

# The production of horse meat in Argentina and Uruguay



**Investigations conducted in March and April 2015**

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## Argentina

2015/04/07

### Argentina | Mercedes | Slaughterhouse Lamar | Horsemeat Import

When they arrive at the slaughterhouse Lamar at midday, a team of our cooperation partner TSB | AWF see a transporter entering the plant and unloading horses. The vehicle is a typical Argentinean livestock transporter: It has no protective roof and the trap-doors are much too low for horses. A worker climbs up to the open top of the trailer and strikes the animals' heads with a long stick. Several horses hit their heads hard against the low trap-doors, which can result in severe head injuries. As the horses are ushered to the lairage, a white horse is observed slipping in the alley. The investigators note that a brown horse is severely limping and has difficulty keeping pace with the others. Several horses are thin, with their ribs and hip bones clearly visible. The animals are put into a small holding pen, where conditions are very crowded. The large paddocks behind the lairage look overgrown and unused. In the past, the horses stayed several days in these paddocks prior to slaughter. In 2013, many stolen as well as severely injured and dying horses were discovered in these paddocks. It looks like the horses are now only kept in the small pens close to the main building, where they are better protected from unwanted views.



*Worker hitting a horse on the head.*



*Horse hitting the head against low trap-door.*



*Overcrowded holding pens at slaughterhouse Lamar.*

**2015/04/08**

**Argentina | Mercedes | Slaughterhouse Lamar | Horsemeat Import**

The investigators return to the slaughterhouse Lamar at 3:00 at night. More pens are now also filled with horses that have been delivered in the meantime. The pens look overcrowded and the horses do not have enough space. Animals often show aggressive behaviour in crowded conditions. Most of the horses are calm and resting, but the investigators note a black horse that repeatedly bites the others standing nearby. At 4:30, the first workers arrive at the plant. Watchdogs that have noticed the investigators keep barking. The investigators leave Lamar and drive to the slaughterhouse in Entre Rios.



*Premises of Lamar at night.*



*Overcrowded holding pens at slaughterhouse Lamar.*

**2015/04/08**

**Argentina | Gualeguay | Slaughterhouse Entre Rios | Horsemeat Import**

When the investigators arrive at the horse slaughterhouse in Entre Rios, they see around 20 to 30 horses in a paddock behind the plant. They have no shelter from the sun and no feed. The investigators notice that in the empty paddocks, there is some shelter, although it is run down, and there are also some large straw bales. They can see from the distance that many horses are thin with sunken in flanks. However, the horses are too far away for them to see if they have any injuries. A thin horse, whose hip bones are showing, is lying down and not moving. It appears to be exhausted or is possibly injured. Outside the perimeter fence, the investigators find a pile of horse carcasses. Numerous dead horses have been dumped here and left uncovered for the scavengers to eat. They are in various stages of decomposition. It is very likely that they have died during transport or in the holding pens of the slaughterhouse.



*Horses in a paddock without shelter or feed.*



*Pile of dead horses next to Entre Rios slaughterhouse.*

**2015/04/11**

**Argentina | Santiago del Estero | Meeting with horse dealer | Horsemeat Import**

Today the investigators meet with a slaughter horse dealer in a small town near Santiago del Estero. He says that he has 30 horses at his collecting station at the moment and will have a truck full in a few days. In conversation he mentions a person he works with from La Banda, who organizes the transport, paperwork and does all the dealings with the slaughterhouses. The investigators know this dealer from an earlier investigation and cannot risk meeting him again, as he would certainly recognize us. In 2012, they visited his collecting station in La Banda, from where they trailed a transport to the slaughterhouse Lamar for 18 hours, during which the horses did not get any water, feed or rest. The conditions at the collecting station were disastrous: Lack of shelter, no water, emaciated and injured horses, no veterinary care, use of dogs to round up the horses and beatings with sticks.



