

Proof of CFIA Failure

CHDC Provides Evidence of Phenylbutazone Entering the Human Food Chain

Background

In December 2011, the [Canadian Horse Defence Coalition](#) (CHDC) released [Pasture to Plate](#), another investigative report documenting inhumane horse slaughter, this time at Les Viandes de la Petite-Nation in Quebec, Canada. It is the fourth investigative report on horse slaughter plants in Canada that the CHDC has released since 2008. The report also detailed compelling evidence that the much touted [Equine Identification Document](#) (EID) program put forward in January 2010 by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is highly defective.

Many examples of EID documents for equines slaughtered had incomplete owner information, deficient agent information, poor or incorrect identification of horses, erroneous data given such as age, colour markings, tattoos, primary location, sex of animal, etc., and some forms appeared to have been changed (information crossed off and re-written or whited out.)

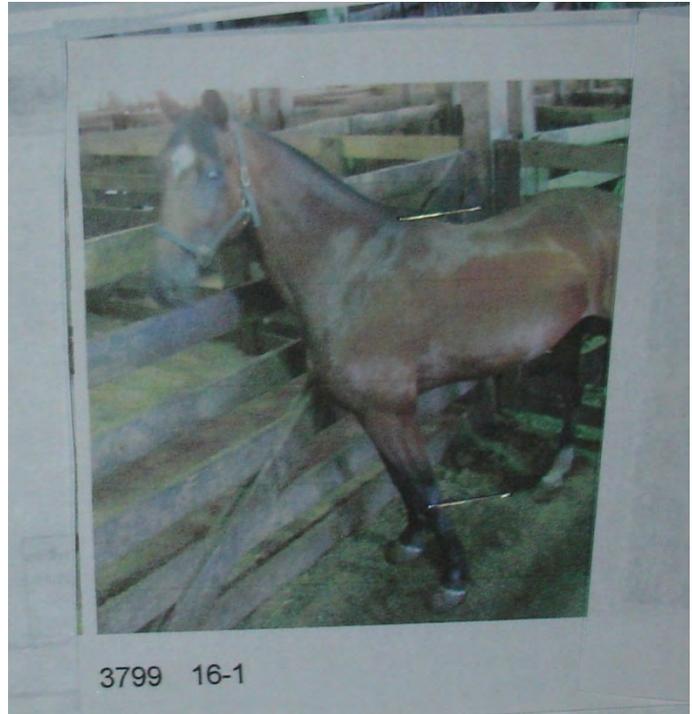
This evidence suggests **the EID system brought in by the CFIA to meet European standards for food safety and traceability is flawed, incomplete and appears to invite fraud.** The EID system, promoted by the Canadian government as a document that ensures “a continuous medical history” on each horse presented for slaughter, is far from a guarantee that food safety is being addressed.

From the EID evidence obtained at Les Viandes de la Petite-Nation slaughterhouse in Quebec, records for six registered Standardbred racehorses were complete enough to track down their history. In May 2012, after extensive research, the CHDC released a subsequent report, [Slaughterhouse Six](#), dedicated to those six Standardbreds – unwitting mascots of the reality of the racing industry who met their deaths in mid-July 2011.

The six horses were Hurricane Jeff, Major Baby, Spill the Ink, Elite Din Pach, Promising Lucia and Silky Shark. When the report was released, it was not only a dedication for all slaughtered horses and recognition of these six undeserving racehorses, but it was also in hope of achieving something more significant. Perhaps a former owner, trainer or veterinarian would step forward and shed light on the drug history of one of the horses, since everyone in the horse world knows that performance and racehorses regularly receive [veterinary drugs not permitted for use in equines slaughtered for food](#).

Silky Shark's History Revealed

In his EID photo, shown below, he appears wary in the corner of an auction pen – the white of his left eye visible. His muscle fitness and shiny bay coat stand in contrast to the slaughter pen in which he is confined. A distinctive heart-shaped star can be seen on his apprehensive face. The accompanying photo identifies his tattoo #XE993.



Silky Shark's EID photos at Sugarcreek, Ohio horse auction - July 2011

EQUINE INFORMATION DOCUMENT (EID)

Right side Left side

Height in Hands (1 hand = 4 inches)

Optional Attachments
 Pictures (all four sides)
 Pictures (Rear Panels)

Tag #: _____ Auction: _____
 USDA: _____

DRAWING (the picture shall not be required if); Lines are to be drawn on the diagrams representing white areas on the animal where applicable with red or blue pen the others with black pen. Mark whorls with an "X". Mark the location of scars with an "X".

If an official assessment the assessment may be attached. Attached EID from the previous owner(s).

