



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

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PRC 021995

MAR 05 2019

Dr. Jane Thomson
Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Dr. Thomson:

Thank you for your letter of February 15th, 2019, regarding your invitation to make a submission to the inquiry on the feasibility of a national horse traceability register for all horses.

The Government of Canada understands the importance of developing a national traceability system for horses and supports Australia's efforts to explore establishing a national horse traceability register. Strong traceability programs enable effective and timely disease control investigations, better management of animal health issues, and help improve capacity to maintain market access.

While the Government of Canada has historically worked collaboratively with provincial governments and industry sectors to encourage the development of an horse traceability system in Canada, the Government has determined that advancement of horse traceability through federal regulations is not a priority at this time.

That said, it is mandatory for all operators of Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) inspected facilities in Canada engaged in equine slaughter for edible purposes to have complete identity and medical records for all animals (domestic and imported) presented for slaughter. These records are referred to as equine information documents. They contain a standardized description of the animal, as well as a comprehensive record of the equine's medical treatment for at least the preceding six months.

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We thank you for reaching out and if you agree, we hope you will share your findings once the study is complete.

Sincerely,

France Pégeot
Executive Vice-President
Canadian Food Inspection Agency