



Lifeforce Foundation
www.lifeforcefoundation.org

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Contents

1. Introduction and History of Lifeforce Investigations	3
2. Fraser Valley Auctions Investigation	4
a. Human Health Issues	
i. Food Safety Issues	5
ii. “Petting Zoo” Health Risks	6
b. Animal Welfare Issues	7
i. The Victims	10
ii. Sellers’/Auction Cruelty	13
iii. Auction Cruelty	22
iv. Auction/Buyers’ Cruelty	26
c. Environmental Issues	32
3. Enforcement Agencies	34
4. Conclusion	35
5. Recommendations	36
a. To Government	36
b. To Fraser Valley Auctions	37
References	38

1. Introduction and History of Lifeforce Investigations

Lifeforce is an ecology organization that looks at the interrelationship of human, animal and environmental problems. In order to evolve to a compassion society in which all life is respected we must look at the long term impacts of how we resolve issues. We must take a holistic approach and extend our circle of compassion to fellow species with whom we share this planet.

The Lifeforce investigator was shocked at the mistreatment of animals. **This is not a Third World Country where animal protection laws are minimal or nonexistent - it is the Fraser Valley Auctions in Langley BC.**



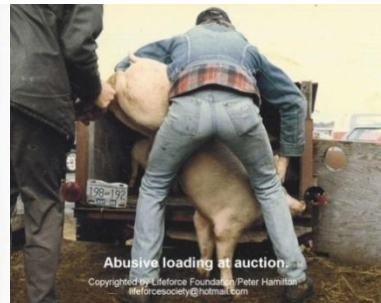
History of Auction Investigation/Stanley Park Zoo

In 1988 Lifeforce presented documentation of animal abuses at the Fraser Valley Auction (FVA) to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation because the cute baby animals in their Children's Zoo were auctioned off at the end of the season. At that time Lifeforce found young pigs being booted around like footballs, downer pigs being loaded onto trucks, sick animals, injured/bleeding animals, emaciated animals, abusive transport methods, a peacock wrapped in chicken wire and much more cruelty.

The photos below are of the Fraser Valley Auctions where Stanley Park Petting Zoo animals were sent to in the 80s.



Cruel transport methods.



Abusive loading at auction.



Peacock inhumanely caged at auction.

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Animals sold at auction.

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Downed pig sold at auction

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Auction

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And the problems continue today – Institutionalized Cruelty! Inherited in the farming system!

2. Fraser Valley Auctions Investigation

The focus of this investigation was the Fraser Valley Auctions in Langley, British Columbia. Their web site states; “The auctioning of livestock has been one of the keys to success for Fraser Valley Auctions (1983) Ltd. for close to 25 years now. Buyers and sellers from all over the lower mainland, throughout BC, Alberta and into the United States take advantage of the weekly Saturday livestock sales that range from chickens, rabbits and geese to pigs, goats, sheep, llamas and cattle. Each week, Wednesdays are set aside for cattle only with approximately 200-300 head ranging from bulls to baby calves. A separate schedule to auction horses, mules and ponies along with tack and equine supplies takes place on selected Sunday ...”.

The owner of the Fraser Valley Auctions also raises “bucking” bulls to sell to rodeo contractors.

Some animals may be sold as pets but the majority of them are sold for food and will be slaughtered by various methods by different ethnic groups. The methods include decapitation and suffocation.

There are also hobby farm owners who must sell \$2500 of product from their land in order to receive tax deductions. These tax incentives can perpetuate the violation of animal rights.

During our investigation Lifeforce obtained over 1500 photos and approximately one hour of video. In order to find solutions to these problems Lifeforce listed those responsible as Sellers’/Auction Cruelty, Auction Cruelty and Auction/Buyers’ Cruelty.

a. Human Health Issues

Food Safety Issues

Sick and injured animals are sold to be slaughtered for human consumption and/or pet food. FVA even advertises “Cows of Doubtful Health” for \$5 to \$15 (see FVA Market Reports). Buyers are present from local slaughter plants. The uninspected animals are also slaughtered for personal uses. Unsuspecting “neighbours” could purchase this underground meat source.

Animals Not Fit For Transport

The Federal Health of Animals Acts states:

Part XII SICK, PREGNANT, AND UNFIT ANIMALS

138. (2) Subject to subsection (3), no person shall load or cause to be loaded on any railway car, motor vehicle, aircraft or vessel and no one shall transport or cause to be transported an animal (a) that by reason of infirmity, illness, injury, fatigue or any other cause cannot be transported without undue suffering during the expected journey; (b) if it is probable that the animal will give birth during the journey.