For more explanation on the color terms or marks, consult the Web site: http://www.uspecdon.org.ca/english/ssa/meava/main/ch17/annexe_e.shtml

OWNER'S NAME: LEROY J. BAKER

FULL ADDRESS: 29257 5X172
E. Rochester OH 44625

PHONE NUMBER: 330-852-2832 Not available

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ANIMAL: Same as above

PRIMARY USE OF ANIMAL: Recreation Work Breeding

SEX: Mare Gelding Stud AGE: 7

LIST VISIBLE ACQUIRED MARKS: Brand on neck (P)
 (brands, tattoos, scars, etc... & location) Height in hands: 16'

1. Have any drugs or vaccines been administered to or consumed by the animal during the last 180 days or during the time you owned the animal? Yes No

2. Has the animal identified on this document been diagnosed with an illness during the last 180 days or during the time you owned the animal? Yes No

3. Has the animal identified on this document to your knowledge been treated with a substance listed under the table named substances not permitted for use in food processing equine found in section E.5 during the last 180 days or during the time you owned the animal? Yes No

4. OWNER DECLARATION
 I am the owner of the animal identified on this document and have had uninterrupted possession, care or control of the animal:
 From 11 15 10 TO 7 8 11

As the owner of the animal identified on this document I hereby certify that the information in this EID is accurate and complete. I understand that, effective July 31, 2010, at least six continuous months of documented acceptable history is required for an equine presented for processing in an establishment inspected by CFIA.
 I always treated the animal with respect and care to meet the needs. no black ink
 Signature: Leroy J. Baker

TRANSIENT AGENT DECLARATION(S): The animal identified on this document has been under my care and control SUGARCREEK LIVESTOCK AUCTION INC
 From 7 8 11 NO. BOX 427
102 BUCKEYE STREET 7 11 11
 Name of agent: SUGARCREEK, OHIO 44681
 Address: PHONE 330-852-2832
 Phone number: _____

During this time period the identified animal has not been given or fed drugs or vaccines and has not shown any signs of illness. Signature of Agent: Leroy J. Baker

Tag number: _____ 2nd TAG 3799
 EID verified: _____
 Approved: _____

Silky Shark's EID at Les Viandes de la Petite-Nation slaughter plant – July 2011

Silky Shark was born in New Jersey in April 2001 and became a 16.1HH pacer. His breeding was impeccable, as his sire was Cams Card Shark (lifetime earnings \$2.5 million) and grand-sire was the legendary Cam Fella (lifetime earnings over \$2 million). His dam was Western Hanover (lifetime earnings \$2.5 million). In 81 starts over almost five years, Silky Shark earned an impressive \$122,000 for his owners. He raced at several Ontario racetracks in his earlier career and finished racing in the U.S., mainly at the Meadowlands in New Jersey.

A short time after Slaughterhouse Six was released, Ken Terpenning, one of Silky Shark's former owners stepped forward after reading the report online. Ken said he was shattered when he realized the fate of one of his former horses. In the subsequent [article he wrote for Harnesslink](#) he said of Silky Shark, "To learn that he was senselessly killed leaves me heartbroken and enraged".

Ken went on to explain, "We shipped him to Ohio to race him. When we got him, he had a paralyzed flapper in his throat which caused his air to be cut off when he performed. I took him to Woodland Run Equine Hospital to have tie-back surgery (a procedure where the surgeon "ties back" the paralyzed tissue in order to open the horse's airway to improve breathing). After months of recovery, he tried valiantly to race for us, but in the end, the surgery attempt failed and the tie-back broke. We had tried racing him in Ohio and Illinois before we found his surgery failed. He won a race at Maywood Park with nearly a total air blockage that we had no idea existed at the time. The horse was all heart! I spoke to his trainer in Illinois and had him shipped back to Ohio and Woodland Run to have the surgery re-done. This time the procedure worked and Silky won his very first start for us at Scioto Downs following his 2nd surgery. Silky was then shipped home to Kentucky to race at the Red Mile Racetrack."

When he was forced to sell his horses, Ken candidly revealed, "Silky was the last of my original stable to be sold. Because I loved him so much and had a lot invested in him, he was the hardest to sell. Silky Shark went on to win one for his new owner, but then had suspensory problems arise that threatened his racing career."

Ken had all his horses, including Silky Shark, registered under the U.S. Trotting Association's [Full Circle](#) program, designed to achieve a safety net for equines by requiring that current owners contact past owners in circumstances where new homes or careers are required, or simply to offer the horses back. In Ken's words, "Unfortunately for Silky Shark, I never heard from anyone. I do not believe the Full Circle program failed; I simply think the program was too new and under promoted."