*Loading of horses at the collecting station in La Banda (photo 2012)*

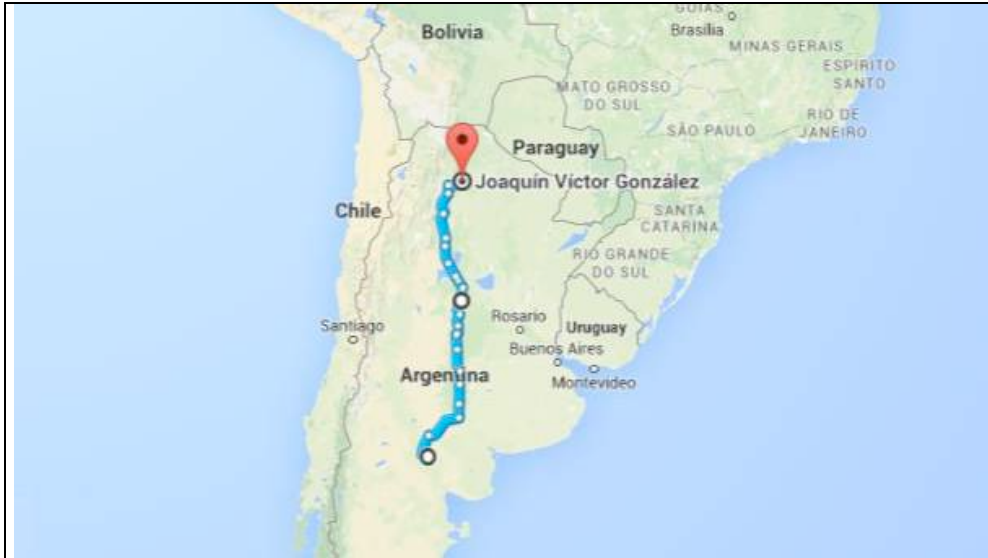


*Use of dogs to round up the horses (photo 2012)*

**2015/04/12**

**Argentina | Salta | Meeting with horse dealer | Horsemeat Import**

In the morning, the investigators meet with a slaughter horse dealer in a small town near Salta in the north of Argentina. He is the main dealer in this area and has two horse collecting stations. He tells them that he sends only about three trucks per month to slaughter at this time of the year, as they have not yet started bringing the horses down from the mountains. This will happen in about one month. He further explains that he sends the horses to the slaughterhouse Solemar in Chimpay as opposed to the one in Rio Cuarto, which would be much closer, because Solemar is paying better prices. Chimpay in the Province of Rio Negro is 1900 km away from here and the transport takes more than 30 hours.



*The transport distance to the slaughterhouse Solemar in Chimpay is 1900 km.*

**2015/04/12**

**Argentina | Tucuman | Horse transport | Horsemeat Import**

On their way to Tucuman, the investigators pass a truck loaded with horses. The open-roof vehicle is a typical Argentinean livestock transporter and does not offer the animals any protection from sun and rain. In Argentina, the same trucks are used for cattle and horses. They are completely inappropriate to transport horses as the trap-doors, when they are opened, are much too low for horses and can cause serious head injuries. The investigators do not see any ear tags attached to the horses, meaning that they are not on the way to a slaughterhouse. It is very likely that the horses are transported to a slaughter horse collecting station or an auction.



*Typical Argentinean animal transporter without protection against adverse weather conditions.*

**2015/04/15**

**Argentina | Gualeguay | Slaughterhouse Entre Rios | Horsemeat Import**

At 7:15 the investigators arrive at the horse slaughter plant in Entre Rios that they already visited last week. It is still dark. There are several groups of horses in the lairage area. Conditions are very crowded and it is therefore not surprising that the horses are observed biting each other. A worker starts moving a group of horses to the slaughter area. He ushers the animals with a long stick with a flag on it, which he also uses to hit them. The smooth concrete floor is extremely slippery. At least six horses fall down as they are rushed to the exit of the pen and bump against each other.

