

Press release



SPA Canada supports Bill C-322 concerning the slaughter of horses for human consumption

For immediate release

Ottawa, December 8, 2011

"The last images (*Canadian Horse Defence Coalition*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSI546eTX4o>) we have witnessed last Sunday show, one more time, the atrocious suffering imposed on animals and the violation of their well-being in Canadian horse slaughterhouses." stated Gabriel Villeneuve, Campaign Director with SPA Canada. We're asking the government an Act to amend the *Health of Animals Act* and the *Meat Inspection Act* (slaughter of horses for human consumption).

October 5th, 2011, the Federal NDP *Agriculture Critic*, deputy Alex Atamanenko, reintroduced a bill that would put an end to the cruelty and danger of the slaughter industry of horses as human feed. The new proposed legislation is the bill C-322. In 2010 Canada killed nearly 100,000 horses, the majority coming from the United States, where at the time the law prohibited this practice. In 2010 Canada exported a total of 15, 733 tons of horse meat to several countries of the world.

We know that the equine meat products are at risk to contain substances prohibited and toxic to human beings. Horses are not raised as animals intended for food and most of them are exposed to different drugs (as with racehorses who often receive medicines for leg wounds) and also phenylbutazone also known as bute. In an article published in the magazine *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, the researcher Nicholas Dodman, Nicolas Blondeau and Ann M. Marini, state in their work of the grave risks that the administration of phenylbutazone represents to public health when given to horses intended for slaughter.

The horses suffer terribly in the slaughterhouses. A video clip of a secret investigation that was carried out recently revealed the kind of cruelty which horses undergo in Canadian slaughterhouses day after day. The *Canadian Horse Defence Coalition one Equine Slaughter* published a preliminary report on these unacceptable practices: "Pasture to Plate: The true Cost's of Canada's Horsemeat Industry" (<http://canadianhorsedefencecoalition.wordpress.com/pasture-to-plate/>).

To protect the health and safety of animals and humans, SPA Canada asks the House of Commons in Ottawa and the CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) to bring forward and adopt the legislative measures suitable for the C-322 Bill, thus prohibiting the importation or exportation of horses for slaughter for human consumption as well as horse meat products for human consumption.

"For several years, the citizens have asked for the closing of horse slaughterhouses in our country. It would be a unique opportunity for the Government of Canada to listen to the Canadian people. And also an opportunity to polish its image on the international scene, regarding its position on animal rights and welfare." added Mr. Villeneuve.

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SPA Canada will be happy to grant media interviews. For further information, please contact:

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