

## Anthony, Sandy (ORC)

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**From:** Harold Fleet [fleety@sympatico.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2008 7:26 PM  
**To:** Anthony, Sandy (ORC)  
**Subject:** Attn: Wendy Hooegeveen, Director of Industry Dev. & Support: Subject:Whipping

Welfare, safety and control of the horse:

I have been a harness racing fan for over 40 years and have always had to defend the abuse of horses in the industry to people with negative impressions of the business. It has become very difficult in the past couple of weeks to support a "sport" that abuses animals. Whipping a horse to excess, to the point of cutting animal, as did Trevor Henry, and then to have to analyse the situation to see if it was excessive, is an absolute embarrassment to the industry and everyone involved, including the racing fans. This particular driver has had enough fines and warnings that there should be no doubt about a suspension. I heard of the incident in question, only to go to Clinton raceway the same week and he is still driving. Animal welfare activists should be all over this situation, and I am surprised they aren't. This driver has no business driving, and the fines and suspensions need to be enforced. An industry such as this, that is struggling to survive, and are trying to attract new fans, needs to look at whether a family could consider witnessing such abusive treatment of animals as entertainment.

The new rule being considered of drivers being required to keep a line in each hand to eliminate one-handed whipping is long overdue, and is only the start of turning this sport around. Suspending Trevor Henry, and anyone else found guilty of this kind of barbaric treatment of an animal, is without question necessary as an example to everyone and a long overdue penalty for him.

Until a stand is taken to protect the welfare of the horses, this industry is very likely to struggle to survive.

Harold Fleet