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Food & Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room #1061
Rockville, Maryland 20785

Dear FDA:

Docket #98P-0151/CP1 simply allows for decent, humane treatment of sick or injured farm animals. I urge you to grant this most important petition.

A downed animal is one that is too weak to walk to the slaughterhouse. In unloading chutes, alleys and pens, downed animals are left unattended and ignored. Healthy animals that are stampeded through the facility often trample or stumble on the helpless "downers."

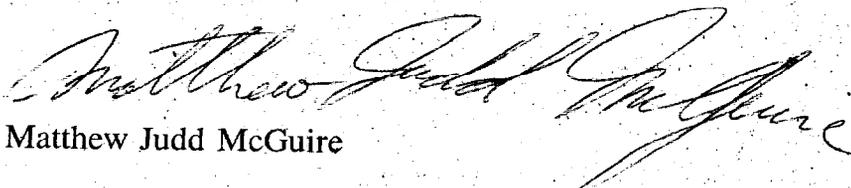
Sometimes being deprived of food and water for days, the downed animals suffer a fate worse than death. If they are still alive, the animal is moved by electric cattle prod or by being kicked repeatedly. Under such force, downed animals scramble frantically to stand and walk, even though they are in intense pain. If they still can't walk, a winching cable and chain is wound around a limb, then drawn taut by a vehicle. This barbaric, brutal procedure is standard industry practice for moving downed animals.

If these practices were not documented, it would be difficult to believe that a human being would willingly subject a breathing, feeling animal to such unspeakable pain. Blinded by profit, the owners overlook the tremendous suffering. Thousands of downers enter stockyards on an annual basis.

Why aren't downed animals killed humanely on the farm? Because farmers would not be able to sell them if they died before entering the stockyard. If they are killed away from the slaughterhouse, they are deemed unfit for human consumption.

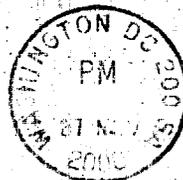
Your help is needed to end the ruthless handling of downer animals. Your reply is requested.

Sincerely,


Matthew Judd McGuire

98P-0151

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