

October 19, 2000

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

RE: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing with regards to the petition being submitted to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. I am very concerned that cows that are too sick to even stand can be dragged to slaughter for human consumption. I am concerned not only about the cruelty involved with such practices, but also that the sick/diseased animal can be used for human consumption. I would venture to say that if an animal is so sick that it cannot move of its own accord the animal is obviously not fit for human consumption. It has been documented that some of these downed animals do have some forms of BSE (mad cow disease), which can cause fatal human illnesses. Further, I feel this petition should be granted as it is not only in the best interest of the humans who consume meat, but also of the cows themselves. There is no such thing as a "humane" way to move a downed animal of such massive size that cannot move of its own accord. Typically they are moved by attaching chains to the animal's limbs and dragging them with tractors. Besides abrasions and bruises, this can also break the animal's bones and ligaments. I am a strong believer that even though an animal is to be slaughtered for food, that does not make it OK to treat the animal inhumanely due to illness, or for any other reason. They are still living, breathing creatures that feel pain and experience fear and if the persons that raise these animals would just take proper care of them, they would not become "downers" in the first place. People that make a profit off the suffering of animals should be held accountable for their actions. Animals that are raised for food should not be exempt from the animal cruelty laws in this country. Please grant the proposed petition to ban the slaughter of downed animals.

Sincerely,

Josette Tevyaw  
510 Cottonwood Drive  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

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