

EXHIBIT 35

Forbes



Vickery Eckhoff, Contributor

LIFESTYLE 12/06/2011 @ 10:21AM | 10,969 views

Horse Slaughterhouse Investigation Sounds Food Safety and Cruelty Alarms

(Part Three Of A Series)

Undercover footage and photos taken at a Canadian slaughter facility designed by Dr. Temple Grandin were released Monday by the Canadian Horse Defence Coalition (CHDC). ("Defence" not a typo).

The footage and accompanying report raise troubling issues just two weeks after President Barack Obama signed into law a spending bill that reversed a previous ban on funding USDA inspections for horse slaughter facilities in the U.S. The bill allows slaughter plants to reopen.



Screenshot from CHDC undercover slaughter video. Scroll down for video player.

Roy Blunt (R-MO), Jack Kingston (R-GA), and Herb Kohl (D-WI) orchestrated the reversal in a closed-door session by excising specific language that had banned the funding of inspections in five previous years. All three legislators come from states that plan to open slaughter facilities within the year and possibly within months.

Implications of Reinstating USDA Inspections

President Obama signed the spending bill to prevent a government shut-down, despite a 2008 campaign promise to end horse slaughter cruelty—an issue opposed by 70% of U.S. citizens. His November 18 signature on the bill comes at a price.

No funding has been earmarked for the inspections in the appropriations bill and the estimated \$5 million price tag will be paid by U.S. taxpayers even though all the meat will be exported to foreign markets. This will take away from funding for vital food assistance, food safety and education programs on which many U.S. families rely.

Beyond the nation's capital, however, the bill combined with the findings of the CHDC investigation have profound implications for working and pleasure horses and wild mustangs in danger of entering the U.S. slaughter pipeline. Consumers of U.S. horsemeat also need to be wary.

Serious Food Safety Issues Confirmed by CHDC Investigation

The CHDC's report reveals troubling discrepancies and missing data on Equine Information Documents (EIDs), forms that are required by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to track the drug history of horses sold for slaughter, including more than 59,693 trucked in from the U.S. in 2010. (USDA figure)

EID documents examined by the CHDC contain missing and incomplete information on the horses' previous owners or agents and misidentification of horses in accompanying photographs. At least six of the horses had previously raced, according to findings, with one racing within three months prior to slaughter.

This is alarming from a food safety perspective due to drugs that are banned in animals raised for slaughter but are regularly administered by horse owners and veterinarians, including common wormers, vaccines, diuretics and analgesics.

This includes the non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drug, Phenylbutazone (also known as "bute"), a painkiller given to 90% of U.S. horses and nearly all racehorses on and before race day. Bute is a known human carcinogen. With no acceptable withdrawal period, even a single dose in any animal sold for meat is banned by the EU, FDA and USDA. And bute is only one problem drug, among many.

Within the EU, an equine "passport" is required of any horse intended for slaughter beginning at the age of six months. The EID is an interim program for horsemeat imported from outside the EU. Its purpose is to weed out horses that have been administered these banned drugs.

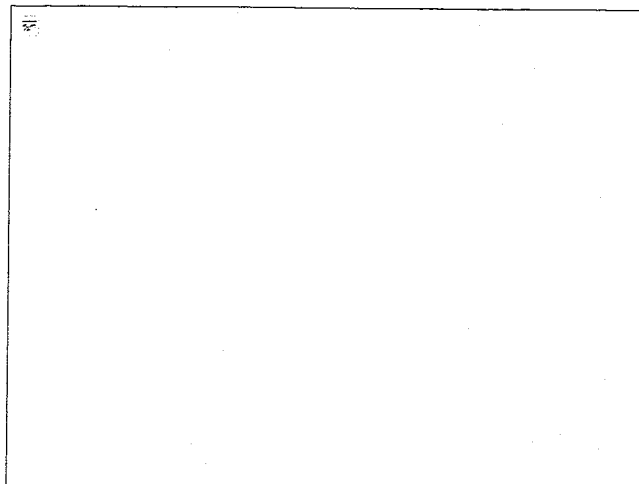
But the CHDC's new documentation, along with previous findings, show a history of violations on the part of slaughterhouses working in collaboration with U.S. kill buyers to cover up the horses' origins and falsify their drug profiles.

Representatives of the U.S. horse slaughter industry have successfully downplayed the food safety issues. But the CHDC's new investigation has put a spotlight on them, where they will be scrutinized by an already skeptical EU field veterinary office.

Dr. Temple Grandin Reviews Undercover Slaughterhouse Video

Also alarming in the CHDC's investigation are undercover videos showing apparently ineffective stunning methods designed for the Canadian slaughter facility by U.S. livestock behavior and welfare authority, Dr. Temple Grandin of Colorado State University.