138.(2.1) For the purpose of paragraph (2)(a), a non-ambulatory animal is an animal that cannot be transported without undue suffering during the expected journey.

138.(4) No railway company or motor carrier shall continue to transport an animal that is injured or becomes ill or otherwise unfit for transport during a journey beyond the nearest suitable place at which it can receive proper care and attention.

The CFIA did a formal reading of the term non-ambulatory in 2005. It extended the definition for non-ambulatory to include things like blindness, emaciation, exhaustion but it's only a policy, and not yet law.

The US Agriculture Department tentatively banned cows that cannot walk, called downers, from the human food supply in 2004 after the 1st discovery in the United States of a cow with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease. Downer cows have an elevated risk of certain diseases, including mad cow. That illness can be transmitted to people, causing a fatal brain ailment. In July 2007, after lobbying efforts by the meat industry, the US Agriculture Department made the downer cow ban official, but with a change. When cows arrive at a slaughterhouse, a Department of Agriculture veterinarian inspects them to make sure they are fit for slaughter. Under the amendment, if a cow goes down after that initial inspection, the meat company is supposed to summon the veterinarian to determine whether the animal is healthy enough for slaughter.

As of April 2008, there is no ban on all downer slaughter for human consumption in the US at this point. Downer carcasses in the US can still be used for pet food. And Canada downers tend to be tested for BSE rather than slaughtered

Monitoring of BC Auctions

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands told Liferforce that “Responsibility for regulation of various aspects of livestock auctions rests with several authorities including Ownership Identification Inc. (a group that regulates/conducts inspection re: cattle, horses and bison), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the BC Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The Federal Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has the responsibility to assure that animals entering the food system are healthy and safe to eat (Meat Hygiene Manual of Procedures). Their site states: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) verifies that meat and poultry products leaving federally-inspected establishments or being imported into Canada are safe and wholesome. The CFIA also monitors registered and non-registered establishments for labelling compliance and audits the delivery of a grading program based on objective standards of meat quality and retail yield.

During our investigations we did not see any CFIA inspectors at the FVA. In addition, the FVA did not call a veterinarian to attend to animals that were in obvious distress.

FVA staff advised customers that during butchering to “cut out” any growths and ruptures. This practice poses potential health risks because some of the ailments are systemic – affecting the body as a whole. Large open wounds would expose animals in pens covered with urine and feces to infections from pathogens such as *E Coli*.

The BC Meat Inspection Regulations (developed by the BC Ministry of Health and BCCDC) mandates Provincial Meat Inspectors. Inspectors deem animals as passed, held (for further examination) or inedible or condemned. Condemned animals cannot be used for people and animals. Inedible animals are not allowed for humans but deemed suitable for animal food.

At slaughter plants, if deemed not suitable for human consumption parts of the animals will be processed as pet food. Processing such animals in the same plant could cause transmission of pathogens to meat being processed for people.

Processing these sick animals jeopardizes the safety of the Canadian Food Supply for both people and pet/companion animals.

“Petting Zoo” Health Risks



At many times the Fraser Valley Auctions looked like a free “Petting Zoo”. Lifeforce often found many children petting the animals and entering the pens. The pens where children “played” were soaked with urine and covered with feces. Some of the animals had diarrhoea but were still handled by kids. Some children were also eating food.

The pens appear to have not been pressured washed and sanitized for quite some time. Old feces were found on fencing/gates and dirt was evident.

There were no signs posted to wash hands and to change shoes/clothing. There was no supervision. People did eat food in the animal areas and there is a restaurant in the Auction/animal holding building.

During Liferforce's investigations of Petting Zoos we found that there are only guidelines not regulations. These guidelines are often not adhered to and there is a lack of enforcement. When advised of problems Health Inspection agencies can only recommend improvements.

Animals and auction buildings can be hotbeds of serious pathogens, including E. coli and salmonella bacteria. Numerous children have been severely sickened as a result of visiting other types of animal displays, and some have even died. Those who come in contact with E. coli can develop bloody diarrhea, anemia, chronic kidney failure, or neurological impairments such as seizures or strokes.

Liferforce found many sick animals that are not treated by a veterinarian. While most of the animals are still used for food there were no Canadian Food Inspection Agency people present. The Auction "Marketing Report lists "Cows of Doubtful Health" (see below Market Reports). Sick pigs were very common and also used for food consumption.

These types of businesses may well be a growing silent epidemic. People are usually not properly informed about the health risks and preventative measures. The children's complaints of upset tummies, nausea or diarrhoea may not be reported. Liferforce has urged the government to ban Petting Zoos and related businesses because health risks and animal welfare abuses cannot be prevented. If governments fail to ban Petting Zoos then all such activities must be regulated and enforced. This is the very least that must be done in order to try to reduce the health hazards and animal abuses.

