



## EVIDENCE REFUTES THE MYTH SURROUNDING THE RETURN OF HORSE SLAUGHTER IN THE U.S.

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In a windfall of information, [Animals' Angels](#) received over a thousand pages of documentation confirming violations and horrific treatment of horses transported to the Cavel slaughter plant in DeKalb, IL. Almost 1,100 photographs were provided along with written documentation describing the extent of violations, injuries, and penalties. The information was provided after submitting a Freedom of Information Act request to the USDA.

Documented in the information Animals' Angels received were **well over 100 incidents**; each individual case detailing a multitude of violations involving the transport of horses for slaughter to the Illinois plant from **2004 to 2007**.



The conditions shown were dreadful and are clearly indicative of the horrific suffering perpetuated upon horses caught in the slaughter pipeline. The photographs brought to light by our FOIA request demonstrate the true horrors of slaughter & transport **on US soil**.

The deplorable conditions & horrific injuries documented in the USDA records are **identical** to those found during our numerous [investigations](#) as well as in **USDA records pertaining to the Beltex horse slaughter plant in Texas**, obtained by Animals' Angels in 2008.

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[Click here](#) to review the Beltex Humane Slaughter Violations



Horses lay dead or dying on the floor of an overcrowded trailer with other horses forced to stand over them due to the lack of room. Other photos showed horses with double eye injuries, missing eyes, deep gashes on forehead, nose and mouth. Many photos showed broken legs with bones exposed and deep gashes exposing muscle. Others depict horses with their hooves and legs caught in the side walls of the trailer, causing devastating injuries. **Pools of blood could be seen on the floors of the trailers along with copious amounts of blood splatter all along the trailer side walls.** In one particularly gruesome view, a horse appears to have had his hoof/foot severed after it became stuck in the side wall. In a subsequent photograph, the hoof could be seen, still lodged in the side wall.



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Additional violations involved countless instances of missing documentation, lost back tags, severe overcrowding, and slipshod or improper paperwork.

[Click here](#) to review a list of the Cavel Humane Slaughter Violations

[Click here](#) to view an excerpt of the photos from the Cavel Violations Records

## The Myth

Some would still like you to believe that the conditions for transporting horses to slaughter in the US would be better than crossing our borders to Mexico or Canada. This evidence, once again, unmistakably proves otherwise. The photos and documentation we received at Animals' Angels highlight how in recent history horses suffered intense pain, injury, and intolerable conditions -- ***all for slaughter within our very own country.***



These pictures were taken by USDA inspectors over a four year period. It is important to stress that the evidence of mistreatment **continued to pile up** during this time -- **all while the transport companies continued to operate.**

The USDA did not shut them down. Instead, simple fines were imposed in some instances, but not all. **Many offenders received nothing but a warning letter.** And in those cases where fines were imposed, it sometimes **took years to get a hearing and judgment.**

To view Commercial Transport of Equines to Slaughter violations for 2002-12 [click here](#)

To view more recent, 2013-2014, violations, [click here](#)

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Most upsetting of all is the fact that the few offenders who did receive high fines such as [Charles Carter \(\\$234,000\)](#) and [Leroy Baker \(\\$173,000\)](#), are **still allowed to operate** without having ever paid for their egregious violations.



## Do Not Be Misled

The propaganda promoting the return of horse slaughter to the U.S. wants people to believe that it is in the best interest of the animals that they be transported and slaughtered here -- that they will receive better treatment as a result. **The overwhelming evidence we have received directly from our countless investigations as well as straight from the USDA clearly demonstrates this "myth" is simply not true.**

Kill buyers and transport companies will not suddenly follow regulations they have routinely flouted in the past simply because of a change in destination for their cargo.

And as is made clear by the USDA records, there appears to be no violation egregious enough to warrant or secure significant repercussions. Moreover, what good does it do to impose fines of \$150,000 or more, if these fines are never collected and offenders are allowed to continue to operate?

Do not be tricked into thinking that re-opening slaughter plants in the US is for the "benefit" of our horses. **It is strictly for the benefit of those who make money from the suffering of these fine animals.** In the U.S. we do not eat horses. We should not transport them or slaughter them for those countries that do.

**Please support the [Safeguard American Food Exports Act \(SAFE Act\)](#).**

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