



The Knesset of Israel

Jerusalem, Heshvan 25th, 5774
October 29th, 2013

To:
The Minister of Culture and Sports
MK Limor Livnat

The Chairman of The Israel Sports Betting Board,
Mr. Tzachi Fishbein

Dear Sir and Madam,

Regarding: The Inappropriate Campaign of The Israel Sports Betting Board, Concerning Betting on Horse Races Taking Place Abroad

1. The Israel Sports Betting Board has recently launched an extensive advertising campaign in the media and on large billboards, aiming to encourage the public to take part in betting on horse races that take place abroad.
2. The call for citizens of Israel to invest their hard-earned cash in bets on horse races is tantamount to blatantly encouraging them to violate the law against cruelty to animals. Horseracing is a "sport" that inflicts terrible pain and severe, irreversible injuries on the race horses. It does not matter whether the race takes place in Israel or abroad; the suffering of the horses knows no bounds, geographical or otherwise.
3. Horseracing is driven by a single economic interest: to profit from large-scale gambling. Cooperation with that interest ignores the fact that this cruel and exploitive industry allows animal abuse, which often leads to the horses' premature death. The vast majority of race horses die at a very young age compared to other horses. Horseracing for gambling is cruelty for its own sake.
4. We call for the immediate and complete removal of this offensive campaign, and expect the government of Israel, including the Ministry of Culture and Sports, The Ministry of Agriculture, and The Minister of Finance – those charged with the enforcement of the act against animal cruelty – to support our demand in this matter.
5. Moreover, we, the undersigned, are currently working to promote a bill that would ban betting on animals entirely. This bill stems from the knowledge and understanding that the combination of economic motives and animals will forever and always end badly for the animals. We call for

the government of Israel to support this moral bill and stand against any betting taking place on the backs of those who cannot speak for themselves and express their suffering.

6. Attached hereto are the bill and a link to a video that reveals the painful truth of the horseracing industry: <http://www.animalaid.org.uk/h/n/CAMPAIGNS/horse/>.

Regards,

MK Eitan Cabel

MK Tamar Zandberg

MK David Azulai

MK Hilik Bar

MK Dov Hanin

MK Isawi Farij

MK Zehava Gal'on

MK Ilan Gil'on

MK Michal Rosin

MK Nitsan Horowitz

Cc:

The Prime Minister, MK Binyamin Netanyahu

The Minister of Finance, MK Yair Lapid

The Minister of Justice, MK Tzipi Livni

The Minister of Agriculture, MK Yair Shamir

The Minister of Environmental Protection: MK Amir Peretz