Dr. Grandin has received accolades for her work to bring the most humane methods available to the slaughter of livestock. Her goal is to reduce both fear and stress in animals in the chute and stun box and to ensure a quick, humane stun so they can be bled out and butchered in a deep, unconscious state.



But the videos received by the CHDC indicate that, even in a state-of-the-art slaughter facility, at least 40% of the horses in the stun box were not rendered immediately unconscious, or revived after stunning.

Reached at home on Sunday evening, December 4, Dr. Grandin agreed to watch the videos and comment on what she saw with this writer. She watched once while I took notes and then we simultaneously watched them three more times, discussing play-by-play footage of horses slipping on floors, vocalizing and remaining standing despite being stunned repeatedly on various parts of their heads.

How many stuns are acceptable? Under the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, Sec. 1902, there can only be a "single blow or gunshot" that renders the animals "insensible to pain" before he or she is shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast or cut. (There is only one exception and that is for ritual slaughter done pursuant to a religious faith.)

Regulation Sec. 313.50 talks about a stunning blow, meaning one. The blow is to be administered so as to produce "immediate unconsciousness" in the animal prior to shackling etc. (a)(3) "Immediately after the stunning blow is delivered, the animals shall be in a state of complete unconsciousness and remain in this condition throughout shackling, sticking and bleeding". The stunning itself is to be done so the animal is "rendered unconscious with a minimum of excitement and discomfort."

Among the footage of horses Dr. Grandin and I reviewed was a large Belgian horse shot 11 times, and numerous horses whinnying after being stunned. One whinnied twice after each of two shots, but no third stunning attempt was made.

Dr. Grandin commented throughout on the lack of non-slip floors and their importance in reducing animal fear and stress, but she expressed satisfaction with the stunning process, even when the horses appeared to revive.

When asked if this constituted a failure of the captive-bolt device or her design, she said that each of the horses had "gone down" on the first shot and that any subsequent movement could be attributed to spinal activity, which she described as still functional for as much as five minutes after brain incapacity.

When asked specifically about the additional stuns being administered, she stated that these appeared to be delivered as "insurance." Even so, she

expressed 90% certainty that the horses were effectively stunned the first time. Her one reservation was that she could not see the horse's faces and check their eyes and mouths to be sure—something that the angle of the video camera did not allow.

Overall, her main dissatisfaction was that the horses appeared to be in a cattle box as opposed to a horse box, that the floors weren't non-slip and that the captive-bolt gun may not have been properly maintained. She also commented on the importance of workers placing the gun in the proper position on the horse's head, something that they did not appear to do in the instances where the horses were repeatedly stunned. Consistently, however, she felt the process worked as intended.

When asked if she felt that the move to reopen slaughterhouses in the U.S. was justified, she said that it was better than the fate of horses being shipped to Mexico. She also said that no one had contacted her since the appropriations bill had been signed to design any horse slaughterhouses on U.S. soil. Our talk ended after 50 minutes.

Grandin Viewpoint of Humane Stunning Disputed

Neither I nor Dr. Grandin listened to the videos with the volume turned up to its highest level of amplification—but doing so reveals a lot about what is happening between the horses and the workers charged with killing them that cannot be heard at a normal level of volume. In particular, the worker who shot the large Belgian can be heard saying, “aye, you're not dead” after seven shots, then exchanging his small gun for a larger one and shooting the horse four more times in the head. This directly contradicts Dr. Grandin's finding that the horses were all properly unconscious on the first attempt, a vital condition of legally humane slaughter.

Other observers also contradict Dr. Grandin's assessment. Dr. Nicholas Dodman, an anesthesiologist and veterinary behaviorist at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, audited the footage as well for the CHDC. “My final conclusion, after reviewing 150-plus horse slaughters in this series of videos, is that the process was terrifying for most of the horses and, in many cases, horribly inhumane,” he states.

Dr. Dodman continues, “At this slaughterhouse, in cases where a second shot was required, most humane standards, in my opinion, were not met.”

Both videos and report from Les Viandes de la Petite-Nation Inc. slaughterhouse in Quebec can be accessed through the CHDC's [web site](#).

Please note: the CHDC footage is as disturbing as undercover video shot in less technologically-advanced slaughterhouses, both in Canada and the U.S. In either case, watching is essential to understanding the food safety and humane issues now being disputed by the horse slaughter industry.

This is the third post in a series on Thoroughbreds, horse racing and the state of the horse industry. For more on this topic, visit [my personal blog](#) or these other Forbes.com posts:

[Racing Industry Silent on Slaughtered Thoroughbreds](#)

[Saving Princess Madeline—A Racehorse's Tale](#)

[How Many Congressmen Does It Take To Screw A Horse?](#)

[Who's Who in Capitol Hill's Horse Meat Power Posse](#) (photo gallery)