



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

August 3, 2023

Scott Tinney, Staff Lawyer
Animal Justice Canada
stinney@animaljustice.ca

Mr. Tinney,

Thank you for your emailed letter on July 21, 2023 with regards to the video footage, provided anonymously and included in the [US-based non-profit, Animals' Angels](#) and the [Animal Welfare Foundation](#) exposé, posted on [YouTube](#).

Primary regulatory oversight for animal welfare on farm and at feedlots is the responsibility of provincial authorities based on the applicable provincial acts and regulations. All of the available footage in the [US-based non-profit, Animals' Angels](#) and the [Animal Welfare Foundation](#) exposé, posted on [YouTube](#) appears to fall under provincial jurisdiction.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) enforces the humane transport requirements under the *Health of Animals Act* and *Regulations* which apply to the loading, transport and unloading of livestock regardless of destination but do not apply to the care and welfare of animals while on a farm or feedlot. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) also verifies compliance with any applicable European Union (EU) requirements for feedlots keeping horses destined for slaughter and export to the EU.

All feeder and slaughter horses entering Canada from the United States by ground transportation are required to proceed through designated ports of entry. Designated ports of entry have appropriate facilities for horse inspection.

Feeder horse shipments require customs clearance from the Canada Border Services Agency and may be referred to the CFIA for inspection. All shipments must be presented during CFIA regular hours of operation in order to allow for inspection if required. Slaughter horse shipments require CFIA veterinary inspection at the border. Transporters must arrange an appointment for inspection a minimum of 24 hours before arriving at the port of entry.

Shipments of horses from feedlots to federally registered slaughter facilities are also subject to inspection under the *Health of Animals Act* and *Regulations*.

When horses are transported to a federal facility, the requirements of *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* apply to the handling of the animals. All slaughter facilities are required to have an animal welfare preventative control plan and CFIA veterinarians and inspectors verify compliance with the plan. CFIA veterinarians also complete ante-mortem inspections of horses leaving and going to slaughter.

Incidents of non-compliance are addressed through the tools available to the CFIA in a manner consistent with the CFIA's [Compliance and Enforcement Policy](#) and the regulations involved.

Actions can include:

- Refusal of entry
- Corrective Action Requests
- [Administrative Monetary Penalties](#)
- [Prosecution](#)

CFIA takes incidents of non compliance with the acts and regulations it enforces seriously.

We appreciate you bringing your concerns and related video to our attention.

Sincerely,

Crystal Labour
Acting Inspection Manager
Southern Alberta Operations
Western Area
Canadian Food Inspection Agency