



STOP HORSE SLAUGHTER IN OKLAHOMA AND THE US. STOP THE SHIPMENT OF 160,000 HORSES PER YEAR ACROSS OUR BORDERS FOR SLAUGHTER IN MEXICO & CANADA.

HORSE SLAUGHTER IN OKLAHOMA

Horse Slaughter in Oklahoma

Evidence & Facts to the Contrary:

- We are not slaughtering old, diseased horses.
- 92% of all horses slaughtered are between the ages of 18 months and 7 years, (often mares with their babies at their side) in excellent health and have no diseases or behavioral issues. Foreigners do not eat old diseased horses but demand our best horses.
- Canada has FOUR horse slaughter plants and yet they still have serious issues with starvation, abandonment and neglect. Failed business model already exists. Would be no different here.
- Senator Allen cites 60 abandoned horses per year from Le Flore, county. They belong to the same man! Enforce the Laws in Allen's county. If all 77 Oklahoma counties have 60 abandoned horses per year and 4600 horses per year statewide. One slaughterhouse kills 100 horses per day. That's 46 days of operation annually. No need for a "plant."

Drugs in Horses Won't Affect Humans?

- US have a no "horse passport process" to track drugs given to horses.
- We rely on kill buyers' word: who say the horses are all drug free.
- Drugs like Bute (phenylbutazone) are "aspirin" to a horse but carcinogenic to humans.
- FDA says drugs do not leave the horse's system after 6 months. No safe withdrawal period.
- FDA officially claims horses to be companion animals just like our dogs and cats.
- Europe has banned the import of all horsemeat from the US due to drugs in our horses.
- 143 million pounds of horsemeat has already entered the US and the government won't say where it went. (journalist made calls)



Horse Slaughter, Good Economic Growth?

- Citizens of Missouri drove out the Belgium slaughter company Chevideco and their US business partner Sue Wallis (House Rep. from Wyoming) before they got a foothold. The same company got into Kaufman, Texas and opened the Dallas Crown plant
- Skye McNeil recently admitted on K100.5 radio that the Kaufman, Texas situation was hideous but blamed it on a bad company that wouldn't be involved in Oklahoma plants. Former Mayor of Kaufman says Oklahoma is doing business with the same Belgium family that was in her Texas town.
- There are only a couple of horse slaughter companies in the world and they can all be traced to Olivier Kemseke of Chevideco in Belgium.

Kaufman, Texas experience

- Destroyed economic growth
- Destroyed their sewer and water infrastructure.
- Kaufman spent \$6Mil to accommodate their slaughter plant that made 12 million in revenue; paid \$5 in taxes
- 458 violations in 19 months
- Blood backed up into people bathtubs
- In Fort Worth's Beltex plant blood was dumped into creeks and clogged sewer lines
- Crime rates tripled because, Mayor Bacon said, "killing animals that you're supposed to love, brutalizes people."
- Less than 200 jobs added nationwide with 3 plants open
- Took years in court to get them out of Kaufman.
- 21 years for the city to recover economically
- Same Belgium company opened a Canadian plant and left a 300,000 gallon lagoon of blood and body parts
- Boone Pickens said: "People that are for slaughter should be forced to go down on that kill floor. The whole thing, it's a boondoggle on the American people"

Are the Choice Slaughterhouses in Mexico/Canada vs. Slaughter in US?

- The choice isn't *where* to slaughter, it's euthanasia versus slaughter. And, it's about responsible breeding.
- 160,000 horses slaughtered each year. 30,000 Thoroughbreds; 70,000 quarter horses. 21,000 horses come from Oklahoma (with the majority of 21,000 being shipped in from out of state to be mixed in at the kill buyer feed lots and auctions before shipping...the majority are NOT from Oklahoma and bring risk of equine

diseases when they come in to the state in bulk loads from race tracks, breeding facilities and other auctions).

- Overbreeding is the problem—like puppy mills.
- Government incents over-breeding with tax write offs.



- EU captive bolt method of slaughter which would be used in US is still inhumane and often requires 7-9 shots in the head to kill the horse.
- U.S. is a large country so horses would still be shipped great distances just to be slaughtered. Kill buyers and shipper violations fill 70 pages worth of welfare violation in 2012 alone. They will not change their methods of care just because plant is in U.S.
- USDA and APHIS FOIA report reveals ONLY 199 inspections of feedlots, reject pens, slaughter bound horses and welfare during shipping were carried out the last THREE YEARS.
- Over 13,000 horses rejected at Mexico/US border by Mexico Veterinarians and Inspectors in ONE YEAR alone for being too thin, sickly, parasitic, or severely injured during transport. They do NOT take starving old horses.

