

## **Animals' Angels USA**

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**ANIMALS' ANGELS**

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# Investigation into the slaughter horse industry in Washington State – External Report

## **A. Slaughter Horse Feedlot, Zillah, WA**

### **Date:**

5/9/08

### **Location:**

370 Palen Road

Zillah, WA 98953

### **Owner:**

The former Gary Seal feedlot is operated by Chuck Walker.

### **Feedlot:**

The feedlot is located in a small residential area along I-82. It is visible from the interstate. The feedlot contains a small office building, a barn and several, partially covered pen areas. Each area has hay feeder and water troughs. Over the barn entrance is a sign “HORSES: BUY, SELL, TRADE; 985-6262” A small, red horse trailer is parked in front of the premises.



### **Observations:**

There were approximately 30 horses inside the lot. The horses were divided into the different pens. We drove to the front gate and walked to the office building in order to talk to the feedlot manager. We were approached immediately by a middle aged man on a four wheeler and his dog, who introduced himself as “Chuck Walker, owner of the place” He was extremely unfriendly and suspicious and refused to show us the horses. He claimed that all horses currently inside the lot were “young colts” and that he had nothing else for sale. He watched us until we returned to our car and drove away.

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We decided to approach the feedlot from the other side in order to get a better view of the pens and the horses.



We did not observe any injured or sick horses. All horses had access to food, water and shelter. We decided to wait along the road for the arrival of a truck transporting them to the Florence Packing slaughter horse collecting station. On the website of a local horse rescue organization we had found a call for donations combined with a deadline, stating “The next slaughter truck leaves Friday at 5pm” However, we were not able to confirm this information. Since nothing was going on we decided to continue our investigation and started driving towards the Florence Packing facility.

## **B. Florence Packing slaughter horse collecting station, Stanwood, WA**

**Date:**

5/10/08- 5/11/08

**Location:**

24711 Florence Road  
Stanwood, WA 98292  
360-629-2129

**Owner:**

Florence Packing Company

**Collecting Station:**

Florence Packing used to be a slaughter plant. The facility is located outside of Stanwood in a rural area and is surrounded by water on three sides. The only way in is a long, gated driveway, which leads to several buildings and the pastures. Some of the buildings appear to be private homes, while others seem to be the remains of the former slaughter plant. Several loading ramps and holding pens can be found on the left side and behind the main building.





**Observations:**

There were approximately 40 horses in the pastures; all of them had the green USDA slaughter tag attached. All of them were in excellent condition, which made it hard to believe that they were indeed destined for slaughter. All appeared to have been fattened up.



There were several people present on the premises and the gates were open. However, we observed no activity and no trucks arrived during our visit.

### **C. Horse auction and slaughter horse collecting station, Moses Lake, WA**

**Date:**

5/12/08

**Location:**

14372 N Frontage Road  
Moses Lake, WA 98837

**Owner:**

Auction: Central Washington Livestock LLC

The collecting pens are rented by: Kevin (Ole) Olson, DOT 975896, 1 Frontier Dr., Elko, NV 89801

**Observations:**

The auction is located outside of Moses Lake, just off I-90 on Frontage road. The premises are visible from the interstate. Attached to the auction is the pen area. The pens in the back serve as collecting station for slaughter horses. In front of the auction building lives the auction manager and his dog in an RV. Next to the pens, a pick up truck with a horse trailer and Nevada plates was parked. Front license plate of truck: "OLE 2"

The horses were divided into three pens. Each pen has a water trough, but the water was very filthy and full of algae. Next to the pens, several bales of hay were stacked up. There is no shelter.

Many of the 80 horses were in appalling condition. Several were extremely emaciated or showed signs of a stranglers infection. One was limping badly. One brown mare had a deep, bleeding wound on her neck and definitely needed medical attention.



*Bleeding injury*





*Signs of strangles infection*



*Mustang with BLM brand*



Stallions were not separated from the mares and the geldings and several mares were in season. The stallions were causing a lot of fighting and kicking inside the pens.

### **WA ST 16.52.010 - 305**

16.52.207. Animal cruelty in the second degree

(1) A person is guilty of animal cruelty in the second degree if, under circumstances not amounting to first degree animal cruelty, the person knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence inflicts unnecessary suffering or pain upon an animal.

(2) An owner of an animal is guilty of animal cruelty in the second degree if, under circumstances not amounting to first degree animal cruelty, the owner knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence:

(a) Fails to provide the animal with necessary shelter, rest, sanitation, space, or medical attention and the animal suffers unnecessary or unjustifiable physical pain as a result of the failure;

- External report -



We went and talked to the man that lives on the premises and received the following information:

- All horses are owned by Ole Olson, he keeps them there until they go to the “glue factory”
- Mr. Olson has people come out there to feed them, sometimes they do, sometimes they don't
- He himself never goes back to the pens or checks on the horses.
- The auction has a horse sale once a month.

We left the premises and observed the pens from a distance. At 8pm, a car with an older man arrived and he started feeding the horses. 20 minutes later he left and there was no more activity.