



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.



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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.