



May 10, 2021

To whom it may concern:

It is my opinion that shipping horses in the containers in which they are currently being transported by sea these days is detrimental to their wellbeing, and more over it is an inhumane way to treat a living creature. Being confined to a very small space in which they cannot move or turn around for the most part of five days (including loading and unloading of the ship and the three days they spend at sea) predisposes them to diseases like laminitis, shipping fever, pneumonia, pleuropneumonia, etc. etc. Also, in the design of the containers it is such that once you load the second horse, you lose access to the first and so on and so forth. This means that if a situation should arise with one of these horses the attendant has very limited ability to deal with them. If one of these horses should fall down the attendant cannot get to them to help them up. They are in such close quarters, that they would probably end up injuring each other which is what most probably happened in that disastrous shipment in which the horses ended up beating each other literally to pieces and only six out of fifteen survived.

Beside all this we need to consider the callous, heartless, and insensitive way in which these horses are being treated. Not even animals which are being transported to slaughter are treated this way. Anybody who cannot or will not ship a horse in an appropriate and humane way should not own a horse. If we stand by and do nothing, we are as guilty as they are.

Sincerely,

José M. García Blanco, V.M.D.