

Environmental Impacts of Horse Slaughter

The negative environmental impacts of horse slaughter plants are numerous. Horse slaughter plants pollute local water, decrease property values, permeate the air with a foul stench and are economically draining and environmentally damaging. Areas affected the most are ground and drinking water supplies, air quality, and infrastructure systems, particularly sewage/waste water. The presence and odor of manure, offal piles, urine, feces, heads, hooves and blood attract carrion, vermin, wild animals and wandering domestic pets. The opportunity for spreading disease and unwanted breeding is obvious.

Horse processing plants are renowned for having more waste than typical livestock processing facilities.

- A horse produces twice as much blood as a cow.
- Cows are raised for human consumption therefore their blood can be utilized for fertilizer as it contains no toxins harmful to humans. Horses are not raised for food and their systems are often tainted with drugs banned by the FDA and USDA for animals raised for human consumption such as painkillers, de-wormers and other toxic drugs rendering their blood useless as fertilizer.
- This excess blood is treated by processing facilities as waste and is absorbed into the natural environment surrounding the facility contaminating surface and ground water.
- Fertilizer companies don't want horse blood for the same reason US prepared-foods companies later stopped fertilizing mushrooms with horse manure: drugs in the horses' systems are toxic to humans.
- Tainted horsemeat puts those consuming it at risk.

The last three horse slaughter plants in the U.S. (all of which were foreign owned) amassed numerous EPA violations and overwhelmed the waste water infrastructures due to dumping of blood, entrails, urine, feces, heads and hooves. One of these slaughter plants, located in Texas had 481 EPA violations within 19 months in 2004-2005. The local governance spent 20% of its property tax revenue just handling legal issues brought on by EPA violations.

- In the 1980s, the Dallas Crown horse slaughterhouse, located in Kaufman, Texas, pumped so much blood through the city sewer system that the pipes burst, backing horse blood and tissue up into residents' taps/bathtubs and bubbling up through city streets.
 - In 2000, the facility "accidentally pumped blood into the creek"
 - In 2001, was "notified that waste water was flowing into adjacent properties and into the creek". When Dallas Crown was told they needed to create a mandatory "sludge control plan" they dragged their feet for eleven months before submitting it. The city's water treatment plant was on the verge of a forced \$6 million upgrade in order to manage the amount of blood and offal produced by the plant when the slaughter-house was shut down. Dallas Crown's property taxes paid for only about half of the legal fees related to enforcing these penalties; the penalties were never paid. Meat and profits went overseas; the blood stayed in Kaufman.

Similarly, the Sanitation Group of DeKalb, IL, where Cavel International was located, identified the incomparable hazard associated with the discharge from horse slaughter facilities. "This hazard is uniquely acute for horse slaughter because of the wide range of drugs given to horses that are clearly labeled NOT FOR USE INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION."

Horse slaughter

- Is inhumane
- Is a health risk to humans
- Is harmful to our environment
- Must be stopped.