



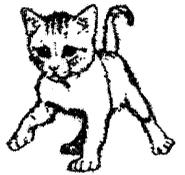
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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Reference: Docket No. 98P-0151/CPI

We support Farm Sanctuary's petition to ban downers (livestock too sick or injured to stand or walk) for human consumption. This petition should be granted for a number of reasons.

One primary consideration is human health. Downed animals pose an increased risk of both bacterial contamination and of BSE ("mad cow disease") which has been linked to a fatal human illness.

On humane grounds, it is impossible to move downers in a humane manner. They are typically dragged with chains or pushed with tractors, practices that cause additional pain, suffering and injury to the animals.

Since only a small percentage of slaughter-bound animals are downers, banning the sale of these animals will not cause any significant financial hardship and will result in fewer downers as sellers will have greater incentive to promote better care and handling of livestock.

In short, for both human health and humane reasons, downers should be humanely euthanized where they lie, not transported for slaughter.

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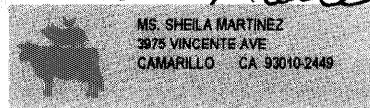
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