

The British Muslims are shocked, like all public, to know about the presence of horse meat and traces of PIG's DNA in the beef burgers sold in our markets, especially when the label says clearly it is BEEF ?

We like to echo what the Labor MP, Mr Barry Gardiner, who sits on the Common Food, environment and rural affairs committee, has raised in his call for an immediate inquiry and in his statement: " It looked as there had been :FRAUD, MISREPRESENTATION AND INCOMPETENCE, at the highest levels". The Food Standards Agency is responsible for the occurrence of this cheating and mislabeling on a large scale.

No doubt, All British Muslims are very concerned about the presence of PIG's DNA/ traces in the beef burgers.

The Food Safety Authority(Ireland) reported:

A total of 27 products were analyzed, with **23 of them containing PIG DNA.???**

In addition, 31 beef meal products, including cottage pie, beef curry pie and lasagne, were analyzed, of which **21 tested positive for PIG DNA ???.**

IT IS A MUST AND A HUMAN RIGHT AND A RELIGIOUS RIGHT AND A CONSUMER RIGHT TO LABEL CLEARLY ANY MEAT/FOOD WHICH CONTAIN TRACES OF PIG/DNA. This is very important to all British Muslims and to the Jews, as PORK is clearly and fully prohibited in both religions.

The horse is a blessed animal in Islam and Muslims are requested to use horses to learn horse riding. It is allowed in Islam to eat the meat of the horse as this animal is herbivorous and eat vegetarian types of foods.

However the slaughter (Dhabh) of the animal should be done in the Religious/Prophetic method without any stunning, Contrary to the slaughter done today to the horses by the use of a stun gun. British Muslims are having today deep concern and a lot of worry regarding the presence of alcohol, traces of pig and pork gelatin in a lot of foods and drinks on the market, as many are not labelled or clearly labelled?

This is our daily headache and worry all the times and we all need, with the help of the government and the food industries, to sort it out for good?

My website on Halal meat (partly done) is: www.halaltayyibmeat.com

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**Scientific tests on some beef products found low levels of horse DNA However one offering from Tesco's Value range had 29% horse meat Retailers have told food safety chiefs they are removing the products
Horse also found in Dunnes Stores, Lidl, Aldi beef products**

BY Sean Poulter

Beef burgers sold by Tesco and other supermarkets have been found to contain horse meat, it emerged last night. Tests on products from four chains showed **a third** were contaminated. Most revealed only small traces but in one Tesco offering 29 per cent of the 'beef' content was actually horse meat.



Discovery: The DNA tests found horse in Tesco Everyday Value Beef Burgers (pictured)

Last night, Tesco issued an apology and said the suspect burgers had been withdrawn. It is likely however that thousands have been eaten, with many more still stored in home freezers. The highest level of horse meat was found in the chain's Everyday Value beef burgers but traces were also detected in its frozen quarter pounders. The revelations emerged following checks by Irish food safety experts.

The affected burgers were made at two sites in Ireland and one in North Yorkshire owned by Dalepak Foods. Tesco confirmed the burgers had been on sale in the UK. **Iceland** said it has 'withdrawn from sale the two own-brand quarter pounder burger lines implicated in the study'.

Other products that tested positive for horse DNA included Aldi's Oakhurst Beef Burgers and Lidl's Moordale Beef Burgers.



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The retailers have told food safety chiefs they are removing all implicated products from their shelves Aldi said its product was on sale only in Ireland and had been withdrawn. The DNA tests on 27 burgers showed very low levels of horse meat in nine and a much higher level in Tesco's value product.

Traces were also detected in batches of raw ingredients, including some imported from The Netherlands and Spain.

It is not illegal to buy or sell horse meat in the UK, but it is illegal not to declare every ingredient on food labels. Tim Smith, Tesco's technical director and a former head of the Food Standards Agency, said: 'We immediately withdrew from sale all products from the supplier in question.'

'We are working with the authorities in Ireland and the UK, and with the supplier concerned, to urgently understand how this has happened and how to ensure it does not happen again.'

Tesco has stopped taking any products from the factory involved until the investigation has been completed. Mr Smith added: 'The safety and quality of our food is of the highest importance to Tesco. We will not tolerate any compromise in the quality of the food we sell.'

'The presence of illegal meat in our products is extremely serious. Our customers have the right to expect that food they buy is produced to the highest standards.'



Tests: A Tesco spokeswoman said they were treating the incident as extremely serious after horse meat was found in its products

EATEN FOR CENTURIES

■ HORSE meat is very popular in some parts of the world, with the countries that consume the most - China, Mexico, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Argentina, Italy, Brazil and Kyrgyzstan - eating 4.7million horses between them every year.

■ Wild horses have been hunted for thousands of years as a source of meat that is slightly sweet, tender, low in fat and high in protein. It is only in the last century that its popularity in the US, Ireland and Britain has fallen after horses were seen as companions.

■ Britain sends up to 10,000 live horses

a year to Italy, France and Belgium for human consumption. They are mainly ponies from the New Forest, Exmoor and Dartmoor that have reached the end of their working lives.

■ The French date their taste for the meat to the Revolution when horses that belonged to aristocrats ended up feeding the starving lower classes.

■ Horses are usually killed in abattoirs with a stun gun and are bled to death, but in less industrialised countries are slaughtered outside in the village or town where they will be eaten.

'We understand that many of our customers will be concerned by this news and we apologise sincerely for any distress.'

Barry Gardiner, who sits on the Commons food, environment and rural affairs committee, called for an **immediate inquiry**.

The Labour MP said it looked as if there had been **'fraud, misrepresentation and incompetence' at the highest levels**.

'Big companies like Iceland and Tesco are responsible for their supply chain and for verifying whether their suppliers are giving them what they should be delivered,' he added. 'It is **abhorrent** that the suppliers appear to have adulterated the burgers in this way, but these big companies' buyers are responsible to the public.'



Aldi said it was conducting its own investigation

'You expect what is on the **label** is what you get, and a beef burger is not a horse burger. Most people would be horrified to find they have been eating horse.' The Food Safety Authority of Ireland, which carried out the tests, is working with the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the processing plants and retailers involved. Professor Alan Reilly, chief executive of the FSAI, said there was no good explanation for the inclusion of horse meat in the burgers. He said the use of **pig meat** would also be upsetting for religious groups such as Muslims and Jews.

'The products we have identified as containing horse DNA and/or pig DNA do not pose any food safety risk and consumers should not be worried,' he added. 'Consumers who have purchased any of the implicated products can return them.'

'Whilst there is a plausible explanation for the **presence of pig DNA** in these products due to the fact that meat from different animals is processed in the same meat plants, there is no clear explanation at this time for the presence of horse DNA in products emanating from meat plants that do not use horse meat in their production process.'

'We are working with the meat processing plants the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine to find out how horse DNA could have found its way into these products. **'Likewise, for some religious groups or people who abstain from eating pig meat, the presence of traces of pig DNA is unacceptable.'**

Lidl said it had taken the decision to remove all implicated products from sale pending a full investigation. 'A refund will be provided to customers who wish to return affected products,' said a spokesman. No one from Dalepak could comment.

Marks & Spencer 'Simply M&S beefburgers' were the only brand found by the FSAI to contain neither pork nor horse and were 100 per cent beef.