

**From:** [Nicole Corrado](#)  
**To:** [Economic and Community Development](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] My comments for 2026.EC27.5 on April 9, 2026 Economic and Community Development Committee  
**Date:** April 9, 2026 8:12:58 AM


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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the April 9, 2026 Economic and Community Development Committee meeting on item 2026.EC27.5, Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement: 2025 Progress Update

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments: Please publish this online. No one benefits from animal cruelty. Far too many horses get injured and shipped on airplanes to Japan for slaughter with no food or water. Other injured horses are shot. The losing horses literally lose, and all the horses lose in the end. Toronto is a modern city with no room for horse racing. Nicole Corrado

Horse racing abuse encompasses a range of ethical concerns, including premature training, excessive whipping, drug abuse, and the slaughter of horses that are no longer profitable. Critics and animal welfare organizations often describe the industry as a "cruel" "world of injuries".  P

### **Key Welfare and Abuse Issues**


**Premature Racing and Injuries:** Horses are frequently forced to race at age two, before their skeletal systems have fully matured. This, along with intense training, leads to high injury rates, with one study finding that 85% of two-year-old horses suffered from injury or disease.

**Fatal Breakdowns:** In the U.S. alone, approximately 24 horses die on racetracks every week due to catastrophic injuries. Common injuries include broken legs, snapped necks, and pulmonary hemorrhaging.

**Misuse of Drugs:** Trainers often use legal and illegal drugs to mask pain and injuries, allowing horses to continue racing when they should be resting. This, in turn, contributes to severe breakdowns. For example, 90% of Thoroughbreds in the U.S. are given the drug Lasix, which helps manage pulmonary bleeding.

**Whip Use:** Whips are used to force horses to run faster, causing pain, localised trauma, and potential damage. In many areas, there are few, if any, restrictions on how many times a horse can be whipped in the final 100 metres of a race, even when they are exhausted.


**Slaughter:** When horses are no longer profitable or "fail to make the grade," they are often sent to slaughterhouses in Canada, Mexico, or Japan. Approximately 10,000 broken-down Thoroughbreds are sent to slaughter every year.

**Unregulated "Bush Tracks":** Unsanctioned racing or "bush tracks" operate without standard safety rules, leading to even higher risks of severe injury and death. 

### **Industry Practices and Welfare Concerns**

**"Wastage":** The industry often refers to the high number of unwanted, injured, or underperforming horses as "wastage," which represents a significant welfare issue.

**Isolation and Confinement:** Racehorses often spend up to 23 hours a day in a stall, which denies them the ability to socialize as herd animals.

**"Tongue Ties":** These are often used to secure a horse's tongue to its lower jaw to prevent it from moving during a race, which can lead to permanent damage. 

### **Calls for Action**

Welfare groups are calling for an end to the "barbaric" industry, advocating for better regulations, such as banning the use of whips, ending the slaughter of racehorses, and creating independent organizations focused on horse welfare.