

October 6, 2010

Larry Beechey, Deputy Commissioner
Ontario Provincial Police

Dear Deputy Commissioner Beechey:

I am writing regarding the October 4 crash outside Toronto of a tractor trailer hauling 235 pigs to slaughter at Quality Meat Packers Ltd. Approximately 74 pigs were reportedly killed upon impact or died in the hours that followed as a result of terrible injuries and related trauma; another seven were apparently killed by police and workers at the scene. On behalf of PETA and our more than 2 million members and supporters worldwide—including tens of thousands across Canada—we ask that the Ontario Provincial Police further investigate this incident and, if evidence warrants, prosecute the driver of the truck (an unidentified 26-year-old from Norwich, Ontario) under the cruelty-to-animals provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada ("Code").

Section 445.1(1)(a) of the Code provides that one commits an offense when he or she "wilfully causes ... unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal," while Section 446.(1)(a) criminalizes conduct in which one "by wilful neglect causes damage or injury to animals ... while they are being driven or conveyed." Both sections allow that one's failure to "exercise reasonable care ... of an animal" thereby causing him or her pain, suffering, damage, or injury is proof that such consequences of neglect—about which there is no doubt that these pigs endured—were caused willfully.¹ We believe that this driver's apparent speeding and careless driving—for which he was reportedly charged—constitute the very failure to exercise reasonable care that the Code refers to and thus indicates that their suffering was caused willfully.

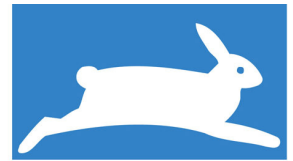
I have witnessed the aftermath of similar crashes and have seen the mangled remains of animals who were killed by the impact. I have seen debilitated, terrified, and distressed survivors being dragged by the ears, electro-shocked, and forced onto replacement trucks bound for the slaughterhouse, and I have watched the worst off being killed with a device that drives a bolt into their brains—a device that sometimes malfunctions. But one need not have witnessed a crash scene personally to grasp the urgency with which the pork industry must act to prevent these chaotic, deadly wrecks. Drivers—and, if merited, their employers—must be held accountable for recklessly causing the pigs in their charge to suffer these avoidable, ghastly injuries and premature deaths. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Dan Paden
Senior Research Associate
Cruelty Investigations Department

¹*Criminal Code of Canada*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46, §§ 445.1(3) and 446(3).



PETA

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