Liferforce has sent our 55-page report "Petting Zoos: A Silent Epidemic?" to politicians and responsible agencies."

b. Animal Welfare Issues

Animals were moved from transport vehicles to the pens and to the Auction ring by shouting, kicking, hitting with a broom or cane and electric shock. If animals do not cooperate staff will use excessive force. For example, when one goat bucked an employee he said that he will "get it" by using repeated electric shock.

One young staff member amused himself by what he called the "Chicken Toss". He would stand back from trucks/trailers and try to throw chickens into the cages. One staff member put incompatible cocks into a pen and watched them fight.

One buyer threw a piglet into a trailer and the group laughed (see Liferforce video "Selling Lives").

As depicted in the photos below there were many abusive transport methods. Overcrowding of poultry was a major issue. The Code of Practise for the Treatment of Poultry in BC and Western Australia states that all bird should have floor space to sit down at the same time. This was frequently not the case.

Federal Health of Animals Regulations

PROHIBITION OF OVERCROWDING

140. (1) No person shall load or cause to be loaded any animal in any railway car, motor vehicle, aircraft, vessel, crate or container if, by so loading, that railway car, motor vehicle, aircraft, vessel, crate or container is crowded to such an extent as to be likely to cause injury or undue suffering to any animal therein.

(2) No person shall transport or cause to be transported any animal in any railway car, motor vehicle, aircraft, vessel, crate or container that is crowded to such an extent as to be likely to cause injury or undue suffering to any animal therein.

142. No person shall transport or cause to be transported animals in a railway car, motor vehicle, aircraft or vessel unless

- (a) each animal is able to stand in its natural position without coming into contact with a deck or roof; and
- (b) provision is made for the drainage or absorption of urine from all decks or levels.

Guidelines: Canadian Agri-Food Research Council

There are guidelines for farm animals. These guidelines are available at NFACC. Many of the guidelines were violated.

As follows are the guidelines for Lay Poultry and there are similar guidelines for other Chickens/Turkeys:

7.1.8 When loaded into containers, birds must be in an upright position to avoid smothering.

7.1.9 The number of birds per container depends on available floor space, body size of birds and prevailing

environmental conditions at time of transport. Maximum density should permit all birds to rest on the floor at the same time if they are evenly distributed. Birds should be able to move their heads freely when sitting on the floor.

7.1.10 Weather conditions should be considered when determining load densities:

- For spent fowl, the recommended normal maximum density for crates and modules in cold weather is 63 kg/m² (12.9 lb./sq.ft.). This should be reduced by 15 to 20 percent in summer months and in extreme cold weather (-15°C (5°F) and below), the load density could be increased to 68 - 70 kg/m² (14.0 - 14.3 lb./sq. ft.).
- Point-of-lay pullets should be loaded to a density of 50 to 60 kg/m². These densities will vary with the weight, size of the birds, their physical condition, the climatic conditions and the likely transportation time. In temperatures greater than 30°C (86°F), a reduction of 10 percent should be considered.

Numerous sick or injured animals were found at the auction. They are usually in the pens with the other sometimes healthy animals.

Near the loading docks is an enclosed pen designated "00" where severely sick or injured animals are kept in the dark. These animals do not receive veterinary attention. Lifeforce was told that the owners must pick them up.

Animals were transported on vehicle roofs, in hot trunks or vehicles and in cages hanging over the rear bumpers. Many of the boxes used to transport poultry were not ventilated.

Federal Health of Animals Regulations

PROTECTION OF ANIMALS FROM INJURY OR SICKNESS

Transport Methods

143.(1) No person shall transport or cause to be transported any animal in a railway car, motor vehicle, aircraft, vessel, crate or container if injury or undue suffering is likely to be caused to the animal by reason of

- (a) inadequate construction of the railway car, motor vehicle, aircraft, vessel, container or any part thereof;

(d) undue exposure to the weather; or

(e) inadequate ventilation.

Most of the animals are “culled” and are the ones that the farmers don’t want. Some are not sold at the auction and may be auctioned again. Some animals are resold if found to be unsuitable.

Incompatible individuals or groups, such as pigs, were put into the same pens.

Federal Health of Animals Regulations

SEGREGATION

141. (1) Subject to this section, no person shall load on any railway car, motor vehicle, aircraft or vessel and no carrier shall transport animals of different species or of substantially different weight or age unless those animals are segregated.

(3) Every cow, sow or mare with its suckling offspring shall be segregated from all other animals during transport.