At the back of the plant, there are around 60 to 80 horses in larger paddocks. Once again, the investigators see a group of horses in a paddock without feed or shelter. Several hungry animals are observed searching the dirt floor for something to eat. The investigators notice some worn shelter in a few pens; the majority of the pens however offer no shelter at all. Several horses are thin and their ribs showing. The investigators detect an emaciated chestnut horse that is standing behind a group of horses. His spinal cord and hip bones are protruding through the skin. Another horse with a large open wound on the hind leg is standing next to a white mare that has an enlarged abdomen suggesting that she is pregnant. Many horses have scratches and abrasions on their bodies and heads, likely from transport on inadequate trucks.





*Horses slipping and falling on the smooth concrete floor of the lairage.*



*A few paddocks have a tatty shelter; the others offer no shelter at all.*



*White mare that looks pregnant and thin horse with injured hind leg.*

## Uruguay

2015/03/13

### Uruguay | Totoral del Sauce | Slaughterhouse Clay | Horsemeat Import

The investigators arrive at the Clay slaughterhouse at 9:00. Not far from the slaughter plant, there is Clay's collecting station for slaughter horses. They note that some of the pens offer no shelter at all. Other pens have a worn shelter made of wooden posts with some black fabric as roof. The fabric has fallen off in most areas, leaving the majority of the animals without protection from sun and rain. The investigators observe that some horses have no ear tags, although they should get an ear tag upon arrival at the collecting station. As they have no ear tags, it is highly questionable if they have the necessary documents, which have to include the ear tag number. The investigators detect a gelding without ear tag that is emaciated and in a bad condition. He appears very weak and the way he walks indicates that he is in pain. They also notice several thin horses with hip bones and ribs clearly visible.

At 14:00, a horse transporter arrives at the slaughterhouse and backs up to the unloading ramp. The vehicle looks old and dilapidated. The temperature is over 30°C, but the open-roof trailer offers no protection from the blazing sun. The loading conditions are crowded. The investigators do not see any ear tags attached to the horses. It is therefore questionable why the horses are unloaded at the slaughterhouse and not at the collecting station, where there is also an unloading ramp. In Uruguay, only horses with ear tags can be legally slaughtered.



*Broken shelter - insufficient shade for all the horses.*



*Collecting station Clay: holding pen with no shelter at all.*



*Emaciated, weak gelding without ear tag.*



*Dilapidated truck unloading horses at slaughterhouse Clay.*

**2015/03/13**

**Uruguay | Sauce | Slaughterhouse Sarel | Horsemeat Import**

In the morning, the investigators follow a horse transporter that drives by Clay to the slaughterhouse Sarel. It is a typical Uruguayan livestock truck, which has no roof and therefore offers the animals no protection from sun and rain. The trailer appears overcrowded and the investigators observe a lot of biting. At Sarel, there are horses in the paddocks next to the main road. Straw is available for them in addition to the rather poor grass, but there is no shelter from the sun. A thin horse, whose ribs and hip bones are clearly visible, is lying down and appears to be exhausted. In the afternoon, the

investigators follow another horse transporter to the slaughterhouse Sarel. The animals on board the vehicle are tightly packed together. The metal bars above their heads are very low and tall horses risk hitting their heads.



*Horses fighting inside the crowded trailer.*



*Thin horse lying down, looking exhausted.*



*Very low metal bars above horses' heads.*

**2015/03/14**

**Uruguay | Canelones | Slaughter horse collecting station | Horsemeat Import**

Pedrazzi is Clay's largest supplier and shipped 5.761 horses to slaughter last year. When the investigators drive by his collecting station, they see cattle in the holding pens, but only a few horses in the back of the pens. They find it strange that the largest supplier of Clay

has so few horses.

A neighbour of Pedrazzi tells them that he buys horses at different places in the north of Uruguay and on his way south. He then drives by his farm to fill up the trailer with a few horses he keeps at his collecting station. The horses that are already on board the truck are usually not unloaded. The transport from north to south would last 8 to 10 hours, if Pedrazzi would bring the horses straight to the slaughterhouse. However, as he picks up horses at many different places along the way, the transport time can be extensive for the horses that are loaded first. Furthermore, a lot of stress is created when horses are put together in new groups in a small space.

