

# EXHIBIT 34

## Life In A Slaughter Town: Kaufman, Texas (13 images)

*Credit: Vickery Eckhoff/N*

*Date: January 08, 2012*

In pictures: Life next door to the Dallas Crown horse slaughter plant in Kaufman, Texas



As Mayor from 2003-2007, Paula Bacon helped shut Dallas Crown, ending decades of extreme environmental violations by the horse slaughterhouse, which is owned by the Belgian meat packer, Chevideco.

"They said they were good corporate citizens," Bacon states in a recent interview. "I believe it's more accurate to describe them as corporate thugs."





Dallas Crown Horse Slaughter Plant—Kaufman, Texas (2005)

Official and city staff documents describe Dallas Crown's pervasive environmental violations, including "blood flowing east and west in the ditches from your plant," "It has been over 59 days and no apparent cleanup has occurred," "Your system has not improved and subsequently it has gotten a lot worse," "Words cannot express the seriousness" of recent violations and the "adverse effects on the waste water treatment plant," and "Please be sure trailers are secured before leaving your premises to prevent spills," noting also "bones and blood laying in front of the facility," problems with bones and parts in neighboring yards and the attraction of "dogs and other animals."

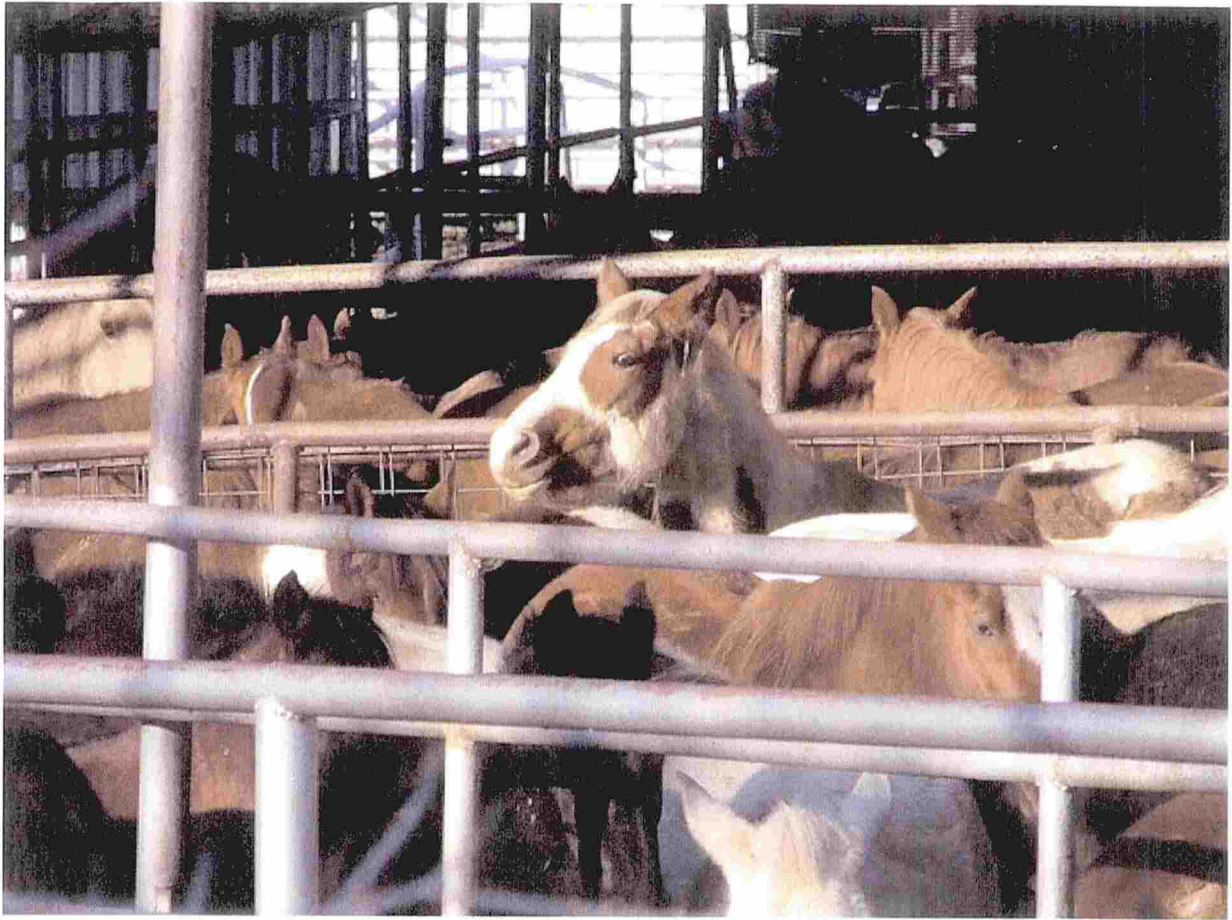
Handling Dallas Crown's sewage was about to cost Kaufman \$6 million for a new waste water treatment plant. Within two weeks of the plant's closure, waste water plant capacity increased dramatically.