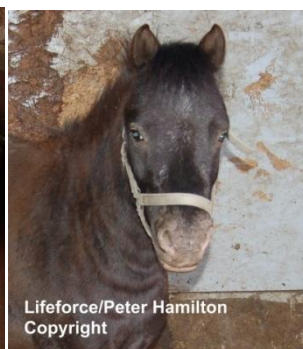
(4) Animals of the same species that are incompatible by nature shall be segregated during transport.

At the end of the business season some Petting Zoo operators, such as Aldor Acres, send the animals to this auction for food slaughter.

In many pens the animals are not provided with food and water.

The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands told Lifeforce that the BC Meat Inspection Act looks at animal welfare issues such as taking appropriate measures regarding diseased animals, injured animals and animals that are not well treated. Lifeforce did not see any government inspectors at the auctions.

The Victims



Market Reports The Auctions' Marketing Report shows the list of common animals. Note: Kittens and puppies were also sold infrequently. Others include chinchillas, pheasants and birds

Fraser Valley Auctions (1983) Ltd. ~Market Report for Wednesday~

Ph: 604-534- 21801- 56th Ave. Langley, BC V2Y 2M9 Fax: 604-534-
3241 Email: 4770
livestock@fraservalleyauction.com.

DATE: February 27 , 2008

Item Description	Weight (lbs)	Price per CWT
Cattle:		
Best Holstein Cows		38.00 - 43.50
Medium Holstein Cows		30.00 - 38.00
Plain Holstein Cows		20.00 - 30.00
Cows of Doubtful Health		5.00 - 15.00
Good Beef Type Cows		43.00 - 50.00
Plain Beef Type Cows		30.00 - 43.00
Over Fat Cows		35.00 - 42.00
Holstein Heifers		44.50 - 48.50
Bulls		33.75 - 50.00
Good Veal	Over 400 lbs	None
Feeder Veal	200 - 400 lbs	70.00 - 90.00
Holstein Steers		None
Good Beef Type Steers		None
Good Beef Type Heifers		None
Plain Beef Type Steers		None
Plain Beef Type Heifers		None
Steer and Bull Calves		80.00 - 98.00
Heifer Calves		80.00 - 94.00
Bred Cows		None
Cow Calf Pairs		\$650.00
Baby Calves		\$1.00 - \$105.00

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[F.V.A. Homepage](#)

[F.V.A. Hours & Location](#)

[Market Report \(Saturday\)](#)

<http://www.fraservalleyauction.com/marketreport.htm>

09/04/2008

Fraser Valley Auctions (1983) Ltd. ~Market Report for Saturday~

Ph: 604-534-3241

21801- 56th Ave. Langley, BC V2Y 2M9
Email:
livestock@fraservalleyauction.com.

Fax: 604-534-4770

DATE: February 23, 2008

Item Description	Weight (lbs)	Price per Head
Pigs:		
Weaners		None
Feeders		\$20.00 - \$80.00
Hogs		\$90.00 - \$100.00
Sows		\$40.00 - \$100.00
Boars		None
Goats:		
Nannies		\$75.00 - \$135.00
Billies or Wethers		\$85.00 - \$220.00
Kids		\$1.00 - \$20.00
Doe / Kid Pairs		\$230.00
Sheep:		
Lambs		\$45.00 - \$150.00
Rams		\$90.00 - \$135.00
Ewes		\$30.00 - \$92.50
Ewe / Lamb Pairs		None
Llamas - Alpacas		\$30.00

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[F.V.A. Homepage](#)

[F.V.A. Hours & Location](#)

[Market Report \(Wednesday\)](#)

ii. Sellers'/Auction Cruelty



Loading Docks were slippery and vehicle heights were not even with the loading dock. Animals were dropped into some vehicles a distance of approximately 3 feet. (See Lifeforce video "Selling Lives". Our video also shows a guy throwing a piglet into a trailer that approximately a 5 foot distance).



The truck box was raised to slide animals off truck. This frightened the animals, resulted in crushing and could cause injury.

Eye/Facial Infections and Wounds



The eye appeared to have removed and there was a resulting infection.



Wound near eye.





Eye Infection



Swollen face.



Wound on back of animal lying in feces and urine subjecting the animal to infections such as E Coli.



Calves that are only days old are taken to the auction. Some are not given colostrums mom's first milk. They are not bottle fed during the time of leaving the farm to being purchased. Three calves were observed at the auction for 48 hours without any food. Staff said about 50% will die. This calf was in the auction pen but was near death. One killing method is to knock them repeatedly over the head.

Sick/Emaciated cattle





Many cattle had diarrhea and defecated on other animals.

Sick/Emaciated Hoses



Lameness/Broken legs/ Over grown hooves and horns





This goat has severe hoof problems. These abnormal extra horns should have been removed to allow the animal to live and eat properly.