When the investigators ask workers of Pedrazzi if they have horses for sale, they reply that there are only a few riding horses on the pastures, which are not for sale. They do not mention the horses that are in the pens together with the cattle. It is very likely that these horses are destined for slaughter.



*Collecting station of Pedrazzi, Clay's main supplier.*

**2015/03/15**

**Uruguay | Tranqueras | Slaughter horse collecting station | Horsemeat Import**

In the morning, the investigators visit the collecting station of horse dealer Bardanca, who supplies all three EU approved slaughterhouses with horses. He is one of Clay's main suppliers and shipped more than 1.300 horses to Clay in 2014. Bardanca leases land in Tranqueras in the north of Uruguay from an international forestry company. When the investigators arrive there, they find empty holding pens and a loading ramp. The water in the trough is very dirty and full of algae. On the pasture behind the pens, the investigators spot a group of approx. 10 horses at the edge of the forest. There are likely more horses inside the eucalyptus plantation, which are hidden from their view.

Later the investigators learn that Bardanca is known to be the biggest smuggler of horses in Uruguay. An official says that the Bardanca family has been smuggling horses for generations and that it is easy to bring them across the Brazilian/Uruguayan border.



*Horses grazing at the edge of a eucalyptus forest.*



*Loading ramp at collecting station of Bardanca.*



*The water trough is full of algae.*

**2015/03/15**

**Uruguay | Artigas | Slaughter horse collecting station | Horsemeat Import**

In the afternoon, the investigators drive to the collecting station of horse dealer Bonfrisco, south of Artigas at the Brazilian border. Bonfrisco shipped 438 horses to the slaughterhouse Clay last year. His collecting station is located in a very remote area and

difficult to find. When the investigators finally arrive, they note that nobody is there. The holding pens behind the dilapidated building are empty. The loading ramp is also in a very bad condition. On a large pasture behind the pens, there are approx. 20 horses and a foal. The investigators notice that two horses are lame. The temperature today is 34°C, but there is no shelter on the pasture or natural shade from trees. Further down the hill the investigators find a spot which is covered in bones. A horse has probably died here without even being noticed. Waist-high bushes grow on the pasture, which make it difficult to detect an injured or sick horse lying on the ground. Also, as the building is obviously uninhabited, it has to be questioned how often the horses are checked on.



*Collecting station of Bonfrisco, supplier of Clay.*



*The loading ramp looks very dilapidated.*



*Bones scattered on the ground.*



*Thigh bone and half of pelvis of a horse.*

**2015/03/17**

**Uruguay | Treinta y Tres | Slaughterhouse El Amanecer | Horsemeat Import**

On a pasture belonging to the slaughterhouse El Amanecer, the investigators find a decaying carcass of a horse as well as several horse skulls. There are no bullet holes in the skulls, what implies that the horses were left to die instead of being euthanized.

Next to the slaughterhouse building, there are eight waiting pens, which do not offer any shade from the sun. In the forecourt of the stunning chute, groups of horses are hosed down with water. The worker often aims the water jet directly at their faces. In the stunning chute that leads up to the entrance of the building, the horses are also sprayed water in their faces, what makes them go back instead of moving forward. The floor of the stunning chute is slippery and the investigators observe a white horse falling and having difficulty getting up again. Loud noise can be heard from inside the slaughterhouse. The horses in the stunning chute show strong signs of fear or even panic. An electric prod is systematically used on the horses first in line to make them enter the building. According to the custodian of the plant, the horses are stunned by electrical current at their head. This could be the reason why water is splashed in their faces.

Many horses are in a deplorable state. Some are severely emaciated; several have open cuts and abrasions on their bodies and heads. One horse has bleeding injuries along the spinal column. A large part of these injuries likely occurred during transport. In addition, the investigators see several horses without ear tags. This is a violation of the Uruguayan law, which requires that horses without ear tags shall not be accepted for slaughter.