When Ken wrote his article, he also reached out to the CHDC. He bravely stepped forward to reveal himself and his emotions over the upsetting news of his former horse's demise. He went as far as posting a video of Silky Shark win at Scioto Downs, Ohio in July 2008. His footnote to the Youtube video says, "My boy Silky Shark wins at Scioto Downs July, 2008. A lot of TLC, 2 throat surgeries and thousands of dollars in vet and training bills got this boy to the winner's circle that night to bring light to a dark time in my life. Unfortunately, I had to sell him a month later."



[Silky Shark Wins!](#)

Further Investigation Reveals Phenylbutazone Treatment

Knowing that the majority of race and performance horses are treated with anti-inflammatories and other drugs, the CHDC was determined to find out more about Silky Shark's medical history. In this horse's case especially, it appeared significant given the surgeries that he was subjected to.

Ken Terpenning made an enquiry at Woodland Run Equine Hospital in Ohio where Silky Shark underwent throat surgery in 2008. His veterinary records, pictured below, reveal that he received penicillin, gentocin and "bute" (short form for the commonly used anti-inflammatory drug phenylbutazone).



WOODLAND RUN EQUINE VETERINARY FACILITY, INC.

Richard C. Mather D.V.M. F. John Reichert D.V.M.
Richard R. Rothfuss D.V.M. Robert N. Buell D.V.M. Aaron Stingle D.V.M.
Paul G. Rothaug III D.V.M. Diplomate A.C.V.S.
1474 Borror Road • Grove City, Ohio 43123
Ohio (614) 871-4919 • FAX (614) 871-2672
Florida (386) 774-7423 • FAX (386) 774-2185

Patient's Name: **Silky Shark**
Date Admitted: **3/18/08**
Date Released:
Date Departed:

Owner: Ken Terpenning

Diagnosis: Failed left laryngoplasty. Endoscopic exam revealed the left arytenoid was on midline with no abduction. On palpation of the larynx there was no thickening or lack of elasticity that would suggest that it would be difficult to achieve an opening with the tieback suture.

Prognosis: Favorable for return to racing. We were able to achieve very good abduction or opening by redoing the tieback suture. I recommend that he return in three weeks from surgery to make sure the tieback suture is still functional and for removal of the vocal cord. This will further enlarge the airway and can be done standing with the laser. This will only set him back a couple of weeks in return to jogging.

Surgery: Redo tieback Date of Surgery: 3/20/08
Treatment/Medication while hospitalized: Penicillin, Gentocin, Bute

RECOMMENDATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Exercise:

- Box stall confinement with handwalking for 5 weeks after surgery.
- Can resume jogging 5 weeks from surgery and training can begin 2 weeks after that.

General Care:

- Skin staples should be removed 10-14 days postoperatively.
- Hay should always be fed on the ground.
- Rinse mouth out with water before training. All feed should be taken away 2-3 hours prior to racing or training.

Recommend returning in three weeks for follow up evaluation and standing laser vocal cord removal (3/14/08), Jogging can resume 2 weeks after that. RETURN TO WOODLAND RUN 4/10/08

Follow up visit by referring veterinarian: Required: yes Suggested Date: 3/14/08 return for follow up evaluation

Staple Removal: Required: yes Suggested Date: 3/30 – 4/01/08

Exercise: Start Walking: Turn Out:

Start Jogging: 4/23/08 Start Training:

Releasing Veterinarian

Releasing Technician

Silky Shark's medical records from Woodland Run Equine Hospital in Ohio

Significance of the Find

What has been a common belief amongst anti-slaughter advocates was finally proven for the first time. A horse recorded as going to slaughter in Quebec has been traced back to a former owner who's presented evidence of banned substance treatment.

The CFIA lists phenylbutazone under the [List of Veterinary Drugs Not Permitted For Use in Equine Slaughtered for Food](#). **We finally have the paper trail required to prove beyond any doubt that a horse treated with a banned substance proceeded onward to slaughter, despite the EID program that is supposed to catch and prevent these instances.** It should be noted here that "bute" is only one of a long list of common drugs used for equine medication therapy, many of which are banned from the human food chain.

Did the CFIA Allow Tainted Meat Into the Human Food Chain?

The evidence collected thus far certainly points to the fact that a horse, whose carcass should have been banned, was slaughtered and became food for humans.

To provide further proof that Silky Shark's carcass was not removed from the food chain, the CHDC notified MP Alex Atamanenko, who earlier tabled [Bill C-322](#), an Act to amend the Health of Animals Act and the Meat Inspection Act (slaughter of horses for human consumption).

MP Atamanenko filed Order Paper No. Q714 on June 7, 2012 where he specifically asked the Minister of Agriculture, amongst other questions, "With regard to the horse slaughter industry in Canada: (e) were any carcasses condemned at Les Viandes de la Petite-Nation between July 11 and July 20, 2011, (i) what were the circumstances/reasons for condemning the carcasses, (ii) on what dates did this occur, (iii) what were the identification (tattoo/tag) numbers on the horses in question."

