

AFFIDAVIT I (Graduate Student)

I, (b)(6) being duly sworn on oath voluntarily make the following statement:

I am making the following voluntary statement to (b)(6) who has identified himself as an Investigator employed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Investigative and Enforcement Services. I can be contacted by mail at TAMU Mail Stop 2471, Room 243, Collage Station, Texas 77843. My phone number is 979-845-9075.

(b)(6) investigation into the death of a horse during transport to slaughter
USDA Investigator: (b)(6)
Date testimony was written: 8-04-2004

Background information:

I am working on my master's degree in animal science. For my thesis project, I am looking at the transport of slaughter horses over long distances. Since there are only three federally inspected slaughter plants in the US, horses are often transported long distances with unfamiliar horses and without food and water. I am looking at horse transport issues relating to stress, density, aggression, dehydration and the use of an onboard watering system our lab designed. Hopefully, my research will help improve the welfare and conditions of horses destined to slaughter.

It was planned that I would go on six 20 hour trips hauling horses to slaughter over the months of June and July of 2004. Two other researchers helped me in collecting data for the month of June. These researchers were (b)(6) (b)(6) Our first trip involved picking up 23 horses on June 19, 2004 from La Grande, OR and hauling them to Hudson, CO. Our second group of horses was picked up from Hudson, CO and brought to Dallas Crown in Kaufman, TX. This group of horses was at the home of Monty Clarke. This was the trip in question regarding the dead horse. We loaded 26 horses on June 20, 2004. We started working with the horses in the afternoon when we were finished collecting data on the first group of horses from La Grande, OR. I would guess that we started working with the second group of horses around 1pm. It had rained a lot the week before we arrived so the pens were very muddy. We were interrupted later in the afternoon with a hail storm that made the place an even more muddy mess.

Before loading the horses, they were placed in a chute. It was here that the horses were weighed, USDA number tags were placed on them using cement glue, and their backs were marked with a grease marking pen for our own identification. After all the horses were marked and weighed, they were placed into three groups. These three groups were the high (about 10,500 lbs.), medium (about 9,200 lbs.) and low (about 5,000 lbs.) density groups that would be separated into the three compartments we had on our semi-trailer. These densities were decided with the first group of horses from OR and were also used for these horses. At first we only had 23 or 24 horses which left us short on the weight we needed for the three groups. Monte let us select two or three more from his "cripples" pen. There were probably about eight horses in this pen and we selected the healthiest soundest looking horses. The horse in question was from this group. Once these groups were selected, five horses from each group were randomly

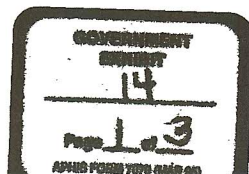
(b)(6)

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Texas A & M University . on this 17 day of August , 2004.

(b)(6)

APHIS FORM 7162 Replaces VS Form 3-59G which is obsolete (NOV 92)

DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO 7 U.S.C. 2217 TO ADMINISTER OATHS, AFFIDAVITS, AND AFFIRMATIONS, (b)(6) RITY NO. 2358



Witness

(b)(6)

