

December 2, 2024

Dear Senators,

Re: Urgent need to pass Bill C-355, the *Prohibition of the Export of Horses by Air for Slaughter Act*

Bill C-355, the *Prohibition of the Export of Horses by Air for Slaughter Act* is a crucial bill aimed at ending the abhorrent practice of exporting live horses from Canada for slaughter overseas. The Bill reflects a promise made to Canadians during the last federal election, and enjoys broad public support across the political spectrum.¹ With a pending election expected in 2025, we are extremely concerned that a handful of Senators are delaying the study of this important Bill. We urge all Senators to work together to study and pass this lifesaving Bill.

After being introduced by MP Tim Louis in September of 2023, Bill C-355 was passed by the House of Commons in May of this year. Since then, it has languished at second reading stage in the Senate. Several Senators have spoken in support of the Bill since that time, but it has yet to be sent to Committee Study. Tens of thousands of Canadians have called and written to Senators, urging them to study and pass the Bill. Yet as the weeks pass and the Bill remains in limbo, shipments of horses continue to be sent overseas in cramped wooden crates for slaughter, with the animals enduring gruelling journeys without food, water, and rest.

An investigation by Animal Justice and Japan-based Life Investigation Agency showed that most shipments likely exceed the 28 hour legal limit for transport without food, water, and rest.² A more recent investigation using official Government of Japan records shows that horses are becoming injured and dying as a result of transport for slaughter. Between June 2023 and May 2024 alone, at least 21 horses exported for slaughter died during transport or in the hours and days shortly thereafter.³ More than 50 others were injured or became seriously ill during this time. None of these injuries, illnesses, or deaths were reported to Canadian officials.

The new data shows that horses shipped to Japan for slaughter are suffering agonizing deaths due to conditions including stress, dehydration, injuries sustained during flights, pleuropneumonia (“shipping fever”), and even painful miscarriages.

We urge all Senators to please set aside your political differences and work together to ensure Bill C-355 is immediately sent to Committee, so that it can be studied and voted on in a timely manner, consistent with the will and expectations of Canadians.

¹ See, e.g. [Most Canadians Say Horses Are Not Food, Reject Exports to Asia – Research Co.](#); [Live horse export - BC SPCA](#).

² [Flying Above the Law: Inside Canadian Horses' Long Journey to Japan - Animal Justice](#)

³ [New Documents: 21 Canadian Horses Killed in 1 Year from Shipments to Japan - Animal Justice](#)

Yours truly,



Jann Arden

Bryan Adams, Singer-Songwriter and Musician

Rachael Ancheril, Actor

Robert Bateman, C.M., O.B.C., Artist

Cailli and Sam Beckerman, Fashion Bloggers and Social Influencers

Jeanne Beker, TV Personality and Fashion Editor

Kristin Booth, Actor

Amanda Brugel, Actor

Caitlin Cronenberg, Photographer and Filmmaker

Elisha Cuthbert, Actor

Romina D'Ugo, Actor

Lucy DeCoutere, Actor

Kate Drummond, Actor and Director

Debra Goldblatt, Founder and CEO, Rock-it Promotions

Geoff Gustafson, Actor

Gregory Harrison, Actor

Dani Kind, Actor

Ray Lalonde, Sports Business Executive and Analyst

Georges Laraque, Canadiens de Montréal Alumni and Public Speaker

Yan-Kay Crystal Lowe, Actor

Eric Mabius, Actor

Sir Brian May, C.B.E., Musician and Songwriter (Queen)

Melissa McClelland, Singer-Songwriter (Whitehorse)

Sara Mitich, Actor

Blake Moynes, TV Personality

Brady Oliveira, CFL Running Back

Paul Rodgers, Singer-Songwriter and Musician (Bad Company, Free, and The Firm)

Cynthia Kereluk Rodgers, Model

Tara Rosling, Actor

Monika Schnarre, Actor and Model

Tara Spencer-Nairn, Actor

David Benjamin Tomlinson, Actor

Lauren Toyota, Author

Alissa White-Gluz, Singer (Arch Enemy)
Martha Williamson, Television Producer

Animal protection organizations:

Animal Justice	Montreal SPCA
Humane Canada, Federation of Humane Societies and SPCAs	BC SPCA
The Canadian Horse Defence Coalition	Winnipeg Humane Society
Humane Society International/Canada	Manitoba Animal Save
Life Investigation Agency (Japan)	Vancouver Humane Society
The Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals	Zoocheck
The Little Red Barn Sanctuary	World Animal Protection
Voice for Animals Society (Edmonton)	Ottawa Humane Society

Veterinarians and animal welfare experts:

Dr. Malgosia Mosielski, DVM (formerly with CFIA)	Dr. Judith Samson-French, DVM
Dr. Nena J. Winand, DVM	Dr. Nicholas Dodman, BVMS
Dr. Renée Bergeron, PhD	Dr. Rosemarie Bahr DVM
Dr. Moira Harris, PhD	Dr. Pamela Corey DVM
Caleigh Copelin, BBRM – Equine Management	Brittany Semeniuk, RVT
Dr. Jonas Watson, DVM	Dr. Wendy Pearson, PhD
Dr. Ian Duncan, PhD	Dr. Ariel Granito, DVM
Dr. Jean-Jaques Kona-Boun, DVM	Dr. Izzy Hirji, DVM
Dr. Vittoria Lipari, DVM	Dr. Allan Gilmour, DVM
Dr. Maureen Harper, DVM (formerly with CFIA)	Dr. Shelby Kimura, DVM
Dr. Ed Creighton, DVM (formerly with CFIA)	Dr. Gina Bowen, DVM
Dr. Samyra Stuart-Altman, DVM	Dr. Mairead Drain, DVM
Dr. Hilda Boehnke, DVM (formerly with CFIA)	Dr. Leila McIntyre, DVM
Dr. Jan Hen-Boisen, BVSc	