

Horse Protection

Horses have earned our respect and our protection.

Horses have been one of our most beloved companions, respected athletes and trusted workmates for thousands of years. Most Canadians, then, would be appalled by the daily atrocities thousands of these grand animals are subjected to when they cease to be productive members of their communities.

When the U.S. declared it illegal to kill horses for use as human food in 2006, horse slaughter in Canada increased by 75%, according to a report in *Farmed Animal Watch*. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates 35,000 horses were exported to seven slaughterhouses in Canada in 2007 for meat which is then sent to Europe and Asia for human consumption.

For many of the animals, that means travelling hundreds more miles, often in crowded trailers, without food or water. Once they've arrived at their destination, they are packed into overcrowded feedlots where they can wait up for a year before being transferred to the abattoir.

In a letter to the Alberta government, CanFACT President T.I. Hughes reminds MPPs of their own law which renders it illegal for someone to permit an animal in their care to be "in distress," which can be defined as the deprivation of adequate shelter, ventilation and space. An additional legislation under the Federal Meat Inspection Act says "holding pens must have adequate space and if held for more than 24 hours must have access to water and feed."

"The problem is that if the animals are overcrowded in the feedlots, it is virtually impossible for those people responsible for looking after them to meet their responsibilities under the two Acts," wrote Hughes.

In addition to lobbying on behalf of U.S. horses heading for feedlots, CanFACT is also working to save Canadian horses from having to endure arduous journeys.

"People can make a difference, if they put their caring for all living creatures to work."

~ Our Motto

The Sanctuary at Hopeall, Newfoundland

For six years, CanFACT has continued to lease property in Newfoundland to provide sanctuary and care for unwanted, abandoned or neglected equines and, in particular, the Newfoundland Pony. The sanctuary is operated by the Horse and Pony Protection Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. CanFACT continues to play an active role in the operations of the Sanctuary and its funding.

This sanctuary is the only one of its kind in Newfoundland and is the only alternative for many individuals who are tempted to solve the problem they have with their equine by shipping it on the meat truck by road and ferry to Montreal, which exposes them to distress and suffering on the way to the slaughterhouse.

Maritime Canadian Horse Protection – Bridgewater, Nova Scotia

Since 1992, the Maritime Branch of CanFACT was established to provide adoption services for horses relinquished to Horse Protection. At first, a temporary foster home is found to provide time for the horse to be examined by a vet, and for the animal to be observed and evaluated prior to placing it in a suitable new home.

Owners are becoming increasingly aware of the uncertainty of selling their horses and more and more are finding their way to the sales barns for slaughter. Horse Protection offers a viable alternative.

Meet a few of our four-legged friends ~

- ◆ In March 2005, members of our group went to the Truro Horse Sale and rescued a young filly from a truck heading to the slaughter house in Quebec. Since that time, Sophie's Flame has gained in trust and weight and is now in a foster home. A real Cinderella story!
- ◆ Lacy, a 14-year-old registered quarter horse, came to us from her previous owner who wanted her protected as she has wobbles and could not be used. She is now in a foster home, much loved and enjoying her field with two companions.
- ◆ Fan, a 26-year-old mare, is now in a home with three little girls. She was found in a barn by herself – in a dirty stall with only chickens for company. She now has nice fields to roam in with Jenny (another rescued horse) and Charlie, the Clydesdale.

To help us give our equine friends the futures they deserve, please **contact us** for more information.