*A horse skull without bullet hole lying on the pasture of the slaughterhouse.*



*Water jet being aimed at the horses' heads.*



*Horse showing strong signs of fear.*



*Horse falling down in the stunning chute.*



*Cut-off legs falling onto the bare floor of the courtyard.*

**2015/03/18**

**Uruguay | Canelones | Slaughter horse collecting station | Horsemeat Import**

Today the investigators visit the collecting station of horse dealer Prego near Canelones in the south of Uruguay. He is one of Clay's largest suppliers and shipped 1.147 horses to Clay in the past year. When they arrive, an employee is busy preparing horses for an auction that takes place in San Antonio the next day. He is cutting their manes and says that they bring 400 horses to the auction and not only riding horses. The investigators note that several horses still have tags from previous auctions attached to their backs. Some have neglected hooves that need trimming.

A horse transporter has just arrived and a single horse is unloaded, which has bleeding cuts on the forehead and on a hind leg. After the horse has been unloaded, a worker collects horse shoes from the trailer floor, which must have fallen off during previous transports. The fact that horses are transported with horse shoes holds a high risk of injuries as they are not transported in individual stalls but in large groups.

In one pen, the investigators detect a cow that is lying on the ground with straddled legs, obviously unable to stand. She might have a fractured hip or a rupture of the adductors. The cow is left unattended, whereas she would need immediate veterinary assistance.



*Horse with tag from a recent auction.*



*Horse with neglected hooves.*



*Downer cow left unattended.*

**2015/03/18**

**Uruguay | San Antonio | Horse Auction | Horsemeat Import**

The investigators arrive at the auction site outside San Antonio at 15:30. The auction will take place the next day, but 230 horses have already been delivered and about half of them are yearlings. A horse transporter is parked at the ramp and the investigators observe the unloading, which is quite chaotic. The handling by the workers is rough; they hit the horses with long sticks. Several animals are injured and lame. A thin horse can only bear weight on three legs; his left front leg is broken. The animal is thus not fit for transport and should never have been brought to the auction. The investigators notice a young foal and several ponies among the adult horses. In the EU, they would have to be transported separately, as the risk of them being trampled is very high. After unloading, the whole group of horses is moved into a big pen where they are divided into smaller groups. Separating them is again a chaotic procedure and the animals are clearly frightened. An auction worker explains that the horses are divided into the following groups: riding horses, sport horses, working horses and horses "for the industry", which means slaughter horses. A chestnut horse that an employee has been riding has an open, infected wound of about 20 cm on the right hind leg. The festering wound has obviously not been treated. In a group of yearlings, the investigators detect a horse that is severely lame and has great difficulty walking.



*Horses of different sizes transported together.*



*Horse with broken front leg, standing on three legs only.*



*Foal with abrasions on the head and swollen eye.*



*Severe open wound, which is obviously untreated.*

**2015/03/19**

**Uruguay | San Antonio | Horse Auction | Horsemeat Import**

The horse auction in San Antonio is organised by horse dealer Richard Prego, who is one of Clay's largest suppliers of slaughter horses. The sale starts at 15:00. The auctioneer announces through loudspeakers that 400 horses are offered for sale. Both riding and loose horses are chased through the auction ring for about two minutes. The handling by the auction employees is very rough. The horses are frequently beaten, also on their heads. They show strong signs of fear, many of them panic. The investigators observe a yearling that is so frightened that he jumps against the gate in order to escape the auction ring. Children of different ages ride horses in the auction ring and help move groups of horses from the pens to the forecourt. The youngest child is only about six years old. They observe that the children also beat the animals.

Numerous horses offered for sale are injured, sick or very thin. The investigators see animals with open wounds, broken legs and strangles. Many horses are lame. A chestnut gelding is extremely emaciated and very weak. He should never have been accepted for sale. The severely lame yearling the investigators saw the day before is also chased through the auction ring. The thin horse with the broken left front leg, which can bear weight on three legs only, also hobbles through the ring. After the horses have been sold, they are moved to different pens and mixed in new groups. A lot of fighting can be observed in the holding pens.

The sale lasts until 21:00. Some single horses are loaded after the auction, but most horses stay overnight. In the holding pens, the animals do not have access to water or food. The investigators observe that hungry horses are searching the dirt floor for something to eat.