Dead Horse On Forklift At Dallas Crown Slaughter Plant—Kaufman, Texas (2005)

In 1986, Dallas Crown's plant manager promised to slaughter only out-of-state horses that had outlived their usefulness. These would be killed "in a fraction of a second," with a captive-bolt device, he claimed. Other promises included having a "USDA inspector on site each day to ensure that the plant operates under government regulations and the plant will work under the guidance of the humane society."





Dallas Crown Holding Pens—Kaufman, Texas (2006)

Although Dallas Crown violated humane laws by accepting blind, lame, severely injured and untreated, sick horses from kill buyers, most of the horses slaughtered were healthy and fat, as residents of Kaufman observed by regularly watching the pens.

“There were all these shiny, groomed horses. Who shoes a horse and sends it to slaughter?” asks Bacon. “Someone had cared for and about these horses only a few days earlier.”

“The stench was terrible,” says Jualine Eldridge, a nurse at Texas Health Resources Presbyterian Kaufman. She and her husband, Robert Eldridge, a respiratory therapist, own property abutting the plant, in a low-income black neighborhood. “The noise from clanging and whinnying when they unloaded the horses at midnight was just awful,” he says.



Dallas Crown Horses—Kaufman, Texas (2005)

“There were great horse properties for sale in Kaufman back when the plant was operating, with sandy soil and big, mature trees and really great prices—just what my clients from the Dallas-Fort Worth area with horses were asking for,” says Paula Hooper Denmon, of Town and Country Girls Real Estate. “But they wouldn’t buy in Kaufman. They were afraid they’d come home from work and find their barns empty. They didn’t even want to drive into town. It was tainted.”

WARNING: NEXT TWO IMAGES (# 6-7) ARE EXTREMELY GRAPHIC



Dallas Crown Humane Violations—Kaufman, Texas (2005)

From Jan. 1 – Nov. 17, 2005, USDA inspectors at Dallas Crown photographed violations committed under the Commercial Transport of Equines Slaughter Act, but didn't act on them, according to a [906-page USDA document](#) for that period obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

The document showed extensive, injuries, some intentionally inflicted by kill buyers and transporters, like eyes gouged out to keep horses from fighting on the trailers, especially since stallions were packed in next to geldings and mares. Both mares and geldings were also subjected to intentional blinding.



