



Skrifstofa Alþingis - nefndasvið
Austurstræti 8-10
150 Reykjavík

Metz, France, 14th January 2021

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***Umsögn um frumvarp til laga um breytingu á lögum um dýravelferð, nr. 55/2013
(bann við blóðmerahaldi) 15. mál, 152. löggjafarþing 2021–2022.***

*Written by Adrienne Bonnet
Head of the Campaign, Advocacy and Legal department of Welfarm*

Undirrituð mælir eindregið með samþykki þessa frumvarps í heild sinni.

I, the undersigned, strongly recommend the adoption of this bill.

As a French charity created in 1994 and specialized in the protection of farm animals, Welfarm strongly supports this project about the interdiction of blood business. Although Welfarm is located in France, we own a real expertise on this topic for two reasons.

First, we take support on our general aim, which consist, with the help of our scientific and legal experts, in achieving the following topics:

- We sensitize the public about the welfare of farm animals and promote a consumption in an animal welfare friendly way.
- We assist actors of the agri-food industry, farmers, and distributors in considering the animal welfare.
- We act for the application of the current legislation and its evolution in a way that is more favourable to the welfare of farm animals. We discuss with institutional bodies, at the EU, French and local level; for instance, we are an active member of the EU Platform of animal welfare of the European Commission.
- Finally, we host farm animals that have been victims of violence in our animal shelter.



These are the reasons why, secondly, we have worked on the Icelandic blood business and investigations made by AWF|TSB in its documentary. Actually, the conclusions of the scientific literature and testimonies are the same: it is not possible to take blood from semi-wild horses without causing stress and fear and without using force. In Icelandic farms, pregnant mares are hurt by sticks and whips, in their head or paws. Bloodlettings are willing to weaken these animals and some of them faint in their boxes. In many farms, they are not correctly protected from bad weather and wind. Each bloodletting represents near 15% of their total volume of blood. This practice is frequently realised in the absence of veterinaries.

Yet, bloodlettings are not mandatory to program and synchronise female ovulation in farms. Livestock breeding measures that respect animal welfare should be encouraged particularly thanks to the training of farmers. For instance, female ovulation can be stimulated by placing these animals near to males with a sufficient place.

For all these reasons, we strongly support this project. If it was adopted, it would also be in line with the European Parliament resolution dated 20th October 2021 which called for the ban of import in EU and production of PMSG.

Þar af leiðandi fer ég Adrienne Bonnet þess á leit við stjórnvöld á Íslandi að þau banni samstundis blóðtöku fylfullra hryssa, svokallaðra blóðmera, á Íslandi.

That's the reason why I, Adrienne Bonnet, am asking the Icelandic government to immediately ban the bloodletting of pregnant mares in Iceland.

Virðingafyllst,

Adrienne Bonnet
Welfarm Head of Campaign,
Advocacy and Legal
department