*Riding horse being chased through the auction ring.*



*Horse with broken fetlock sold at the auction.*



*Horse with an open, bleeding wound being chased around the auction ring.*



*Horse with broken leg hobbling on three legs through the auction ring.*

**2015/03/20**

**Uruguay | San Antonio | Horse Auction | Horsemeat Import**

The investigators return to the auction site on the day after the sale at 6:40. Most horses are still in the holding pens, a few are on the pastures. At 7:20, the first transporter backs up to the loading ramp and immediately starts loading horses. Dogs are seen chasing them down the raceway from the pens to the loading ramp. The auction employees use long sticks with white flags to guide but also to hit the horses. The investigators note that at least 10 foals are loaded together with the adult animals, which would be prohibited in the EU. 43 horses are loaded onto the truck.

On a pasture next to the auction building, the investigators notice the extremely emaciated chestnut gelding that they saw the day before going through the auction ring. He is weak and moves very slowly. They also note a thin black horse that is lying down and resting his head on the ground. The horses are completely exhausted from the stress of the sale. A brown horse holds up his left hind leg and appears to be in pain.

Several transporters, small and large ones, arrive at the auction site and pick up horses. At 10:20, the truck of Richard Prego, one of the main suppliers of Clay, backs up to the loading ramp. Again, dogs and long sticks are used to load the horses. Loud barking can be heard. The trap-doors of the truck are very low and the horses have to lower their head to walk through. The investigators see that a trap-door is lowered onto a horse's back when being closed.



*Most horses are loaded on the day after the auction.*



*Horses of different sizes transported in the same compartment.*



*Weak and extremely emaciated gelding.*



*Horse holding up his hind leg in pain.*



*Exhausted, thin horse lying on the ground.*



2015/03/21

**Uruguay | Palmitas | Slaughter horse dealer Bardanca | Horsemeat Import**

Last week, the investigators visited the collecting station of slaughter horse dealer Bardanca in the north of Uruguay. He told them that he also keeps horses at another farm near Mercedes in the west of the country. Bardanca supplies all three EU approved slaughterhouses with horses and is one of Clay's main suppliers.

When the investigators arrive in Mercedes, they ask around for Bardanca's farm. However, people only know Bardanca's private house in Palmitas. They drive there, but nobody is at home. Two livestock trucks are parked on the premises, a large and a small one. They notice horse manure on the floor of the large trailer, which is dilapidated and completely rusty. In the side walls, there are small slits with sharp edges in which the legs of foals and ponies can get caught. The tyres of the trailer are completely worn down, being smooth and largely without tread. The investigators even note cracks in the tyres. A driver's cabin with the inscription "BARDANCA" is connected to the trailer, meaning that it is still being used. This shows the careless handling of animals, as the trailer is wholly inappropriate and even dangerous to transport animals.



*Bardanca's rusty trailer with sharp-edged slits.*



*Plain tread tyre.*



*Dilapidated trailer connected to Bardanca's cabin.*

**2015/03/23**

**Uruguay | Colon | Slaughter horse collecting station | Horsemeat Import**

When the investigators arrive at the collecting station of horse dealer Riccetto at 18:30, there is only one horse in the holding pens. They guess that he must keep more horses at another place, being one of Clay's largest suppliers. They drive around and look for another field with horses, but without success. When the investigators return to his collecting station at 19:00, a horse trailer is parked next to the pens and a group of mares and foals have just been unloaded. As the trailer has no dividers, it is evident that the mares and foals have been transported all together, what would be prohibited in the EU. The investigators notice that one of the mares has two auction tags attached to her back, a new and an older one. This shows that she was brought from one auction to the other.

Riccetto lives next to the holding pens and comes over to talk to us. All the horses in this pen are mares, but he has more horses on other pastures. He explains that he sends horses to all three slaughterhouses, but works mainly with Clay. He buys horses at auctions but also from different farms. Riccetto states that when buying horses at an auction, it is difficult to know where they come from. Some of the horses are brought to the auctions by their owners, but others are brought there in groups by horse dealers who bought them from different sources. In the second case, the origin of the horses is unknown.



