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**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

August 18, 2004

Department of  
*Animal Science*

TO: (b)(6)  
Senior Investigator  
USDA IES

FROM: Ted Friend  
Professor  
Department of Animal Science

SUBJECT: Statement regarding the shipment of a load of horses (June 20 – 21, 2004) in which one died.

Funding: The horse transport studies that we have been conducting with the goal of improving conditions for slaughter horses was funded by USDA APHIS VS. I have provided you with a copy of the proposal. I have overall responsibility for conducting the project. The people accompanying that shipment, (b)(6) (Research Associate), (b)(6) (Graduate Student) and (b)(6) (Graduate Student), were employed by me to conduct the project. Different graduate students went on different shipments with (b)(6) and/or myself, depending on our labor needs, whether a particular student was collecting data for his or hers' thesis project, and other scheduling conflicts.

Trailer ownership: The 53' trailer in which the horses were transported was owned by Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M University. The trailer was purchased from Barrett Trailer in January of 2003 and Barrett was specifically instructed to make it similar in design to what they were currently manufacturing for commercial slaughter horse transport. Although Barrett recommended making the walls of the trailer solid to the 5 foot level, we had them leave three gaps at much lower levels so we would have openings through which the waterers could be inserted. The lower gaps were covered with plywood to prevent the horses from getting a hoof stuck in the gaps. The trailer was purchased using the above grant. Several different haulers have been used to transport the trailer.

Drivers: (b)(6) Transfer and Storage, Bryan, TX, was hired by me to pull the trailer for the June 20 – 21 shipment, the shipment in which the horse died. That company was recommended to me by the TAMU Purchasing Department because they were the low bidder on a bid to transport by semi trailer the horses used by Parson's Mounted Cavalry. Parson's Mounted Cavalry is a student organization that occasionally transports 30 or



