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promoting equine excellence

ANNOUNCEMENT

To: **SHF Members and Corporate Member Clubs**

HORSE WELFARE ALLIANCE OF CANADA

The Saskatchewan Horse Federation, networking with like affiliates representing the horse industry, announces the formation of the Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada.

In light of the recent attacks on the horse industry released in documentary format by the CBC as proffered by an activist group called the "Horse Defense Coalition", the new Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada marks the coming together of associations who endorse the responsible use and care of horses up to and including their death, ensuring a high standard of health and welfare of the horse is maintained throughout their lives.

The Horse Welfare Alliance (HWAC) provides a strong voice across Canada in supporting the values and ethics relating to horse ownership and the use of horses. Its motto: ***Promotional Informational Educational Interactive***. The Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada recognizes and adheres to the Statements of Principle governing the processing of horses, and recognizes that in some parts of the world the horse is used for food consumption.

HWAC aims: to be ready to address unfriendly attacks on the horse industry, to correct misinformation, to promote humane use and handling of the horse, to educate the public regarding the uses of horses, and to work together in partnership to support the industry and the individuals involved therein.

In Saskatchewan we enjoy important partnerships with the Farm Animal Council (FACS), the SSPCA, the CFIA, the SVMA, the WCVM, and the Ministry of Agriculture.

We both admire and respect horses and the usefulness and pleasure they bring into our lives. We recognize their life must end, and endorse a humane end be enabled with the least amount of pain or fear to these noble animals.

We, of the SHF, wish to ensure all members that this Federation is working diligently to represent its members and their interests in the horse industry in this province and in Canada. Any questions or comments may be directed to Mae Smith, SHF Executive Director, at 306.780.9244 or via email: shfdirector@sasktel.net.

Attachment 1:

HORSE WELFARE ALLIANCE OF CANADA

Statement of Purpose: *The Communication of correct information related to the Canadian horse industry to horse owners and the general public.*

Promotional Informational Educational Interactive

Objectives: *The Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada will:*

- 1. support the existing education programs of each of its members.*
- 2. promote humane handling of horses throughout all of their life stages.*
- 3. inform its constituents and members of matters and issues related to the welfare of the horse population.*
- 4. enhance public awareness of matters and issues relating to the welfare of the horse and the horse industry.*
- 5. strive to network with other organizations who might assist the Alliance in the achievement of its purpose and objectives.*

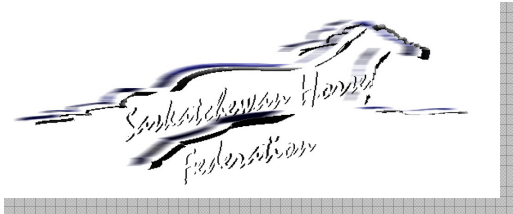
Protocols: *The following protocols will be observed:*

- 1. The host of subsequent meetings will assemble agenda items from Alliance member input and chair the meetings.*
- 2. The Alliance will collaborate and agree upon statements to be issued in the name of the Alliance and on a spokesperson(s) as required.*

Alliance Partners to Date:

Horse Council BC	Alberta Equestrian Federation
Saskatchewan Horse Federation	Manitoba Horse Council
Ontario Equestrian Federation	Federation Equestre Quebec
Alberta Farm Animal Care	Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan
Manitoba Farm Animal Council	Newfoundland Equestrian Federation

Supporting Resource Agencies
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)



Saskatchewan Horse Federation

Policy Position Statement on Equine Processing

The Saskatchewan Horse Federation (SHF) advocates the humane treatment of all horses and believes that the equine industry and horse owners have a responsibility to provide humane care throughout the life of the horse. SHF acknowledges that some horses are no longer serviceable, are infirm, dangerous, or their owners are no longer able to care for them.

SHF recognizes that the processing of horses is a reality of the equine industry, and provides a humane alternative to allowing the horses to continue a life of discomfort and pain, inadequate care or abandonment.

SHF encourages, fosters and provides education regarding responsible ownership and management that will reduce the number of unwanted horses.

Regarding the care of horses destined for processing, the SHF position is that these horses should be:

- Treated humanely and with dignity;
- Transported to the production facility according to current national regulations.
- Euthanized in accordance with the guidelines adopted and published by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association as of February 2006, current to April 21, 2008.



Saskatchewan Horse Federation

Policy Position Statement on Equine Processing

Speaking Points

- The SHF is the provincial organization representing all facets of our horse world from owners, breeders, veterinarians, farriers, breed registries, and horseman's associations to horse shows, race tracks, rodeos, and commercial suppliers.
- The SHF works daily to represent equine interests and opportunities, provincially and nationally, promoting and protecting the equine industry through programs, communication, collaborative input and sponsorship.
- The SHF Policy Position Statement reflects the consensus of a studied, ongoing debate occurring over a number of years in the USA and now Canada.
- Temple Grandin, noted animal behaviourist, predicted in 1998 the worsening plight of the horse if the four US equine processing plants were to close.
- Lobbyists for the closure of processing plants are now claiming success, but without regard to viable options for these no longer useful animals.
- Proposed changes to Part XII of the Transportation of Animals Regulations under the Health of Animals Act will further provide necessary direction for humane transportation of equines.
- The Animal Welfare Position Statements of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, specifically that on Euthanasia, is regularly revisited to assure current values, knowledge and practice.

- Equine owners are the final arbiters, the expectation being of continued responsible decision-making as it affects the horses in their care.
- Due the diverse nature of the equine community, horses going for processing will remain an emotionally charged issue.