In a signed September 17, 2012 [response from Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Gerry Ritz](#), it was revealed that there were 15 condemned carcasses during that 10 day period. **However, not a single carcass was condemned for the suspected presence of banned substances in the meat. Further, we have been unable to locate any EU or Canadian-based listings of recalled horse carcasses that date back to the pertinent time period in July 2011 when Silky Shark was slaughtered and his body processed.**

Conclusion

Despite past reassurances from the CFIA and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to the contrary, we finally have definitive proof that banned meat can easily move past plant and CFIA inspections, and to consumers in Quebec and overseas. This leads us to conclude that Silky Shark, our case-in-point, is simply the tip of the iceberg.

In a [letter dated June 27, 2012 from the CFIA](#) to the CHDC, Dr. Brian Evans, former Chief Veterinary Officer and Chief Food Safety Officer (and currently Special Advisor to the President and Canada's delegate to the World Organization for Health/OIE), maintains, "...the CFIA includes PBZ (phenylbutazone) in its national chemical monitoring program that also aims to detect the presence of PBZ in horses and exercises a **zero tolerance standard**."

The CFIA has always claimed high standards of excellence in food safety and clearly would expect nothing less of its own performance where horsemeat is concerned. The agency has already acknowledged the toxicity of phenylbutazone. Further, it has issued a statement that it has zero tolerance for the drug's presence in horsemeat. Therefore, it follows that serious consideration will be given to the discovery of a "buted" horse entering the food chain.

We expect that the Canadian government will see fit to ban the slaughter of horses for human consumption based on the fact that there is no way to monitor where horses originate from when they enter the slaughter pipeline, and no way to determine whether or not they have actually been administered prohibited drugs.

Citizens wishing to urge the CFIA in this process can write to the Auditor General of Canada, as well as the Canada Agriculture Review Board. In addition, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Justice can be contacted - government agencies that have a vested interest in risks to public health and safety. Further contact information is below.

If positive banned drug evidence is discovered in one slaughtered horse, then the likelihood of many such cases is inevitable. We fully expect the Canadian government to be judicious enough to respect the significance of this finding, and the implications it represents.

Citizens can write their concerns to the following:

complaints-plaintes@oag-bvg.gc.ca; infotribunal@cart-crac.gc.ca; leona.aglukkaq@parl.gc.ca; mcu@justice.gc.ca; Ritz.G@parl.gc.ca; George.DaPont@inspection.gc.ca; Brian.Evans@inspection.gc.ca; Ian.Alexander@inspection.gc.ca; Martine.Dubuc@inspection.gc.ca; malcolm.allen@parl.gc.ca; Frank.valeriotte@parl.gc.ca; alex.atamanenko@parl.gc.ca; AGRI@parl.gc.ca; info@hc-sc.gc.ca

Detailed information (name and title) for the above email list:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada: complaints-plaintes@oag-bvg.gc.ca

Canada Agriculture Review Tribunal: infotribunal@cart-crac.gc.ca

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health: leona.aglukkaq@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Robert Douglas Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada: mcu@justice.gc.ca

Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food: Ritz.G@parl.gc.ca

Mr. George Da Pont, President, CFIA: George.DaPont@inspection.gc.ca

Dr. Brian Evans, Special Advisor to the President and Delegate to the World Organization for Health/OIE: Brian.Evans@inspection.gc.ca

Dr. Ian Alexander, Chief Veterinary Officer, CFIA: Ian.Alexander@inspection.gc.ca
Dr. Martine Dubuc, Chief Food Safety Officer, CFIA: Martine.Dubuc@inspection.gc.ca
MP Malcolm Allen, Vice-Chair, Agriculture and Agri-Food Standing
Committee: malcolm.allen@parl.gc.ca
MP Frank Valeriote, Vice-Chair, Agriculture and Agri-Food Standing
Committee: Frank.valeriote@parl.gc.ca
MP Alex Atamanenko, Member, Agriculture and Agri-Food Standing
Committee: alex.atamanenko@parl.gc.ca
Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food: AGRI@parl.gc.ca
Health Canada: info@hc-sc.gc.ca

Full member list of Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-
Food: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/CommitteeBusiness/CommitteeMembership.aspx?Cmte=AGRI&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=1>
Deputy Ministers, Parliament of
Canada: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/parlinfo/Compilations/Addresses/DeputyMinister.aspx>
Public Health Agency of Canada: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/contac-eng.php>
Health Canada Branches and Agencies: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/branch-dirgen/index-eng.php>