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Bo Derek: Weak Canadian laws fail horses while "dirty little secret" means 100,000 here could go to slaughter in 2008



(January 21, 2008: Westbank, B.C.) On January 14, 2008 in Vancouver, B.C. noted actress Bo Derek called on Canadian officials to modernize and toughen Canadian laws in the face of prominent cruelty cases and an impending American ban on horse slaughter that means that 100,000 horses could be killed here in the next year.

Politicians have failed to modernize Canada's 115-year-old animal cruelty laws despite the fact that it has been eight years since new legislation was first tabled. There is no law specifically protecting wild horses here though the US has offered legal protection for its wild horses since 1971.

The closure of major American slaughter operations in the face of an impending ban has meant a 40% increase in the number of horses crossing the border to be slaughtered in Canada.

"I was shocked to discover that Canada has cruelty laws that were written a century ago, that there is no protection at all here for wild horses and that 300 horses a day could face death in a trade most Canadians would want no part of," said Bo Derek. Ms. Derek added, "An opinion survey conducted by the CHDC shows the majority of Canadians are opposed to this practice and I believe that it is only a matter of making Canadians aware of what's going on to end these practices."