

I support Docket 98P-0151/CPI

April 30, 2001

yes ✓

Attn: To Whom It May Concern

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So often we don't get involved with a cause until it affects our own life. After reading a letter in the Riverton Ranger about the dog fights that are going on, I don't know how anyone could not Dare to Care much less wait to Care. Such has been the case in the horse slaughterhouse industry. While we have attempted to care for our own a feeding frenzy has been going on and its turned into a raging fire out of control. Slaughterhouse buyers have been coming to Wyoming and buying up horses for slaughter. Not just the sick, diseased and wild horses, but the FAMILY PETS as well. Healthy, fit and happy horses. Due to the recent mad cow disease scare over seas, the demand for horse meat has sharply risen. Europeans & Asians are the biggest buyers with the French having websites advertising theirs. The killer-buyers are paying 3-4 times what a family with a good home could or would give for your horse. They are then loaded on over crowded double decker semi trucks where in most cases, they can not even stand for the duration of their long trip to the slaughter house. Many are trampled to death, including colts, before ever arriveing. Even pregnant mares are taken as foal meat demands the highest price. These horses are not fed or watered as set forth by law. They arrive dieing of thirst, beaten and bruised only to lie down in their own manure from shear exhaustion, awaiting their fate. Even that isn't being done humanely any more. It may be a rod through the head but most likely will be an electric shock (this method usually takes two hits) to the head or hung alive and then their throats cut. If they can't walk they will be tractor pushed or chained and dragged alive to meet their fate. Live hanging and other non-instant methods are a cruel process which violates the cruelty to animals statuates, as does over crowding and non watering. Not to mention, it violates the scriptures as well. But even though our own inspectors have been witness to these atrocities, nothing is being done because these slaughter people are self regulating. These almost solid sided semi trucks are passing through your state and your town, unchecked. Few are watching if any. They are now going as far as to show up on your door steps and not just livestock auctions. Some have been known to answer a "found horse" ad even though the animal does not belong to them. Has anyone looked at the stolen horse numbers in the surrounding areas of the horse processing plants lately, not to mention rural America?? I have a friend in Lander whom put her horses up for sale only to have at least 3 different kill-buyers come knocking. Because of it, she has pulled her horses off the market. Worland is a favorite for the kill-buyers because they have regular horse auctions. My favorite mare was last seen being bid on by a family with a child. Yet when the paper work was uncovered it was discovered she had been purchased by one of the worst in relation to care & largest slaughter plants in the nation; BelTex of Ft. Worth Texas Another deception of the slaughter houses?? Dont bother calling them, they won't return your calls. She NEVER should have been there in the first place. My soul died with her. So before you loose your soul or consider taking your horse to a sale, please consider what is truely happening behind the scenes and by all means, report abuses to the authorities; brand inspectors, Livestock Board, Sheriff, Federal Inspectors, & Federal Trade commissioner in Cheyenne. And demand that these representatives act on them. Notify surrounding states authorities if you know where they are headed. Brand inspectors and livestock boards need to be inspecting the trucks which pass through and see if they are compliant and the animals are being cared for. All agencies even unto the Federal level need to be updated and encouraged to do this. Passing the buck because of the almighty dollar is not responsible behavior. The laws are there to be inforced and these animals have a need to be treated humanely. If you have stocks in the stock market call your stock broker and tell him or her that you do not wish to own stock in the horse slaughter industry regardless of the nature. Be it trucking, sales, slaughter house, or other related businesses. Have your broker put your money in another resource. If you have a computer, please read, "The Last Roundup" @emagazine. Jan-Feb article We need to support legislature now, making the known sale of a horse for human consumption illegal & get signed affidavits from buyers that this is not their intent. Then if it does happen we will have some recourse. We need to encourage our State and Federal elected officials to inact a law that would require a minimum 10 day adoption waiting period before a healthy horse can be slaughtered much like the laws we have in place for the dog shelters. Double background checks may reveal that the horse does not need to be slaughtered after all. But above all, we need to Dare to Care before this disaster turns crisis.

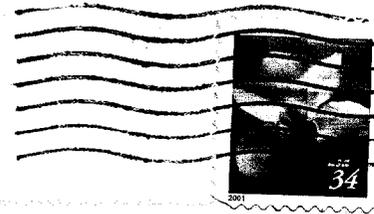
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98P-0151



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