



NEWS LINE

For Release April 3, 2008

There are many reasons to protect the health and welfare of animals, says Alberta Equestrian Federation representative

The health and welfare of animals is uppermost on the minds of the vast majority of livestock owners. Unfortunately, this is not always the case and animals can suffer as a result. Often poor care arises due to lack of knowledge, life's pressures, old age, sickness and absentee owners.

"Horse owners of Alberta are committed through their affiliation with the Alberta Equestrian Federation and the Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) organization to assure better health and welfare of animals," says Bill desBarres (pro. de bar). He is chairman of the breeds and industry committee for the Alberta Equestrian Federation and an AFAC board member.

desBarres urges the public to take action if neglect is noticed. "Basically, animal owners are very responsible and very caring for their animals because they are our pets, they are our business, they are our performers, our entertainers and our friends. However, if someone does not, for whatever reason, find it within their reach to look after their animals, to please contact the ALERT line."

The AFAC ALERT line number is 1-800-506-2273. This confidential livestock care action line includes response teams that strive to nip problems in the bud.

--PLEASE CALL 1-800-468-7021 TOLL-FREE FOR VOICE CLIPS --
AFAC scripts and clips are also available at www.afac.ab.ca

Clip No. 1:

The health and welfare of animals is uppermost on the minds of the vast majority of livestock owners. Unfortunately, this is not always the case and animals can suffer as a result. Often poor care arises due to lack of knowledge, life's pressures, old age, sickness and absentee owners. Bill desBarres (pro. de-bar) chairs the breeds and industry committee for the Alberta Equestrian Federation. He is also an Alberta Farm Animal Care board member. He says horse owners set a high standard in the health and welfare of their animals:

(26... "1-800-506-2273.")

Clip No. 2:

Basically, animal owners, including horse owners, are very responsible and very caring for their animals. There are many good reasons, adds desBarres:

(16... "line.")

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Be Aware.
Animal Care is Everyone's Responsibility.