs in pens are empty. 92 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Violating state cruelty laws, several extremely emaciated horses in pens.
- Horses loaded onto open trailer unsuitable to protect the health and well-being of equines during transport.

Transport in open trailers causes head injuries from horses hitting overhead metal pipes. Open trailers provide no protection from the elements. Timothy Cordes, USDA head of slaughter horse program and investigators agree that use of open trailers is unacceptable. Horses are at risk for severe head injuries, even breaking their own necks having wedged their heads between openings.
Date: 1/28/2008-1/31/2008  
Location: Socorro Export Pens, Socorro, TX  
Observations:

- Violating federal law, no food or water available to horses prior to transport to slaughter plant.
- Several horses are extremely emaciated, 1.4 or below on Henneke body scoring.
- Violating state cruelty laws, horses in extremely poor condition, appear to be neglected. Several extremely emaciated, limping, coughing.
- Violating federal law, horse unable to bear weight on all four limbs is loaded on slaughter truck.
- Violating federal law, failure to separate stallions on the trailer.
- Horses loaded onto open trailer unsuitable to protect the health and well-being of equines during transport.

Transport in open trailers causes head injuries from horses hitting overhead metal pipes. Open trailers provide no protection from the elements. Timothy Cordes, USDA head of slaughter horse program and investigators agree that use of open trailers is inacceptable. Horses are at risk for severe head injuries, even breaking their own necks having wedged their heads between openings.
Date: 6/4/2008-6/6/2008
Location: Export Pens, Eagle Pass, TX
Observations:

- Horses loaded onto open trailer unsuitable to protect the health and well-being of equines during transport.

Transport in open trailers causes head injuries from horses hitting overhead metal pipes. Open trailers provide no protection from the elements. Horses are at risk for severe head injuries, even breaking their own necks having wedged their heads between openings.

Violating federal motor carrier laws, truck’s DOT# reveals long record of multiple violations: Driving without a commercial drivers license, no record of driver duty status, failure to maintain log book, unsafe vehicle violations, inoperative brakes, leaking brakes, wheel shaft loose or missing, fuel tank violations, and others.
e. Slaughter Plants:

Date: 1/28/2007  
Location: Horse Slaughter Plant, Jerez, Mexico  
Observations:

- 90% of horses extremely emaciated.
- 50% are American horses with USDA green slaughter tags.
- One stillborn embryo inside pen.
- Two trucks arrive containing three horses down and unable to rise.
- Two downed horses are dragged with a wire wrapped around a back leg and cable-winch into the slaughter plant. In photo living white horse is being dragged up and over a 3 foot tall concrete rise into the plant.
- Two horses down in pens, one appears to be dead.
- Horse is left in kill box, walls thickly covered with fresh and dried blood, for full hour while workers go to lunch. Horse is shaking to the point it seems it will collapse to the ground, eyes wide with whites showing.

European Commission Government Inspectors with the Office of Food and Veterinary Services visited the plant. Their report conveys alarm regarding the condition of the horses and conditions at the plant. They reference an “abnormal death rate” among horses and that “most of the horses were emaciated,” and “poor welfare conditions were noted in the lairage [pen area].”

European Commission Inspectors cite the plant’s violation of EU animal welfare regulations. They report that the conditions they witnessed at the plant and documents filed by the plant are contradictory. Plant operations did not meet required standards and certificates filed by the plant were false. “Official controls performed are not sufficient to insure that EU animal welfare requirements are met, [which is] contrary to statements of part 10 of the relevant export certificates,” they conclude.

The also report insufficient drug testing, that in fact U.S. horses arriving at the plant for slaughter are not tested for drug residues at all.
Date: 4/17/2007-4/28/07
Location: Horse Slaughter Plant, Richelieu, Quebec
Observations:

- Horse appearing terrified is left in bloody kill box while workers go to lunch (in photo faintly visible horse inside steel box). Our investigator points out situation to vet who calls it “unacceptable.” However, plant owner says the horses “aren’t bothered by it.”
- Electric prods are used to move horses. Our investigators inform plant veterinarian of use of electric prods. She appears genuinely surprised and uninformed. Visiting the floor with our investigators she is whistled at and made fun of by the workers and appears generally intimidated. Seeing the electric prods hanging on the loading chute to the kill box she appears to be very surprised and even shocked, as if unable to believe what she sees. Our investigators believe her response and the workers’ treatment of her indicate she seldom if ever inspects the kill floor.
- Violating Canadian laws grey mare with broken leg is slaughtered.
- Truck from the United States enters the plant with two horses dead upon arrival. Plant owner explains that the horses were “too lazy” to get a drink of water.
- Almost all of horses being unloaded are limping.
Date: 9/26/2007
Location: Horse Slaughter Plant, Neudorf, Saskatchewan
Observations:

- Violating Saskatchewan environmental laws, open storage of three massive dead piles containing hundreds of horses. Carcasses and horse heads in varying stages of decomposition.
- No holes detected in several skulls.

Investigations carried out April 27 through May 1, 2008 by the Canadian Horse Defense Coalition inside the plant revealed unacceptable practices regarding the stunning and slaughtering of horses. Their report states, “They did not necessarily ensure accurate hitting of the horses with the captive bolt.” They go on to report, “systemic neglect, cruel handling, poor slaughter practices, resulting in immense suffering.” They suggest horses are not rendered unconscious before butchering.

The Coalition notes that double decked trucks from the U.S. are observed unloading after hours and are unobserved by BFIA inspectors [the Canadian food inspection agency]. Horses are left in slaughter area with concrete floors overnight, densely packed pens prevent horses from lying down. Access to water, food, hay is insufficient.

Date: 3/17/2008  
Location: Horse Slaughter Plant, Jerez, Mexico  
Observations:

- Extremely emaciated horses, many with USDA slaughter tags.
- Mare with newborn foal in pen area (appears to be less than 10 hours old). Note green slaughter tag, worn when she (mare) crossed the border. Federal laws prohibit transport of heavily pregnant horses to slaughter.
- Violating federal law, U.S. horse with broken leg and unable to bear weight on the leg. Appears to be old injury (no wounding or swelling). Federal laws prohibit transport and slaughter of horse with broken leg.
Date: 10/16/2008
Location: Horse Slaughter Plant, Juarez, Mexico
Observations:

- Extremely emaciated horses, many with USDA green slaughter tags

This plant uses a puntilla knife. The horse is paralyzed but not rendered unconscious for slaughter. Not approved by the European Union.

Conclusion:

This report provides documentation of the numerous ways horse slaughter is inhumane. At the moment a horse is designated a ‘kill horse’ fated for slaughter, handling and treatment change radically from that normally given horses. A ‘kill horse’ is treated with disturbing cruelty, with high levels of violence and aggression, and with apathy and indifference even from those who would normally protect and advocate for the animal’s well-being.

While cruelty and inhumane treatment immediately mushroom for these horses, concern for their safety, health and care are so diminished they are virtually nonexistent.