Photos/Footage Feedlots USA, Canada / horse transport and slaughter Mexico and Argentina

I have reviewed the material and would like to provide the following answers/comments to your questions:

**Feedlots USA & Canada**

- How long are the horses kept in these “paddocks”? Days, Weeks, Months?

- The horses become extremely obese and heavy, which can result in hoof problems, especially if the hooves do not receive any care and if the ground is not suitable. In the footage only overweight horses are visible, it cannot be determined if the horses laying flat on the ground are down due to laminitis.

- Feed consists of fiber and grain, which *a priori* does not look bad. Constant access leads to being overweight, eventually metabolic syndrome, laminitis etc.

- Yes, many horses are overweight. Few horses are extremely thin. (Canada)

- It stands out that some horses are laying down while other horses are moving around them; this could be a sign of pain or boredom; it is certainly not a normal behaviour.

- It is noticeable that the paddocks are crowded. If horses are kept in such overcrowded, small paddocks for an extended period of time, it results in damaged health and injuries obtained during fights.

- Bleeding on teats could indicate suction by other horses; the mare certainly was experiencing strong pain, trying to give birth to a foal in wrong position, she is not able to give birth without assistance. Emergency euthanasia is indicated.

- The other horse with the prolapse is colicing for quite some time. The reason for the colic cannot be determined, this horse needs to be euthanized immediately as well.

- Overall, the conditions in which the horses are kept is not suitable for horses: Too many horses in a small space, limited or no shelter, whereas protection from heat and sun is more
important than protection from cold. Horses and foals are more resistant to cold temperatures than one would think.

- It stands out that a lot of horses do not have a tail anymore. (Insect Protection)
- In many cases fencing is not appropriate for horses. (poor overall condition, wire fencing, sometimes even barb wire)

**Horse Transport USA-Mexico**

- Eagle Pass: Horses emaciated, trailers catastrophic. Too many horses loaded, no grip on the trailer floor etc. Absolutely does not conform to animal welfare, catastrophic!
- It was noted that very thin horses with injuries were unloaded.
- The slaughter plant entrance is very stressful for the horses, the chute is slippery, noisy and narrow. The horses are showered and have no way to avoid it even in the event of a panic. High risk of injuries. The slaughtering itself was done professionally, in my opinion.
- Extremely emaciated, wormy horses, appear to be very exhausted and neglected. Horse need to be euthanized immediately. THESE SHOULD NOT BE SLAUGHTER HORSES.

**Horse Transport Argentina**

- Transport times are way too long, horses do not have sufficient room inside the trailer, trailers are not suitable for animal transport, rough handling, horrible loading, use of dogs for loading horses is completely unacceptable.
- Emaciated horses, some of them injured during transport. Older leg injury visible, however, horse can still be transported.
- For these long distance transports, trailers should have a roof for protection from the elements, even if the horses are probably not in cold degree weather. Nevertheless these transport conditions are not in compliance with animal welfare standards.

I hope that this short statement will suffice, I will be available for further questions if needed.

Best regards,

Dr. M. Hermann
DVM FVH Pferde DECEIM
PZM GST FEI Nat Head VEt
Pferdeklinik Neugraben AG
CH.5702 Niederlenz