

### **Equine Welfare Committee Report:**

The continued closure of the processing plants in the U.S.A. has generated a surplus of upwards of 70,000 horses each year over the past three years, transported into Canada for processing. This influx of lower cost US horses for processing has had a devastating effect on the market value of unwanted Canadian horses. As a result, we are seeing a troubling increase of incidents of abandoned and/or neglected horses here in Canada, since the option of “last resort” for unwanted horses has been all but eliminated. This situation is unlikely to improve unless the surplus of US horses coming into Canada is somehow resolved.

Horse owners are advised to educate themselves regarding the true identities and agendas of various so-called “humane” societies. For example, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is **NOT** affiliated with local animal shelters. It uses its considerable annual budget (a staggering \$100 million, of which less than one-half of one percent actually went to caring for animals) to threaten America’s hardworking farmers and ranchers. The American Humane Association, however, does have a solid record of providing aide to animals. Parallel organizations exist in Canada, so one should know where one’s money is really going. And, we need to educate ourselves, and the public, about how farm animals are raised and that donations of money for animal care would be much better served at any of the countless local shelters and legitimate animal welfare organizations in dire need of support.

Late in 2010, the Federal Government approved a grant of \$300,000 and Equine Canada’s Health & Welfare Committee participated in striking a committee of industry professionals to revise the Code of Practice for horses. The existing Code of Practice was last revised in 1998. The new Code of Practice will include recommendations for humane handling of horses at Canadian processing plants.

Respectfully submitted,

Marnie Somers  
Welfare Committee Chair

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