



The Link between Horse Slaughter and Animal Cruelty



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the animals

Sonja Meadows

Executive Director



At the Auction



Everything changes at the unloading dock of an auction, when someone labels an arriving horse as a so-called “kill horse



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The Pen Area



Slaughter horses of all sizes and genders are put together in overcrowded pens



Crammed together and nervous, quickly things are in an uproar with fighting, biting and kicking.

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➔ Injuries are common.

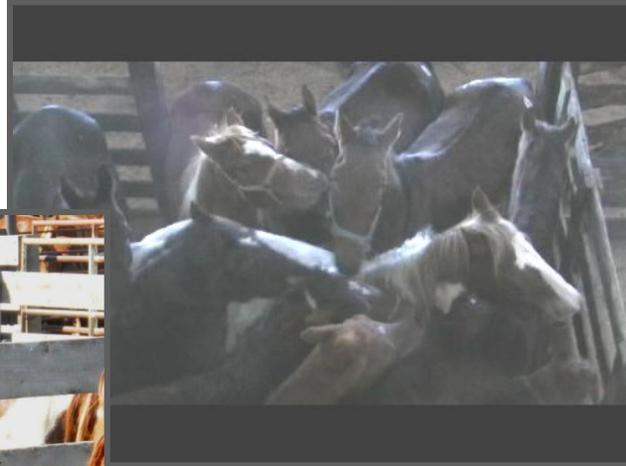


➔ Some even die, after being kicked in the head or trampled.

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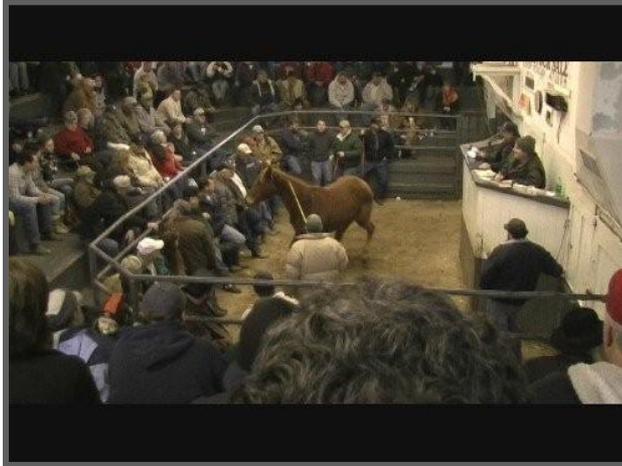
Slaughter Horses are moved:



- In large groups
- With excessive force
- Segregated with heavy hydraulic gates

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The Sale



➔ Slaughter horses are moved in and out of the auction ring very quickly, sold in seconds to the kill buyer.



➔ Slaughter horses are often sold straight from the pens in the back of the auction barn or in the middle of the night when most of the public has left.

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Treatment of sick & injured horses



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Veterinarians & Law Enforcement



At many slaughter sales, veterinarians are present to draw blood for Coggins Testing. However, when being asked to help an injured or sick slaughter horse, many refuse to do anything.



Law Enforcement is very hesitant to enforce the law

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Who supplies slaughter horses?

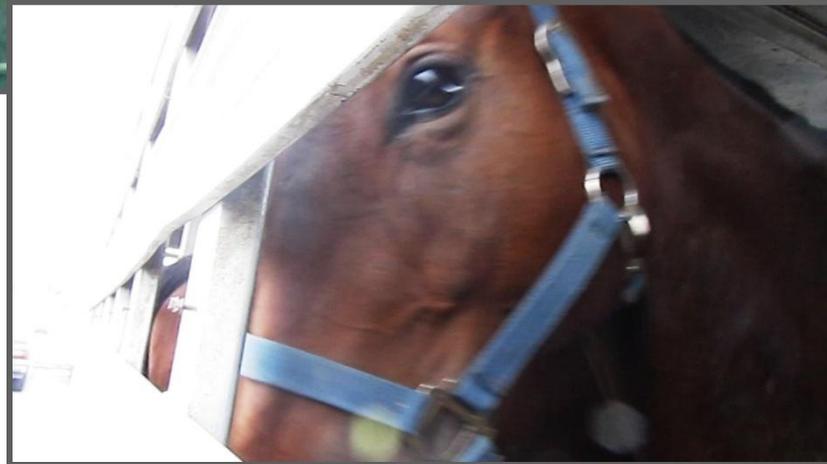


Dispersal Sale: 50 Brood Mares, with foals on their sides, many pregnant again, sold to kill buyers for next to nothing

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➔ Race tracks like Penn National or Charlestown have adopted a “zero-tolerance” non-slaughter policy.



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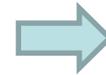
2. Transport



Effective October 7, 2011, all Double Deck Transport of slaughter horses will be illegal.

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Transport Conditions



Areas of Concern:

- Loading Density
- Dividers
- No Water System
- Transport Times
- Open Roof Trailers
- Efficiency of Slaughter Horse Program



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Transport Times



49 USC 80502 - "28 hour law"

Animals may be confined on a trailer for 28 hours without unloading the animals for feeding, water and rest.

