

US FOOD AND DRUGS
DOCKET 98P-0151/cpi

Oct 26, 2000,

Gentlemen, Ladies'

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I join with Amy Adelle
Others for the Banishment

AND ELIMINATION OF THE
SORDID, GRUESOME, UNHEALTHY
AND INHUMAN E TREATMENT
OF FARM ANIMALS;
WHO ARE THE SOURCE OF
OUR STRENGTH AND AND
ABOMINATION IN GOD'S EYES
OF OUR TREATMENT TO THEM.

Lionel Galant JODY HELLER
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98P-0151

C2641

URGENT ACTION NEEDED

Speak out NOW for farm animals!

- Downed animals – animals too sick even to stand – are commonly left to suffer for hours or days without receiving food, water, or veterinary care, and in many instances, they die of neglect.
- They are dragged to slaughter with chains or pushed with tractors and forklifts – inhumane methods that cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments.
- Downed animals who survive handling and transportation are typically *slaughtered for human food*.
- In addition to causing intolerable animal suffering, the slaughter and marketing of downed animals poses a risk to human health.

Your help is urgently needed to stop the downed animal trade!

The USDA recently reviewed and revised its policy regarding the purchase of ground beef for the National School Lunch Program and other federal food and nutrition programs, and it has taken a major step in the direction of ending the downed animal trade. According to an agency statement, “USDA will no longer accept ground beef that includes product from non-ambulatory cattle, commonly known as ‘downers.’ Carcasses originating from cattle (that are disabled) ... must be segregated to assure that the product from these carcasses is not included in the USDA purchased beef.”

This development shows a growing consensus – even among industry and government officials – that the marketing and slaughter of downed animals causes intense animal suffering and poses an unnecessary health risk.

Letters needed to END downed animal trade:

Now is the time for concerned citizens to write to the Food and Drug Administration to urge that they grant Farm Sanctuary’s petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. It is critical that you include the docket number in your letter: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1.

Please write to:

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

Or send your comments by:

FAX: 301-827-6870

Email: FDADockets@oc.fda.gov



Hilda was the first animal I ever rescued. She had been thrown on a stockyard "deadpile" because she was too weak to stand.

Hilda had collapsed because of brutal transportation conditions

... and was considered not worth saving.

I felt differently ... and I hope you do, too.



Dear Friend of Animals,

If you threw your dog or cat into a dumpster because he or she was too sick to stand, you could and should be prosecuted for cruelty to animals.

But when ailing cows, sheep, pigs and chickens are thrown in dumpsters, or left to suffer and die in stockyard pens and parking lots, it's considered "common," "normal" and "accepted" farming practices.

These perpetrators are beyond the law. **Most federal and state anti-cruelty laws DO NOT cover farm animals.** *Did you know that?*

If the weak or injured animals are not left for dead – or don't die – often they are painfully dragged with a rope by their leg or neck, and taken to a slaughterhouse for human consumption! *Did you know that?*

I wish I could tell you this is a rare occurrence, but sadly, I've witnessed this tragic scene too many times at factory farms and stockyards from coast to coast. *I've also rescued many of these innocent animals, nursed them to health and given them a beautiful, safe place to live out their lives: **Farm Sanctuary.***

You can help relieve the agony of almost 9 billion unprotected animals a year by adding your support and your voice to the over 75,000 other caring members of Farm Sanctuary today.

It's sadly ironic even to call these gentle, feeling beings "farm" animals. The majority of them won't ever have been on a farm, stood on grass, or even been outside in the sun ... until they leave their "barns" (actually, more like warehouses) for their trip to the stockyard or slaughterhouse.

- over please -

From unnatural birth to often excruciating death – and every day in between – most food animals live in confining quarters ... are “engineered” by drugs and breeding to meet ever-increasing production quotas ... are legally transported for days without food, water, rest or adequate shelter ... face death with fear, pain and brutality ... and, finally, are often slaughtered while still totally conscious.

Farm Sanctuary is working hard every day to put an end to such inhumane suffering. With the support of caring people like you, we have already had several major victories over the past 14 years. Among our success stories:

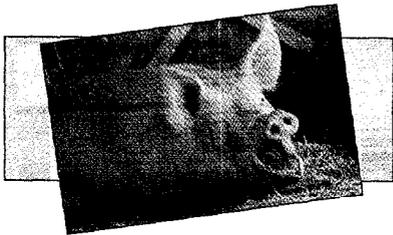
- California was the first state to pass a Downed Animal Law in 1994, which prohibits abandoning or dragging downed animals. The new law has resulted in the first California stockyard convictions for cruelty to animals. Similar legislation was introduced in New York State in 1999, and support for our federal *Downed Animal Protection Act* keeps growing.
- We were called on to investigate the Owens cattle ranch. For years neighbors watched cattle slowly die from neglect, while local law and animal control officers did nothing. What we found was shocking: starving cows desperate for food, dying newborns crying because their mothers were too malnourished to produce milk, dead cows ... We launched an extensive campaign, and the rancher was charged with cruelty to animals – **the first cattle cruelty prosecution in the county.**
- We have educated millions of people about the plight of farm animals, with features on CBS This Morning, NBC National Evening News, Larry King Live, CNN Headline News, Hard Copy, National Public Radio, Associated Press, reports in The Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and in hundreds of other news stories across the country. **Our groundbreaking national news exposés are changing the way society views, and treats, farm animals.**
- **There are over 1,000 rescued animals at our sanctuaries in California and New York, and they all have names, personalities – and the chance to live out their lives in peace and comfort. At Farm Sanctuary, you can see your support in action – every time you look into the eyes of an animal that you helped save. If you visit one of Farm Sanctuary's shelters, you may get to meet some of these “happy endings”:**

Opie



Rescued from a livestock auction, Opie had been taken from his mother when he was only a few days old because he was destined to be a veal calf. Too weak to stand and too small to be “profitable,” Opie did not sell, so he was thrown into a filthy pen to suffer and die alone. Now he’s a healthy and happy steer.

