

The Reality of Horse Slaughter

By Karen Pomroy

“The abuse of a harmless thing is the essence of sin” - Awtozer (1897-1963)

Imagine being cattle prodded with an electric shot, and forced into a double decker trailer so cramped that you can't breathe. You look around and dozens of horses, all shapes and sizes, all colors and breeds, some with missing tissue, broken legs, injured eyes and some with every protruding rib visible. You have no idea where this trip will lead, but you know it will not be a good ending. You travel for days, without food or water and arrive somewhere across a border, in a lot that reeks of blood, urine and fear. You have reached hell. You are loaded off the trailer, some horses too weak to stand, they are cattle prodded and dragged to the kill pen.

The screams are deafening, and the smells are like no other, a far cry from the smell of green pasture on which you once grazed. As the horses are forced up the ramp, you know they will not come out alive. They have reached a hell that no living creature should reach! It's your turn. You can't fight. You can't run. You must follow the horse directly in front of you. Fear does not describe the emotions you feel.

As you are forced around the corner, you see your equine friends being stunned in the head with a “captive bolt gun”. A gun with a large metal spike so fierce it can render one unconscious. Blood is everywhere.

The screams become even louder.

All of the horses are fighting for their lives. It may take seven times for the butcher to hit the “perfect” spot on her forehead to render the beautiful pregnant mare unconscious. The others you see are being shackled and hung while still alive and struggling. Their throats are slit, and they feel every bit of pain. You are next. There is no where to go. You close your eyes and hope that you receive a miracle, and you won’t endure the pain and blood shed you’ve just witnessed. But you know that you are not exempt from this brutal practice. It’s your turn, and you soon realize the “captive bolt”, the inhumane metal spike is faulty, and you are conscious while you are being shackled, hung, bled out, and your body is being dismembered. It turns dark, and it’s over.

Over 100,000 American horses are being slaughtered each year in Canada, Mexico, Japan and other Asian and European Countries. Horse meat is considered a delicacy in countries overseas, and many individuals will pay as much as \$30 per pound for what Europeans consider a specialized meat of choice. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 92% of the horses coming from the U.S. are sound, healthy and able to perform functions humans demand. Since the closing of the three slaughter plants in the U.S., a majority of the public thinks our horses are no longer being sent to their brutal death.

What they don’t realize is that our horses are cattle prodded in double-decker trailers and forced to endure a fate that is beyond comprehension. Although horses are not being slaughtered in the U.S. yet, horse slaughter is alive and well in Mexico and Canada, and the Japanese love the babies shipped alive only to be butchered behind their restaurants, the fresher the meat, the better! Restaurant patrons can pick a colt or filly of their choice, just like we do here in the U.S. when we choose our fresh lobster from the tank. Shortly after the foal is chosen, a⁴⁷ freshly prepared dish of horse meat is served.

Facts About Slaughter:

Slaughter is a symptom of the problem of over-breeding resulting in over-population. The drug industry and breeding organizations have no reason to stop the production of thousands of foals each year. Those that don't "turn out" as planned are sold for a minimum to slaughter.

- Slaughtered horses are not at the end of their lives. U.S. Department of Agriculture data states 92% of horses arriving at slaughter are healthy, sound and can be re-homed.
- Slaughter does not provide a humane service for "unwanted" horses. They are disposable and a cash crop for an industry that exists solely because a profit stands to be made in filling the demand in foreign countries for horseflesh. The market demand will be filled by companies and individuals who stand to profit from horse slaughter.
- Horses suffer tremendously during transport to slaughter. Since slaughter is the end of the road, the drivers and "Killer Buyers" have no sympathy, empathy and compassion.
- Horses are not bred or raised for slaughter and have been accustomed to close human contact, accentuating their horrific suffering as they are cast off to slaughter.
- Inhumane conditions and treatment of horses being transported and slaughtered in U.S. slaughter plants has been documented on video and photos. The U.S. slaughter plants are as inhumane as those in Canada and Mexico.
- Horse slaughter is NOT humane euthanasia.
- According to the AVMA, of the 9.2 million horses in the U.S., 10% of horses die annually of either natural causes or are humanely euthanised, of those, 10% are brutally killed in slaughter houses – horse slaughter represents 1% of U.S. horses. These numbers can be absorbed by sanctuaries, rescues, individuals and less breeding.

What You Can Do To Help

- **Send letters to the AVMA, AQHA, AAEP and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals opposing their practices. Urge them to limit the number of horses they introduce into the world and ask that they consider taking a % of the profit from each horse and give back to their long term care and safety. Suggest it would be a reasonable business move.**
- **If you are in the market for a horse, adopt from a legitimate and reputable horse rescue organization.**
- **Do not support pro-slaughter and breeding organizations.**
- **Become educated as to their breeding practices.**
- **Refrain from purchasing products made by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.**
- **Ask your Representatives to support H.R. 503 the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act, introduced by Representative John Conyers (D, MI), ask your Senators to support S-727 the Senate bill for the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act, introduced by Senator Mary Landrieu (D, LA), request your Representative support HR 1018 ROAM Act, to Restore our American Mustangs, request a co-sponsor of the bill, introduced by Nick Rahall (D, WV)**
- **Help introduce into office the classification change of horses from livestock to companion animals.**
- **If you live in a state that is suggesting horse slaughter plants be re-opened and/or built, please oppose this re-introduction.**
- **Support legitimate non-profit horse rescues, sanctuaries and lobbying groups.**
- **Help stop horse slaughter once and for all.**

Note from Calamity:

Karen Pomroy works tirelessly to change the existing inhumane practices currently in use by various groups and the pharmaceutical companies. She bravely confronts some of the most horrific and torturous procedures inflicted on the mighty horses. Pomroy did send photos of the brutalities of slaughter which caused me to become violently ill. I cannot get those images of the suffering, tortured horses out of my head. I implore you to go to the website and help Pomroy and the horses in any way that you can. Our horses depend on us, we are their voice.



Karen Pomroy and Bella

Karen Pomroy, Founder and President of Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary can be contacted via the website, get more information, become educated and to help. Log on to www.equinevoices.org
Also go to www.vetsforequinewelfare.org www.fund4horses.org



Equine Voices
Rescue & Sanctuary™

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