Sick/Emaciated Goats and Sheep





Many sheep and goats were coughing, had nasal discharge and diarrhea. Some goats had mouth warts – a zoonotic health risk.

Stomach ruptures/hematomas/urinary tract infections/growths/gross wounds





Many pigs were coughing. Staff advised a customer to “just cut it out” (the abscesses etc.)

iii. Auction Cruelty

“Chicken Toss”



Staff guy throwing chickens into the trailer. He joked about it and called it “Chicken Toss”.

Cock Fights



Staff put incompatible animals together. They would put cocks together and watched them fight.

Repeated Electric Shock



This goat bucked the hand of a staff member and he vowed to “fix him” by repeated electric shocking.

Kicking Faces



Some of these pigs could not easily get up but a staff guy kicked one in the face and others to make them move about for a customer.

Broken horns/Bleeding ears



Overcrowding Animals



Sign on this pen stated “Not for Sale”. They are kept in these inhumane conditions for several days.

“00” – Pen with sick and injured animals (No food/water provided)



This sheep was unable to get up. The calves were dying.



A dying goat was beneath a downer pig. This young piglet sought company from the dying older pig.



These pigs could not stand up. The “downer” on the right tried to see out of the dark “00” pen by using the snout to dig under the gate.

Staff said that sellers must come back to pick up the animals. A dead calf was left for at least 48 hours.

Selling Unhealthy Animals



The pig with the blue cross had a twisted stomach and will die. The Auction advertises “Cows of Doubtful Health” for \$5 to \$15.

iv. Auction/Buyers' Cruelty

Transport: Overcrowding, inhumane confinement, exposure to weather and stressful, cruel transport methods



Kids were left in unsuitable transport cages and crowded into a small pen. Kids may not get the first milk from the mothers and are susceptible to illness and death. Some kids have diarrhea and are handled by children.



The man on the left was forcing the lamb into his trunk to take home to slaughter. Other young animals were put into non-ventilated tote tubs. The man on the right was carrying the young goat painfully by the hind legs (at first he tried to “cartwheel” the animal).



The father was passing chickens to his kid on the roof of a car. The chickens were overcrowded and exposed to weather.



Overcrowding of pigeons and chickens.



Rabbits were overcrowded and inhumanely transported. One buyer slaughtered them by “cutting their heads off”.



Animals are piled on top of each other in the cages and in cages on top of other cages. They are defecated on.



Chickens, pigeons, rabbits and other animals were overcrowded in cages or non-ventilated boxes. One guy put a "fryer" chicken in a small Sunlight detergent box.



Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
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Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
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Sheep crushed by improper angle of trailer. Llama transported in trailer with improper siding height, no bedding and improperly secured.



Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
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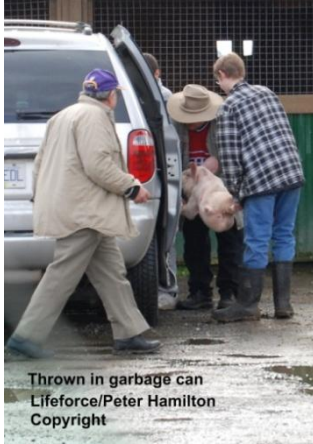


Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
Copyright



Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
Copyright

Mixed species overcrowded in a cage. Chickens overcrowded, exposed to weather and cruel transport methods. Dead chickens were found on the road by the auction.



Thrown in garbage can
Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
Copyright



Electric shock
Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
Copyright



Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
Copyright

The pig in the left photo was put into a non-ventilated garbage can inside the van. Electric shock prod used to load pigs. The pig on the right was a downer with a swollen broken leg.



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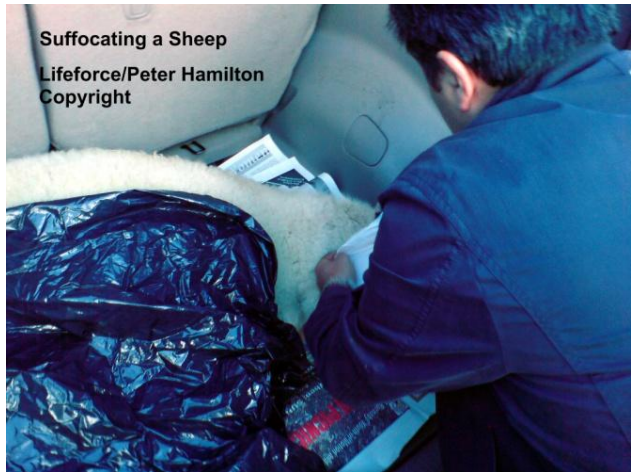
These sheep were hog tied, piled on top of each and could suffocate. The staff guy told them to “get the f--- out of here” and “you owe me big time” because the auction could be fined.



Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
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Hog Tied Sheep
Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
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Suffocating a Sheep
Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
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This sheep was dragged to the van and hog tied with an electrical cord. One of the buyers attempted to suffocate the sheep with a plastic bag but was told by his friend to stop when I started taking photos.

c. Environmental Issues

SOS - Global Warning



Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
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Animal wastes seeping into ground water.



Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
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Urine puddles in tire tracks.

The Lifeforce Foundation will be releasing several reports under our new campaign called **Save Our Species (SOS): Global Warning**. In 1981, Lifeforce was formed as an ecology organization to help raise public awareness of the interrelationship of human, animal and environmental problems. We must take into account the long-term effects on all life when developing policies. Over 25 years ago Lifeforce campaigned for all to live ecologically friendly lifestyles by taking into account one's cruelty "footprint" on people, animals and the environment. The way we eat, entertain and experiment is actually a kick in the face for animals.

The reports will look at how the industrialized use of animals is a major cause of Global Warming. For example, the conventional factory farming system produces gases and wastes that are major contributors to climate changes and health hazards. Feed crops take 30 per cent of the world's arable land. Livestock command 70 per cent of the planet's agricultural land and 30 per cent of its entire land surface. Directly and indirectly, livestock account for 18 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions - more than "all transport" combined.

Any increase in "Hobby Farms" for tax incentives will contribute to global warming. Hopefully the increase costs of feeding animals to decrease tax savings will help stop any further growth.

At the Fraser Valley Auctions there was a significant runoff of urine/feces that could contaminate ground water in this semi-agricultural area. A new roof over the outside pens may reduce some of the runoff from decreasing rain exposure but proper drainage must be designed to contain all wastes.

The "manure mountain" storage area also could create ground water contamination problems. This area should be covered and/or properly contained.

3. Enforcement Agencies

The agencies that would have enforcement powers to improve conditions for people and animals would include the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Health Inspectors (Fraser Health Authority), BC Government Ministries and the BCSPCA.

Lack of Reporting

a) People

During Lifeforce's investigation of Petting Zoos we found that there are only guidelines not regulations. In many cases these guidelines were not adhered and there was a lack of enforcement.

The Fraser Health Authority (FHA) is the responsible agency to report to in the Vancouver and Lower Fraser Valley area. They do have guidelines but these guidelines are not mandated. FHA inspectors can only recommend that operators follow the guidelines. There is no 24/7 hot line to contact FHA on weekends and holidays when most of the auctions take place.

Due to the lack of proper public education at the animal "encounters" Lifeforce believes that there may well be a lack of accurate statistics of related infections. The uniformed parents may go home and they and/or their kids may have nausea, diarrhea or other problems and not relate it to the animal contact. The Petting Zoos/Farm Tours businesses may well be a growing silent epidemic.

b) Animals

The BCSPCA is the agency that has been given certain powers to address the animal welfare issues. In addition to enforce adequate food and shelter, they are also able to address psychological distress.

Lifeforce has discussed our investigation with the Chief Animal Cruelty Inspector and has submitted this report to them for their investigation into violations of the Cruelty to Animals section of the Criminal Code of Canada and other applicable regulations. Federal and BC government ministries/Ministers will also receive this report in order to enforce present legislation.

4. Conclusion

The Public Health Threats

In 2007 Lifeforce decide to update our previous findings regarding “petting zoos”. We found that many animal business operators try to downplay the threats to humans. Animals can harbour a variety of diseases as shown in this report. These conditions pose very serious health threats to people – especially children. This would apply to other operations that could expose people to health that do not commonly follow petting zoo guidelines - zoos, aquariums, auctions, children’s rodeo and agricultural fairs. FVA allows children to enter pens and pet animal and should be subject to the same guidelines.

There are many health threats and Bio Security risks that cannot be prevented if children and others have contact with animals in petting zoos and on farm tours. This includes the need to change shoes and clothing because the animal pens where children are playing can be soaked with urine and remains of feces that are not picked up by brooms/shovels.

Lifeforce also found that proper hand washing methods are not adhere to – especially in the case of travelling petting zoos that use only hand gel. In a letter from Cheryl McIntyre, Associate Nurse Epidemiologist, BC Centre for Disease Control she stated, “The Guidelines recommend that petting zoos have running water (preferably warm water) and liquid soap and disposable paper towels available, and states “ Hand sanitizing gels are not a substitute for proper hand washing and are not effective if hands are heavily soiled.”