*Mare with two auction tags.*

*Mares and foals transported together.*

**2015/03/24**

**Uruguay | San Jacinto | Purchase of Phenylbutazone | Horsemeat Import**

In the morning, the investigators go to a veterinary pharmacy in San Jacinto near Canelones and covertly film the purchase of Phenylbutazone. They buy Fenbuzol Oral (Phenylbutazone for oral use) without a prescription. The only question that they are asked is if they need it for a horse. It only costs 142 Uruguayan Pesos, which is about 5 USD. Phenylbutazone is commonly administered to horses as an anti-inflammatory drug for the short-term treatment of pain and fever. It is not permitted to be used in the EU in animals intended for the food chain. In the EU, Phenylbutazone is available only on prescription and treatment with Phenylbutazone must be recorded in the equine passport, resulting in the definitive exclusion of the horses from slaughter for human consumption.



*Phenylbutazone handed out without prescription.*

**2015/03/24**

**Uruguay | Totoral del Sauce | Slaughterhouse Clay | Horsemeat Import**

When the investigators arrive at the slaughterhouse Clay at 10:30, there are two groups of horses in the pens next to the loading ramp of the collecting station. Some horses are already standing in the raceway leading to the ramp. Apparently, the horses from the collecting station are loaded onto a truck to be brought over to the slaughterhouse, which is located only a few hundred meters away. The investigators notice that these horses all have ear tags, whereas several horses in other pens do not have any. It has to be questioned if the horses get the ear tags just shortly before being slaughtered. In the group standing closer to the main road, the investigators detect two horses with leg injuries that are unfit for transport. Both injured horses can only bear weight on three legs. They both hold up the injured leg and their posture indicates pain.

At 12:30, a horse transporter arrives at the slaughterhouse Clay and backs up to the unloading ramp. An employee of Clay climbs up to the open top of the lorry and stands on the metal bars above the horses' heads, what frightens them. He climbs down as soon as he sees us. The investigators note that several horses have auction tags attached to their

backs. The horses do not have ear tags. It is very questionable why horses without ear tags but with auction tags are unloaded at the slaughter plant and not at Clay's collecting station. These horses should first have to go to a collecting station for quarantine, where they get the ear tags. In Uruguay, only horses with ear tags can be legally slaughtered. When the trailer is empty, the workers do not unhitch it from the lorry, but move the horses through the low trap-doors between lorry and trailer – a procedure that holds a high risk of head injuries. The investigators note that the taller horses not only have to lower their head but their whole body, as they would touch the trap-doors with their withers and back. Indeed, a grey horse touches the trap-door with his back and goes down. A brown horse is severely lame and several horses are thin with their hip bones clearly showing.



*Injured horses that can only stand on three legs.*



*Unloading at slaughterhouse Clay – worker moving horses from above, what frightens them.*



*Horses are moved through low trap-door.*

**2015/03/24**

**Uruguay | Sauce | Slaughterhouse Sarel | Horsemeat Import**

At 11:45, the investigators arrive at the slaughterhouse Sarel. There are horses in the paddocks next to the main road. In contrary to their last visit, no straw is available for them as a supplement to the little grass growing in the pens. They observe that horses are searching the floor for something to eat. There is little shade from trees, but most of the horses do not have shade.

Several horses are thin with their ribs and hip bones clearly visible, or even emaciated. The investigators detect a white horse that is emaciated and standing with an abnormal posture which indicates pain. The horse is reluctant to move and walks very slowly. He might suffer from equine laminitis. Another horse has a severely swollen carpal joint and does not bear any weight on the hurting leg. He does not move from the spot. It is important to note that painkillers like Phenylbutazone cannot be administered to the horses before slaughter if their meat is intended for human consumption.



*Paddock with little grass and no shelter.*



*Thin horses with ribs and hip bones clearly visible.*



*Abnormal posture indicating pain.*



*Horse with swollen carpal joint, standing on three legs.*