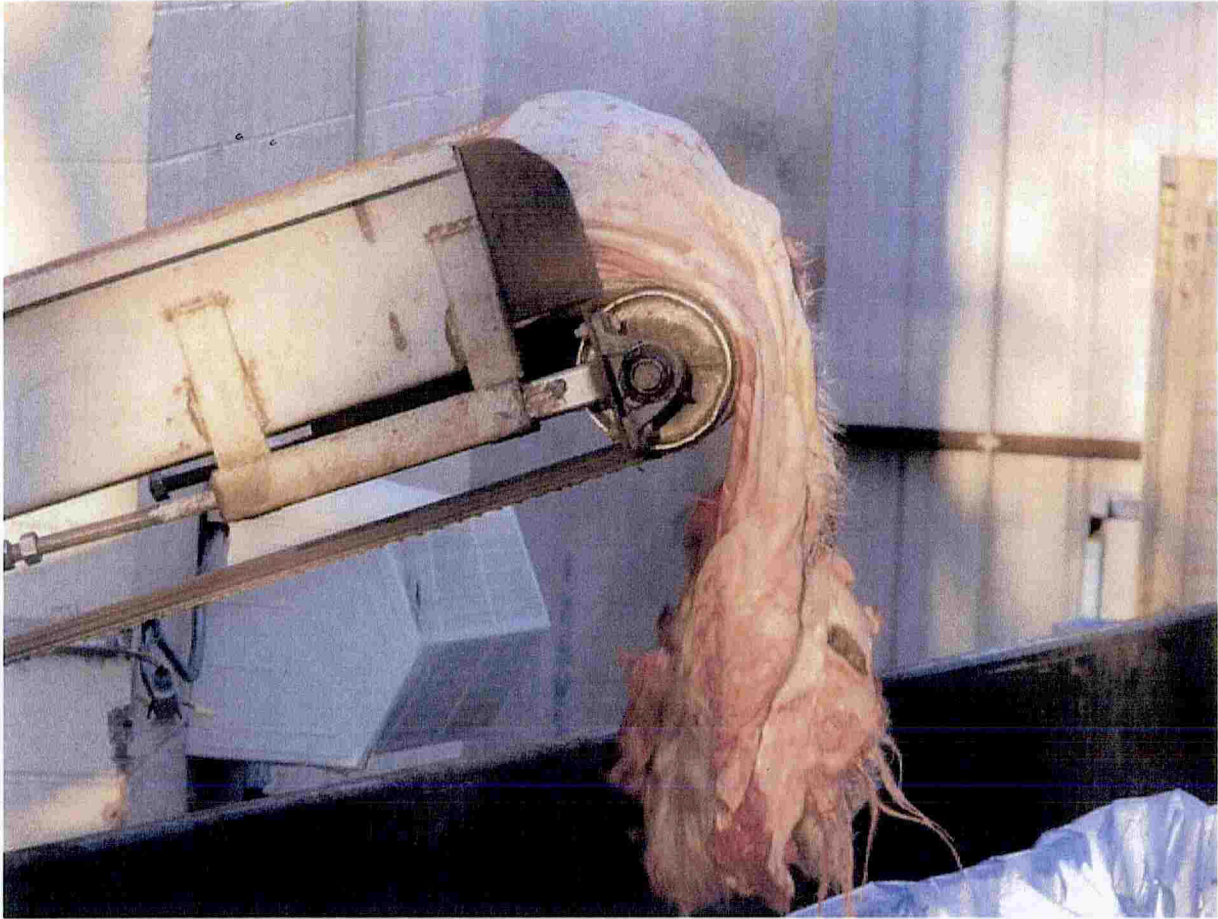


Dallas Crown Humane Violations—Kaufman, Texas (2005)

Horses suffering from severed legs, compound fractures, head and other serious injuries, still births and death by trampling in double-decker trailers were some of the many photographs captured in the [906-page USDA document](#).

No licenses were revoked and no penalties were assessed until 2008, when one buyer, Leroy Baker of Ohio, was ordered to pay \$162,800—but refused, calling the charges “bogus.” In May, 2011, following public pressure, the US District Court for the Northern District of Ohio ordered garnishment of Baker’s bank accounts to collect the outstanding monies.





Dallas Crown Offal Container—Kaufman, Texas (2006)

- Open containers of bloody hides, horse heads, legs and offal were left outside and also transported, leaking blood, through the community. “Seeing horses’ carcasses on the conveyor belt would break anyone’s heart,” says Jualine Eldridge.



600-Gallon Blood Spill Outside Dallas Crown Plant—Kaufman, Texas (2003)

“Sometimes, when they killed, they didn’t move the container for a week. That’s how long it took to fill it with guts,” says Robert Eldridge. “The longer it sat, the more it stunk, the more flies and vermin it attracted.”

Julie Caramante, an independent equine cruelty investigator from Houston, describes following a Dallas Crown rig and seeing body parts fall on the highway. “The cops pulled it over. I watched as the driver was forced to climb down into the container to secure the load,” says Caramante.





Jualine Eldridge, Robert Eldridge and Mayor Paula Bacon (2005)

Kaufman-born Robert Eldridge and his wife, Jualine Eldridge, have lived in the "Boggy Bottom" neighborhood bordering the plant since 1985. In September, 2005, Jualine and Robert traveled with Mayor Bacon to Capitol Hill to speak out on the plant's effect on their neighborhood, property and town.

