

To Whom It May Concern:

16 January 2014

There are many reasons why horse racing is a practice that should be outlawed. Horse racing entails severe abuse, which includes breeding, selling / buying, training, drugging and so on. In this document I will elaborate and describe some aspects of this “sport”.

Training begins at the very young age of one and a half years old, which harms the normal development of the horse. The growth plate (a line showing bone growth) in a horse is fully closed around the age of 3 – 4 years old.

During the race, many horses will get injured from unnaturally high speed, tripping, slipping, and simply falling over. There are many variations of injuries from minor to very severe, and in many cases the horse will end badly.

A horse who has a small **fracture** will probably be euthanized or sold to a slaughterhouse because even if he to be treated, it won't make him compete at the same level as he was before. Horses' surgery and fracture treatments are always very complicated and expensive, and horses' recovery is never easy.

Most young horses will develop shin soreness and should be given a break from racing for several weeks until they recover, but it is not uncommon for trainers to force them to continue training and racing, believing this 'compacts the bone.' These horses are in agony and collapse if touched on the shins.

Those who are “lucky” to get a minor injury, such as a **tendon sprain or tendon lesion**, might be treated by a very brutal treating method that is called “pin firing,” which is burning or freezing with acid or **caustic** chemicals.

Another very common injury in horse racing is **EIPH (Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage)**. This refers to the presence of blood in the airways of the lung in association with exercise.

Researchers at the University of Melbourne have shown that 56% of racehorses have blood in their windpipe, and 90% have blood in their lungs.

In Australia, the first time a horse experiences this condition he will be banned from racing for 3 months, and if EIPH happens again in the same horse he will not be allowed to compete ever again.

Another common problem which occurs in racehorses is **stomach ulcers**. A high concentration of hydrochloric acid in the stomach while exercising is thought to be major factor in ulcer formation. High-protein intermittent feeding is thought to maximize performance but compromise the health of the horse, since the horse require an access to fibrous food which promotes the release of bicarbonate-rich saliva to buffer the production of stomach acids. Also NSAID drugs which are used very commonly in racehorses can contribute to this condition.

**IAD (Inflammatory airway disease )** is also a disease which is described many times in racehorses. It's the result of the poor, unnatural conditions in which nearly all racehorses are kept. They are stabled in boxes for up to 22 hours a day which expose them to allergens and endotoxins. This condition can be compared with human asthma. Respiratory disease is so important that it's second only to lameness as the most common cause of decreased performance, lost training days and premature retirement among racehorses.

Drugging is a very common practice among horseracing owners, whether they are legal or illegal drugs. To enhance performance of horses, many owners are using varieties of drugs such as:

**Atropine** – used as a stimulant.

**Narcotic analgesics** – are being used for pain, but in large amounts can act as stimulant as well.

**Caffeine** – was used in the past as stimulant, but is no longer since it is very easy to detect.

**Beta blockers** – used to slow the heart rate.

**Butazolidin** (Phenylbutazone) – which has an analgesic and anti-inflammatory effect.

**Bicarbonate (TCO<sub>2</sub>)** – in large doses can “mop up” the lactic acid from the muscles.

**Propantheline bromide** (blue magic) – used as a muscle relaxant.

And many types of different steroids are also known to be used to increase performance.

In my professional opinion, horse racing is a very dangerous “sport” that should be outlawed in every country in order to prevent unnecessary suffering and abuse of horses which occurs only for the purpose of making money on their backs (literally).

Respectfully

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