Laverne



Recently saved in a historic animal custody battle. When the trucker, en route to the slaughterhouse, abandoned the triple-decker trailer in the hot sun for over 3 hours, the local humane society confiscated the 167 suffering pigs. The pork company tried to claim the pigs, and was told they'd have to pay a large fee for their rescue and care. Instead, they "paid" by releasing the pigs to animal sanctuaries.

Sadie



She arrived at our California shelter very thin, dragging her infected, motionless left hind leg. Sadie was rescued from a herd of longhorn range cattle who were being raised for beef. Since range cattle are unprotected from weather and predators, she never would have survived. After months of varied, unsuccessful treatments, we made the difficult decision to have her leg amputated. Remarkably, in less than two hours after surgery, Sadie stood up and nibbled hay from her caregiver's hand. Now our "Miracle Girl" frolics in the pastures with her best friend Dawn and the other contented cows.

Devon



We pulled him out of a huge dumpster at an egg farm, along with as many day-old chicks as we could carry. Over 250 million so-called "useless" male chicks are thrown in trash bins every year, where they suffocate to death or, still alive, may be tossed in manure spreaders and used as fertilizer. Now living the good life, every morning Devon has something to crow about!

It was caring animal lovers like you - people who joined Farm Sanctuary - who made all the difference for Opie, Laverne, Sadie, Devon, and all of our shelter animals. And for all of those whose lives have been improved because of the impact Farm Sanctuary is having on "food animal" production practices.

Farm Sanctuary is making progress in the uphill struggle for unprotected farm animals' rights but we can't do it without your active support.

Please join with Farm Sanctuary today and help us to:

- Investigate more stockyards, slaughterhouses and factory farms to document and expose animal abuses, and bring those responsible to justice. No more "business" as usual!
- Expand lobbying and grassroots legislative action to help pass state and federal farm animal protection laws.

- over please -

- Educate legislators, policy makers, the media, school children, consumers of animal products and concerned people like you on the cruel realities of food animal production – and what can be done about it.
- Continue to rescue, rehabilitate and provide lifelong care and love at our shelters for as many animals as our resources will allow. It costs about \$40 a month to provide for a cow, \$30 a month for a pig, \$20 for goats and sheep, \$10 for a turkey, \$6 for a chicken.
- Prevent atrocities like this incident, where a pig was beaten over the head with a sledgehammer to kill him, unsuccessfully. The pig suffered in pain until animal control came to euthanize him. Cruelty charges were not filed, under the current system, because the pig was being killed for "food purposes."

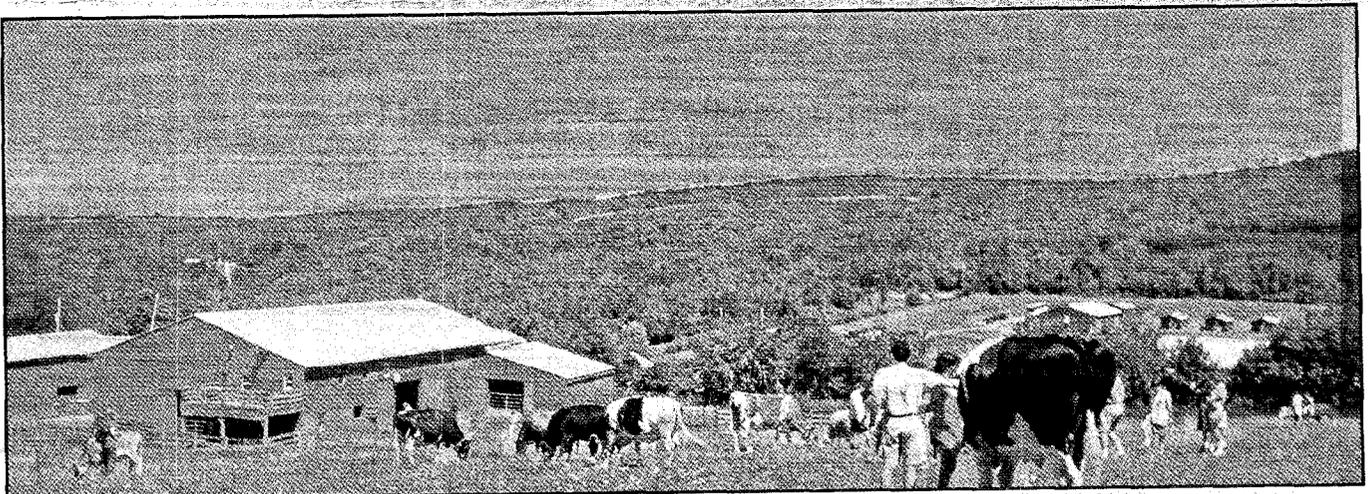
Please, add your voice and your support to Farm Sanctuary today, the nation's leading farm animal rescue and protection organization. We won't stop until farm animal abuse and suffering is no longer beyond the law – and we're counting on you to join us.

Sincerely yours,



Gene Bauston
Director

P.S. There are many organizations working to save dogs and cats, but just a handful fighting for farm animals, so we really need your help. Please use the enclosed personalized labels to show you care about **all suffering animals.** Laverne and Opie, Sadie and Devon – and 9 billion food animals every year thank you!



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US, Food and Drug Administration

Dockets Management Branch - Docket #
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 - 98P-0131/cp
Rockville, MD 20785