"One by one, our neighbors couldn't take it and left the neighborhood. It was horrible," Robert Eldridge says. "It stunk like manure and decaying flesh. Everybody was affected. The kids didn't want to go out and play."

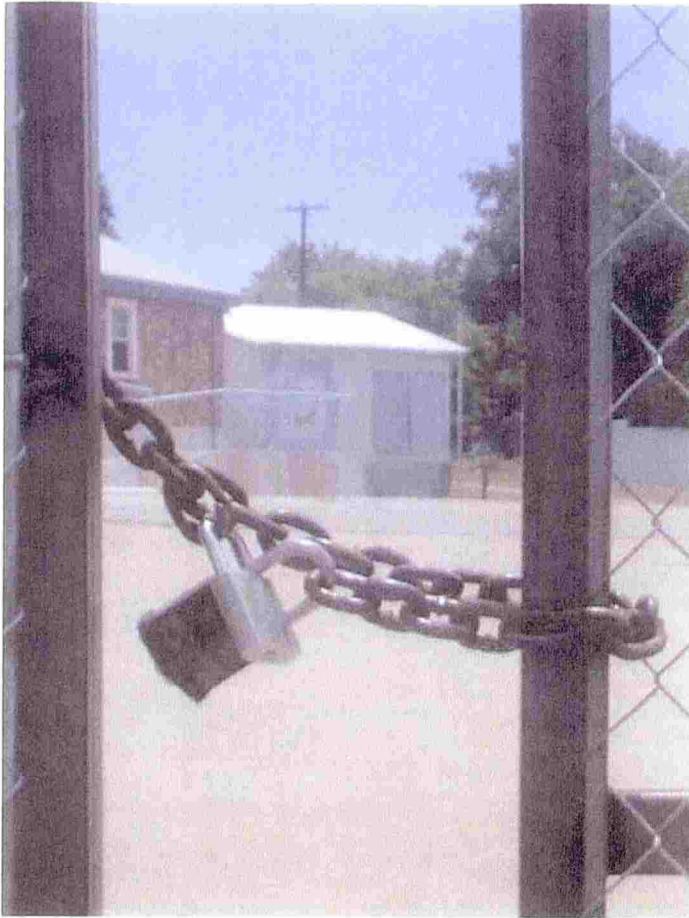
Jualine said, "It was all about money for Dallas Crown. They wanted the plant, but not in their own backyards. Just like Beltex, which was in a low-income Hispanic neighborhood in Fort Worth. They didn't care about us."





Vulture in Tree—Kaufman, Texas (2005)

Vultures, snakes, rats, cockroaches and flies plagued neighbors while Dallas Crown was operating. "We get an occasional vulture now," Robert Eldridge.



Dallas Crown Horse Slaughter Plant—Kaufman, Texas (2007)

The Website of Dallas Crown's Belgian owner, Chevideco, features the Kaufman plant alongside five other worldwide slaughterhouses operating today in Belgium, Romania, France, Argentina and Mexico.

“Chevideco Nv has clear engagements concerning a dignified treatment of live animals, both during transport and during their stay in the slaughterhouse. At the moment of purchase, Chevideco Nv pays utmost heed to a qualitative selection of the animals. Both during and after the slaughtering, the veterinary services guarantee the inspection of the meat intended for human consumption. All operations within Chevideco are subject to the most stringent HACCP quality standards and IFS 2009-2010 standards. The entire process takes place under the most rigorous hygienic and animal-friendly conditions.”

From “respect for animals,” one of four main sub-pages featured on Chevideco's Web site homepage

New product development includes “a new branch of the meat industry, viz. the transformation of meat offal into pet food,” says [Chevideco's web site](#).





Town Square With New Shops and Cafes—Kaufman, Texas (2012)

Kaufman is being revitalized since Dallas Crown's closing. Property crimes fell by half, real estate prices have gone up and the town has been in a development and expansion phase. There's a new Baptist church youth community center built near the Dallas Crown facility and an 80-unit affordable senior-citizen apartment complex spearheaded by the Kaufman Neighborhood Development Organization, Inc., a non-profit organization.

"We go outside, now. We can barbecue and the kids can play. There's a much better smell," says Robert Eldridge. "If they ever try and come back," he added, "we'll fight them. We're not giving up our neighborhood. We won't let them come back."