

October 10, 2003

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

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To Whom it May Concern:

Subject: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

I am writing to urge you to grant the Farm Sanctuary's petition to ban the slaughter of nonambulatory livestock ("downers") for human food, docket number 98P-0151/CP1. Granting this petition will protect human health, and it will also prevent intolerable animal suffering.

Animals that are too injured or ill to stand currently have no minimal protection under the law and, already suffering due to their debilitated state, are often legally dragged, kicked, prodded or left to starve or freeze to death. Animal welfare investigators have documented time and time again such atrocities as the following:

- In South Dakota, a downed cow was dumped alive into a cart full of garbage.
- In Pennsylvania, a living sheep was dumped on a stockyard "dead pile."
- In Texas, a cow with a broken back was abandoned at an auction.
- In Minnesota, incapacitated pigs were left in pens and slowly starved to death.

This tragic list is but a sampling of the untold thousands of animals who needlessly suffer in our slaughter yards with no protection under the law.

Downed animals may often be suffering from gangrene, central nervous system disorder (CNS), and abscesses. I, for one, do not want to eat meat that is tainted with gangrene. Further, downed livestock are most likely to be infected with BSE (mad-cow disease). Considering that the USDA is unable to adequately detect BSE in cattle inspected at USDA slaughterhouses and that published scientific evidence suggests we may have a form of BSE in the U.S., I support this petition which urges USDA slaughterhouses to immediately stop accepting and approving meat from downed animals for human food. This petition is urgently needed not only for animal welfare, but also for consumer protection.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and I look forward to receiving your response.

Respectfully,

*Brianna Greenkaf*

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