

6.3 Bouvry and Richelieu: Opinion of a Swiss Federal Veterinarian (Translation of original email exchange – originals available upon request)

Mr. Moser monitors the slaughter of horses at the horse butcher Bürgi in Allschwil. Upon our request, he looked at the undercover video footage from the Canadian slaughter plants Bouvry Exports Ltd and Viande Richelieu and compared them with the Swiss standards. (Footage obtained by Canadian Horse Defense Coalition)

From: Markus Moser
Sent: Saturday, 13 October 2012 11:33pm
To:
Subject: RE: Horse Slaughtering in Canada

Dear Ms. Gurtner,

I have now watched the short videos, however, not all of them since the images are self-explanatory and are "unbearable" to view.

The slaughter of horses in Switzerland to my knowledge definitely does not take place in this manner. The shown way of slaughtering is not in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act, the slaughter regulations as well as our regard for the dignity and respect toward our farm animals (please do not ask me to provide the exact listing of all the regulations and laws this kind of slaughter violates). Also, I wrote additional comments to your text below – I hope this was ok for me to do.

With kind regards
Markus Moser

From:
Sent: Thursday, 20 September 2012 04:48pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Horse Slaughtering in Canada

Dear Mr. Moser

The TSB researches the import of horse meat, as well as the animal welfare standards in the countries of origin. In the process, we have found video footage from two Canadian slaughter plants which, among other things, export horse meat to Switzerland. We are now looking for an official Swiss veterinarian who is familiar with horse slaughter and who agrees to examine this footage for us to assess the animal welfare standards.

A hidden camera filmed for an entire day at the slaughter plants Bouvry and Richelieu. You can find six short videos with the worst scenarios at

<http://defendhorsescanada.org/investigations/chambers-of-carnage>

Some Swiss traders claim the imported horse meat was produced in accordance with EU or Swiss standards. However, I do not think horses in Switzerland are slaughtered in such a cruel manner.

For me, as a layperson, it is difficult to determine with certainty if the horses in the videos are wrongly stunned. In some cases, it is obvious, especially when the horses remain standing or try to get back up. In other cases, it is not so clear since even properly stunned animals can, to some extent, move around vigorously.

Therefore, I would like to consult a specialist.

The stunning does not meet our statutory requirements. Also, in Switzerland, the horses are not "shot" with a gun, but are killed by captive bolt.

In particular, in the case of the two horses that had to be shot again after they were already hung to bleed out, I would like to know from you if, in your opinion, they were conscious. The horses still continued to move even while bleeding out. To me, it looks as though one of them raised its head. Due to the poor image quality, I cannot assess whether or not the horses were still partially conscious. Based on the manner in which the horses are ruthlessly pushed into the kill boxes and are gunned down in complete panic, as well as the recognizable movements of the horses during the hoisting, I can, however, assume this is not monitored at this slaughterhouse, and apparently no one is interested in animal welfare during slaughter.

Is the assertion true that the smell of blood scares horses? Is this scientifically proven? In Bouvry and Richelieu, the stun box was not cleaned all day making them more slippery, and the horses became more and more reluctant to enter.

If you would like to also see the complete version of the videos, I can make copies for you and send them to you by mail.

I thank you in advance for your reply.

With kind regards,

Sabrina
Project Management