Chapter 620

1993 EDITION

Sale of Horse Meat

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620.010 Definition. As used in ORS 620.010 to 620.100, "horse meat" includes the meat of any horse, ass, mule, hinny, jenny or other equine animal.

620.020 Stamping of carcasses. It is unlawful to sell, offer for sale, or expose for sale any horse meat unless each quarter of each carcass is stamped with the words "Horse Meat" in green ink, which words shall be legible and shall be in full-faced type, not less than one inch in height.

620.030 Labeling. (1) It is unlawful to sell, offer for sale or expose for sale any cut, processed, ground, smoked, dried or pickled or cured horse meat, or any such horse meat in combination with other meat unless it is labeled with the words "Horse Meat," in legible letters not less than one-half inch in height and in what is known as full-faced type.

(2) The label shall be attached as follows:

(a) If the meat is in a package or other container, the words shall be stamped on two sides of the package or container.

(b) If the meat is not in a package or container, the words shall be stamped upon the surface of the meat or else contained in a label attached thereto.

620.040 Posting of notice. Every butcher shop, grocery store, public market, sales room or other food store, restaurant, or other public eating room or dining room, where horse meat is sold, served or offered for sale shall have posted a sign "Horse Meat Sold Here," or "Horse Meat Served Here," as the case may be. The sign shall be in legible full-faced type not less than three inches in height and shall be posted in a conspicuous place not less than four feet nor more than six feet from the floor in full view of the patrons of such butcher shop, grocery store, public market, sales room, food store, restaurant, eating room or dining room.

620.050 Possession as prima facie evidence of violation. The possession by any butcher shop, grocery store, food store, restaurant, or other public eating room or dining room of any horse meat or any meat product containing horse meat which is not labeled as required by ORS 620.020 and 620.030, or without posting the notices required by ORS 620.040, is prima facie evidence of a violation of ORS 620.010 to 620.100.

620.060 Inspection prior to sale. No horse meat shall be sold in this state for purposes of human consumption unless and until the carcass of the animal is first inspected by a federal, state, county or city veterinary inspector and determined to be free from any and all infectious or other disease or conditions which would render the meat unwholesome for human consumption.

620.070 Slaughtering; meat dealer's license required; sanitary regulations. It is unlawful to slaughter any horse, ass, mule, hinny, jenny or other equine animal, for the purpose of sale or to offer for sale the meat from any such animal without first procuring from the State Department of Agriculture a meat dealer's license as otherwise provided by law. No horse or other equine animal shall be slaughtered in any abattoir where other than equine meat food animals are slaughtered. No license shall be granted to any person for the operation or maintenance of any abattoir or slaughtering house wherein horses or other equine animals are slaughtered for human consumption unless all buildings and equipment used or intended to be used in connection therewith conform in every respect to the sanitary requirements prescribed by the laws of this state and by rules and regulations made and promulgated by the State Department of Agriculture.

620.080 Enforcement; right to enter premises. All authorized officers, employees and agents of the State Department of Agriculture, and all persons employed as state, county or city meat or food inspectors shall enforce ORS 620.010 to 620.100. Any such person has the authority to enter any place where meat or meat products are sold, offered for sale or served to the public during business hours to inspect such meat and to take samples of such meat or meat products for analysis.

620.090 Exception as to horse meat for interstate or foreign commerce. ORS 620.010 to 620.100 do not apply to any person preparing horse meat under the supervision of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture while such meat or meat products is offered for sale only in interstate or foreign commerce. However, if any such person sells or offers for sale any horse meat or meat product containing horse meat in intrastate commerce within this state, the person is subject to all of the provisions of ORS 620.010 to 620.100.

620.100 Violation by corporations, partnerships and associations. If any provision of ORS 620.010 to 620.090 is violated by a partnership, corporation or association, all the members of the partnership or association, and the managing head and all the officers of the corporation having knowledge of the violation, are guilty of violating those sections and are subject to the penalties provided in ORS 620.990 (1).

620.110 Public policy concerning slaughter of horses and handling of horse

food products. It is declared to be the public policy of Oregon that it is inimical to the health and welfare of the people of the State of Oregon that horses be slaughtered along with other meat animals or that the food products derived from the slaughter of horses be commingled in storage plants, wholesale or retail sales establishments handling other meat animals. [1953 c.263 §1]

620.120 Prohibitions concerning slaughter of horses and handling of horse food products. It shall be unlawful to slaughter horses for human consumption in any establishment where other domestic animals are slaughtered for human consumption or to keep or offer for sale any food products derived from horses in any wholesale or retail meat market in which other meat or meat food products are sold; providing, however, that the provisions of this section shall not prohibit sale of frozen packaged horse meat labeled as such from frozen food cabinets in grocery stores or in the grocery section of markets, or the sale of products containing horse meat in sealed containers which shall be labeled to indicate that the product contains horse meat or is animal food. [1953 c.263 §2]

620.310 [Repealed by 1955 c.134 §1]

620.320 [Repealed by 1955 c.134 §1]

620.330 [Repealed by 1955 c.134 §1]

620.990 Penalties. (1) Violation of any of the provisions of ORS 620.010 to 620.100 is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not more than $100 or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 90 days, or both.

(2) Anyone violating the provisions of ORS 620.120 shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year or by a fine of not more than $500, or both. [Subsection (2) enacted as 1953 c.263 §3; amended by 1955 c.134 §2]