Conclusion:

- We breed too many horses in this country
- Responsible breeders don't want to breed more than they can afford. Irresponsible breeders want to breed more than they need, keep the best and kill the rest.

- Pro slaughter says it's their right to kill 160,000 per year nationwide.
- Anti-slaughter says euthanize them and render/bury them; don't slaughter.

Solutions:

- To euthanize a horse humanely, and have it transported to a rendering plant/burial site DOA costs of \$200-\$300 instead of the hourly rate of animal welfare people and police.
- I have spoken to two Oklahoma companies who can handle the pick-up of thousands of euthanized horses and, through government certified means, render, bury or sell the body parts. Each company assured me that at no tax payer expense and with only additional hoists and trucks, they could handle 10,000+ per company per year.
- Enforce the existing laws, fine the owner (note: good ole boys don't like to arrest the fellow they know)
- Pass a law to microchip all horses and keep them in database; finding the owner is then easy.
- If the owner can't pay, confiscate the horse, work with rescue/rehab, hold an annual auction for owner-buyers who aren't kill buyers, or if the horse is too diseased, euthanize him





Stop overbreeding:

- If you're going to incentivize breeding, then create tax breaks for owners who euthanize & remove carcasses to rendering plant.
- Charge every horse buyer and breeder a \$50 surcharge per horse to fund the gelding of stallions for owners who can't afford it, or basic vet care for confiscated horses.
- Incent vet clinics to develop a program of gelding, rescue or euthanasia.

The scalability of euthanasia:

- Horse slaughter plants can slaughter 100 horses a day and it's a terrorizing experience. Vet administered euthanasia can do the same but without the blood-letting and multiple bolts/shots to the head.
- A euthanized horse is dead on arrival at the rendering plant/burial site; a slaughterhouse horse arrives alive and is often semi-conscious when dismembered. (Meat can't be eaten either way!)
- **Paula Bacon on what slaughter looks like:** "Behind the privacy fences of these plants, trucks arrived continuously and on those trucks was every form of inhumane violation one can imagine from mares birthing foals to horses with eyes dangling from their sockets and legs ripped from their bodies. The more I learn about horse slaughter, the more certain I am: There is no justification for horse slaughter in this country."

- **Sec. of Agriculture Tom Vilsack** called on congress to come up with alternatives to slaughtering horses for meat. He cited programs in Iowa when he was governor that had inmates working with horses for the rehabilitation of both.
- **Boone Pickens said:** "They're thinking their horse will go to some nice family. But those killer buyers, when they buy at auction, it's just a matter of hours before the horse is slaughtered.
- The horse has an intelligence level higher than a dog's making it a companion animal and not a meat source.
- The horse helped us conquer our enemies, clear our land, bring coal from our mines, lumber from our forests, build our railroads, teach our children, carried mounted police on patrol, carried crippled children in therapy programs and taught our young people caring and patience.
- We name our horses, they're our partners and they are not a meat source.

OKC Capitol Supporters with Conflicts of Interest?

- Thoroughbreds and quarter horses are 70% of slaughtered horses. So those breeding organizations & horse racing industry support
- Farm Bureau wants to turn horses, our companion animals, in an agricultural product and export to Mexico and Canada and Asia—recent Sooner poll shows 66% of their rural members are OPPOSED to horse slaughter!
- Cattlemen have been fired up about their rights—freedom to bear arms, kill animals, etc.
- Two of our legislators have livestock auction houses that will benefit; Livestock auction barns become the auction for kill buyers. Many people have tried to bid and win at these auctions but report inability to do so because kill buyers are favored as continuing customers. Kill buyers want the meat and don't want families to have the horses, this has been reported by people who tried to

save beautiful horses from the kill buyers

- Some of our other legislators would have investment stakes in the slaughterhouses themselves.
 - McNeil claimed on House floor on Feb. 20th that it costs between \$500 and \$1000 to euthanize your horse and that does not include disposal. That is NOT TRUE. Note: Bristow, OK (McNeil's area) Equine Medical Hospital was quoted on Feb. 22nd with the following:
 - FARM CALL: \$50.00
 - EUTHANASIA via injection (1200 adult horse as example): \$150.00
- PICKUP and DISPOSAL: \$200.00
TOTAL COST: \$400.00

Conclusion:

- An ugly industry which legislators, foreign plant owners and livestock auction barns benefit. It is an inhumane end to an animal never meant as a meat source and it will tank our state.

Update:

- USDA horsemeat inspection may be defunded thanks to Vilsack, Moran and Obama.
- Levitics 11.3: "Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is cloven-footed, and cheweth cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat" The horse does not have a split hoof and does not chew cud. Slaughtering the horse for human consumption is against God's word.
Written by Harry Bare

