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Attorney General

State of California  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**



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TO: All District Attorneys

In November, 1998, voters enacted Proposition 6, the Prohibition of Horse Slaughter and Sale of Horsemeat for Human Consumption Act of 1998. Proposition 6, a copy of which is attached, became effective November 4, 1998.

The act establishes two prohibitions: First, it prohibits any person or entity from buying, importing, exporting, holding, giving away, or otherwise accepting any horse from California for the purpose of slaughtering the horse for human consumption. A violation of this section is a felony. Second, horsemeat for human consumption may not be offered for sale in California. A violation of that provision is a misdemeanor for the first offense, and may be charged as a felony for any subsequent offense.

Essentially, individuals, slaughter houses, auction yards, feed lots, or meat packing plants may no longer import or export, buy or sell, receive or give away California horses for slaughter for human consumption. This prohibition would include horses from other states if those horses were originally from California and were exported from the state where the person or entity knew, or should have known, that any part of that animal would be used for the purpose of slaughter for human consumption.

Lastly, and very simply, the sale of horsemeat (or any product containing horsemeat) for human consumption is prohibited in California.

If we may assist you in connection with any questions you may have with regard to enforcement of this new law, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David P. Druliner".

DAVID P. DRULINER  
Chief Assistant Attorney General

For **BILL LOCKYER**  
Attorney General

DPD/vs

Encl.