

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM36.14	ACTION			Ward:All
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Support for Private Member's Bill C-322 "An Act to amend the Health of Animals Act and the Meat Inspection Act (slaughter of horses for human consumption)" - by Councillor Michelle Berardinetti, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Michelle Berardinetti, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to convey to the Government of Canada its support for Private Member's Bill C-322, "*An Act to amend the Health of Animals Act and the Meat Inspection Act (slaughter of horses for human consumption)*," which prohibits the importation or export of horses into or from Canada for the purpose of slaughter or human consumption.
2. City Council, in view of the financial support provided to the horse racing industry through the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission as well as other means of support, call upon the Government of Ontario to prohibit the sale, movement and shipment of horses in Ontario for the purpose of slaughter and that this ban extend to the movement of horses from Ontario to other jurisdictions for this purpose.
3. City Council call upon the Government of Ontario, should it fail to prohibit the sale, movement and shipment of horses in Ontario for the purpose of slaughter including the movement of horses from Ontario to other jurisdictions for this purpose, to establish a fund to cover all costs associated with the euthanasia of horses in the Province of Ontario.
4. City Council call upon the Government of Ontario to prohibit race horse owners from participating in the horse racing industry in Ontario if they participate in the sale, movement and shipment of horses in Ontario for the purpose of slaughter including the movement of horses from Ontario to other jurisdictions for this purpose.

Summary

There is no effective means of determining whether or not a horse sent to slaughter has

received dangerous or prohibited substances. There is little or no information transferred with a horse when it is sold with respect to the substances a horse may have received during the period of its lifetime. This presents difficulty with respect to the security and safety of the food chain.

It is widely known that horses are often given substances which can be harmful to humans. Many horse owners do not envision that their horses will be at some point sold for slaughter and then used for human consumption. As a result, they may give their horse's medications, antibiotics, ointments, etc. and other substances not intended to enter the human food chain. These substances can and often do remain within a horse's body for long periods of time.

Many legislators in various other jurisdictions have called for a ban on horse slaughter and horse meat for human consumption recognizing that we have a responsibility to protect horses which are generally considered to be intelligent and sensitive animals. Horses have historically within North American culture been companions to human beings and have occupied a significant place in our culture.

To both protect the human food chain and in recognition of the role horses have and do occupy in our society their sale for slaughter and human consumption should be banned.

(Submitted to City Council on June 11 and 12, 2013 as Member Motion MM36.14)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM36.14