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Transport Trailers



9 CFR 88.3

Trailer have to be designed, constructed, and maintained in a manner that at all times protects the health and well-being of the equines being transported...

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How efficient is the Slaughter Horse Transport Program?

From January 2nd, 2002 until April 30, 2011 the following violations have been recorded and fines assessed:



Number of Employees working for the program: 1

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The Feedlots & Collecting Stations



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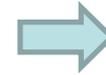


The Horses at Feedlots & Collecting Stations



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Transport to the Slaughter Plant



Before crossing into Canada & Mexico, most horses have to pass inspection by border authorities. Then the trailer is sealed and cannot be opened until arrival at the plant.



Between January – October 2010, **5336** horses were rejected at the border to Mexico.

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Horses rejected at the border



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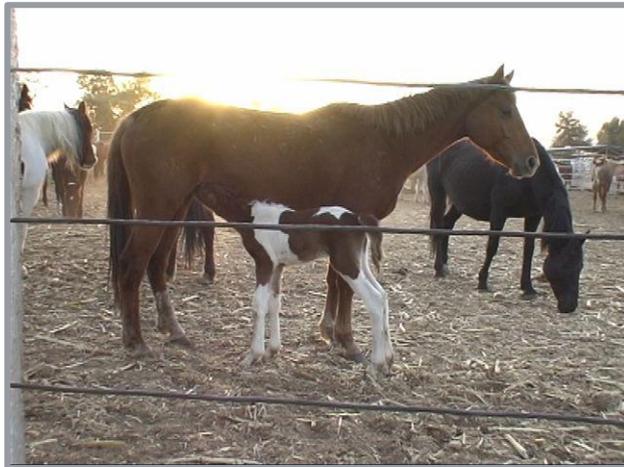
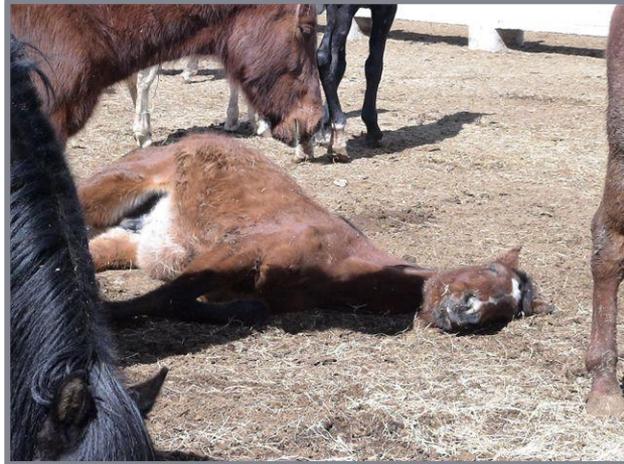
The Slaughter Plants



- Empacadora De Carnes de Fresnillo – Multimeat N.V. Belgium
- Carnicos De Jerez, S.A. de C.V. – Visser & Van Walsum B.V. Belgium
- Intermeats, S.A de C.V. – Chevideco Belgium

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The Holding Pens



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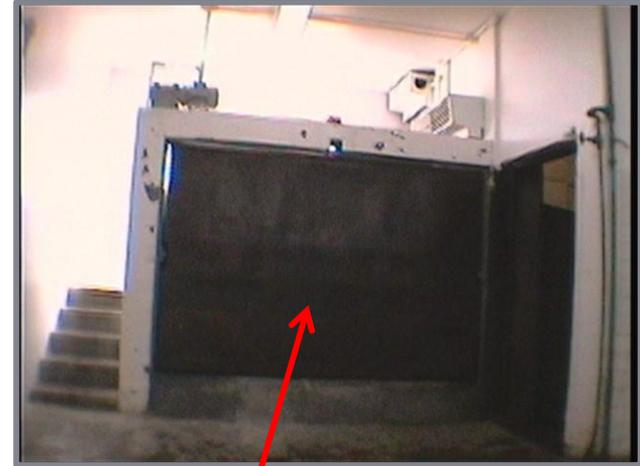


Downer, unable to rise, moved into plant with cable winch



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Inside the Plant



Kill Box



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Slaughter on US Soil – Evidence photographed by USDA investigators

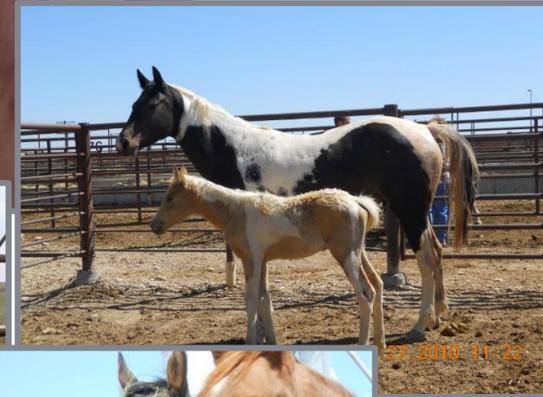


- ➔ ▪ 906 pages of responsive records
- ➔ ▪ All pictures were taken by USDA at the Texas plants between January and November of 2005
- ➔ ▪ Photographs show the most horrific injuries imaginable



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What does all this show us?



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