It should also be taken into consideration that if there are serious Bio Hazards among farmers working with animals, such pig and poultry, then it would follow that auctions, petting zoos and farm tours would expose the public to such risks.

Legal Issues

Government and private businesses must not only look at their moral responsibility towards the safety of people and animals but need to recognized the legal ramifications if they do not take all appropriate measures.

As shown in one US case:

November 7, 2003: A 3-year old girl and a 79-year-old man died after a 1999 outbreak of *E. coli* at the Washington County Fair outside Albany, New York. About 1,079 people were infected and 65 were hospitalized. In 2003, a class action lawsuit filed by 122 victims was settled for \$4 million.

Education

As stated, the proper signage and health information was usually not provided. If provided, the educational materials were not presented in the various languages represented by the various cultures in our society attending the FVA.

5. Recommendations

Recommendations

a) To Government

Based on the documentation in this report Lifeforce recommends:

1. Petting Zoo activities at the Fraser Valley Auctions should be stopped.

Serious health hazards such as Bio Hazards that be transmitted by air and/or contact with animals cannot be prevented. Animal Welfare and Rights violations cannot be prevented. **Avoiding petting the animals at the auction is the best way to avoid the inherent cruelty and risk of disease transmission that could result in class action lawsuits.**

If these activities are not stopped then the following actions must be taken:

1. The Auction and any other entertainment business where people are in contact with animals must be regulated by Provincial/Federal governments. This would also include all operations that could expose people to health that do not commonly follow petting zoo guidelines. This includes zoos, aquariums, auction, childrens' rodeo and agricultural fairs that include animal petting. Stronger animal welfare and rights protection incorporated into regulations.

2. A 24/7 Hotline to report human health concerns.

The present BC Nurse Line in which one can speak to a registered nurse 24-hours every day and has a translation service can be publicized and used.

3. A 24/7 Hotline to report all animal problems.

A simplified 1 800 phone system should be started. The operator will forward the calls directly to a 24/7 SPCA officer or other appropriate organization.

4. Enforcement of Regulations

Federal inspectors from CFIA should clarify and enforce regulations and guidelines. SPCAs should be provided with adequate funding to inspect and enforce animal welfare laws.

5. Education Materials Re: Petting Auction Animals

Educational materials should be publicized and available in various languages on site and through various web sites/publications such as the BC Health Guide book. The information must emphasize that people should report all possible illnesses so present statistics would be improved.

6. Hobby Farms Tax Incentives

Many "hobby farm" buyers are not well educated about animal welfare issues. In order to reduce the circle of cruelty to animals Revenue Canada should define the \$2500 product level as plant produce not animals.

7. SOS: Global Warning

In order to reduce the impact of conventional factory farming on Global Warming governments, businesses and others must not increase the production of animals by promoting petting zoos, keeping animals in captivity and eating animals.

Recommendations

b) To Fraser Valley Auctions

Based on the documentation in this report Lifeforce recommends:

Everyone should recognize that farm animals as sentient beings. Animals are capable of feeling pain and suffering, experiencing sensations and emotions. An Animal Welfare policy must include basic behavioural needs - stand up, sit down, stretch, turn around and compatibility with species of their own kind. A positive duty of care that every owner or person in charge of an animal must provide for is its physical, health and behavioural needs. The Five Freedoms, which were initiated by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (UK), were modified in New Zealand legislation as the five basic needs of animals relating to:

1. proper and sufficient food and water,
2. adequate shelter,
3. the ability to display normal patterns of behaviour,
4. physical handling that minimises distress and
5. protection from and rapid diagnosis of injury or disease.

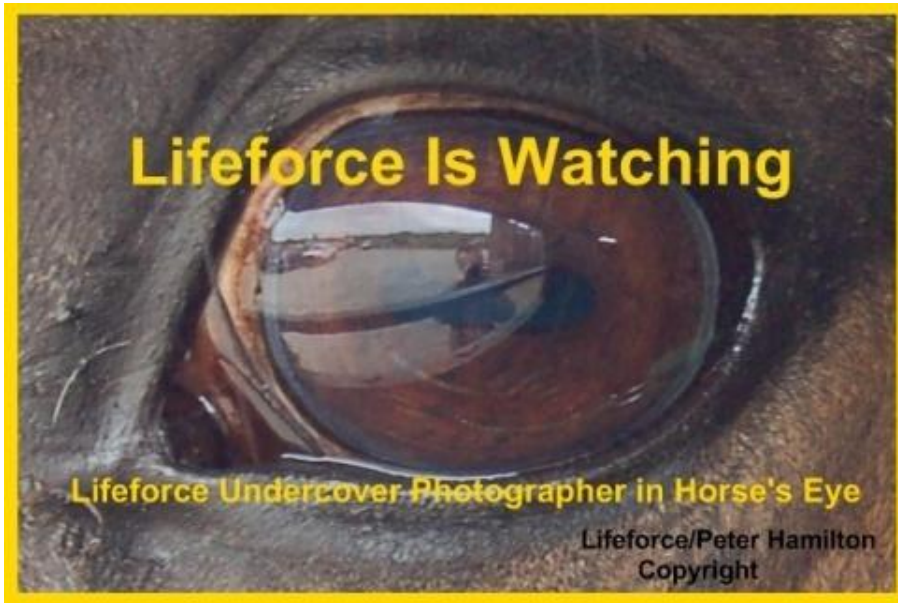
Fraser Valley Auction should:

1. Develop an **Animal Welfare Policy** that is posted on their website and on site.
2. Develop a **Health Awareness Program** that is posted on their website and on site. This should include regular cleanliness/maintenance program that includes pressure washing of pens to remove feces and other possible contaminants.
3. Written Notice to Sellers re: **Animal Welfare Policy, Health Awareness Program**, handling and transportation.
4. Written Notice to Sellers to advise then to their animals must be in good health and not injured.
5. Written Notice to Buyers (with purchase of auction paddles) re: **Animal Welfare Policy, Health Awareness Program**, handling and transportation.
6. Upon delivery and pickup all animals must be humanely contained in order to meet needs of the species and in order to protect the safety of the animals and the public.
7. No carry out of animals from holding pens/cages that are not properly, humanely contained.
8. Poultry must not be overcrowded and must follow the minimal guidelines to allow all birds floor space so that all can sit at the same time.
9. Animals must not be overcrowded such as pigeons being piled on top of each other.
Loading Densities:
 - a) The number of birds per container depends on available floor space, body size of the birds, and the prevailing environmental conditions at the time of transport.
 - b) All birds should be able to rest on the floor at the same time and remain evenly distributed.
 - c) Weather conditions should be considered when determining load densities for growing and adult birds. The minimum space allowance should be increased during summer especially if the weather is hot and humid. On hot days, loading of turkeys should be avoided.
10. No overcrowding of animals in holding pens.
11. Cages must also be held and/or loaded in a horizontal position to avoid pile ups.
12. Animals must be housed and transported with compatible species only.
13. Animal must be transported in properly ventilated enclosures that meet the social and behavioural needs of the species.
14. Non-ambulatory animals must not be transported. Animals that are sick/injured must be segregated during transport.
15. Animals must not be hog tied or restricted in any manner that violates their five basic needs.
16. Animals must not be suffocated or killed by any means on site for food slaughter.

17. Animals must be transported by humane methods and not subjected to weather or stressful situations. This includes no cages on car roof tops, no overhanging of cages outside of the bumpers above the roadway and no overcrowding.
18. Petting Zoo Guidelines must be posted and proper sanitary hand wash stations provided according to BC Centre for Disease Control.
19. Kids should not enter pens or pet animal.
20. All signage must be large and in multiple public areas such as the restaurant, auction ring, poultry area and large animal area.
21. Any animal(s) that are sick, injured or exhibiting abnormal symptoms/behaviour must be immediately attended by a veterinarian. They must not be left in pens such as "00" until the owner removes them.
22. Any animal(s) that are sick, injured or exhibiting abnormal symptoms/behaviours that cannot be saved should be euthanized using methods approved by the Canadian Veterinarian Association and by a veterinarian.
23. Loading Docks must be covered, kept clean or made of nonslip material in order to prevent injury to animals.
24. Proper loading procedures must be adhered to in order to prevent injuries to animals. This includes not dropping or throwing animals into transport vehicles. The loading dock must be level with the loading vehicle. If a vehicle is higher than the dock a sturdy ramp may be used but excessive inclines are not permitted. Any vehicles that are lower than the ramp in excess of 3" may not be loaded.
25. Staff must treat animals with respect. Excessive use of force and electric prods/broom are not permitted. Activities by staff such as the "Chicken Toss" (throwing chickens into cages) and putting in compatible animals, such as cocks, in the same enclosures is not permitted.
26. Animal wastes must be properly stored on a impervious surface and properly drained in order to prevent runoff and contamination of local ground waters.
27. All truck or vehicles with any hard surfaces must have soft bedding.

References

- * Petting Zoos: A Silent Epidemic? www.lifeforcefoundation.org
- * BC Meat Inspection Regulation
- * BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands Correspondence
- * Federal Health of Animals Act
- * Meat Hygiene Manual of Procedures
- * Code of Practise for the Treatment of Poultry in Western Australia



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