

Docket No. 98P-0151/CPI

Dockets Management Branch

U. S. Food & Drug Adm.

Rockville, MD

4763 '00 NOV 15 P2:11

I urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals - docket number 98P-0151/CPI.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.

In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be affected with a form of BSE, which disease has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD)

It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

*Dorothy Finger*

Dorothy Finger (Mrs.)

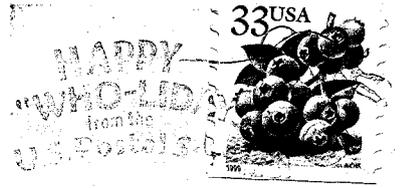
12675 Skyline Blvd.

Oakland Ca 94619

98P-0151

C 2949

Mrs. Dorothy Finger  
12676 Skyline Boulevard  
Oakland, CA 94619



U.S. Food & Drug Admin.  
Dockets Management Branch  
5600 Fishers Lane Rm. 1061  
Rockville MD 20785

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