

Everyone loves a foal, and wants the best possible future for their horse/s, but if *you* breed this season..  
...can you guarantee what the future holds for *your* foal?

According to the Federal Government Department Of Agriculture, around 40,000 horses are slaughtered each year in Australia for human consumption, mostly for overseas markets.



Around 20% of these horses - 8000 - come from feral stock, i.e. Brumbies. The rest will be domestic stock, ex-race horses and the like. Around 52.8% of the horses carry recognisable racing brands. The rest are un-branded. Of the branded horses, around 80% carry Thoroughbred brands, while the remaining 20% carry Standardbred brands.

The horses are slaughtered and their meat processed in two on-shore export-accredited abattoirs located in S.A and Qld.

In 2007, the average dollar value of horsemeat was \$4.20 per kilo, and value of horsemeat exported from Australia was approximately \$8.39 million.\* ...That is an industry.

*As 'horse lovers', are we unwittingly breeding for the horse meat industry??*

Eva Berriman, a Veterinarian, qualified technical teacher and technical writer from Queensland writes in her article [Horse Slaughter and Horse Meat: The Facts](#) "As with cattle and other types of livestock, the best meat comes from younger animals in good condition with quality muscling. It is not the old, broken-down horses, tired of living, that are killed at these two horsemeat abattoirs - they go instead to one of the 30-odd knackereries throughout Australia, to be processed for pet food, fertiliser, hides etc. No, it is much younger horses mostly still in their prime which are slaughtered for human consumption."



If these facts disturb you, ask yourself one simple question this year... **Do you need to breed?**

While there will always be a need for accredited equine slaughter facilities and carcass removal, do we need to breed to the extent that we have created, and supply, a thriving multi-billion dollar horse meat industry which processes 40,000 Australian horses per annum for an overseas human consumption market?

Salient fact: "The volume of horse meat and offal exported from September 2007–September 2008 was approx 2244 tonnes."  
Ref. - Food Exports Branch, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

\*Reference: "I'm So Hungry I Could Eat A Horse". Thank you to Geraldine Chapman [horseyard.com.au](http://horseyard.com.au)