

October 16, 2000

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

8915 '00 OCT 23 A10:13

Re: Docket No. 98P-0151/CP1

To Whom It May Concern:

Please help us end the insidious downed animal trade. Since downed animals comprise a small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship, I urge you to help us eradicate their horrendous and unnecessary pain and suffering.

Besides, animals who are too sick or injured to stand should not be even allowed to enter the human 'food' chain. In addition to this, it poses an increased risk for bacterial contamination. There is even evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy aka mad cow disease), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease).

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

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

Sincerely,

Diana Morton.

Diana Morton
4303 Wilkinson Drive
Lake Worth, FL 33461

98P-0151

C2406

P.S. I urge you to take a good look at the enclosed photos and feel some kind of compassion and pity in your hearts.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

Legislation has been introduced in New York state to protect "downed" animals (animals too weak or injured to stand) from cruelty and neglect. The bill, S.3251 in the Senate and A.6298 in the Assembly, prohibits the marketing of downed animals and requires that these incapacitated animals either be humanely euthanized or provided with appropriate veterinary care.

Farm Sanctuary has been working in New York state to stop the downed animal trade over the past 10 years. During our investigations of New York stockyards, we have found abandoned and neglected downed animals on numerous occasions, yet law enforcement officials have refused to prosecute because the state anti-cruelty laws do not adequately address "downed" animal cruelties. Legislation is urgently needed to prevent the sale--and abandonment--of downed animals.

Please join Farm Sanctuary, the ASPCA, and concerned animal advocates throughout the country to help pass this important farm animal protection legislation. Please contact the Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Agriculture committees of the New York legislature. Explain that downed animals should not be marketed or slaughtered for profit, and urge them to support the downed animal bill. Your letters will help demonstrate nationwide concern over the plight of downed animals and urge New York State to set a standard for the humane treatment of "food animals".

Write to:

SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

Senator Nancy Lorraine Hoffman, Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, 606 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247

ASSEMBLY OFFICE BUILDING

Assemblyman William Magee, Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee, 641 Legislative Office Building Albany, NY 12248

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Farm Sanctuary

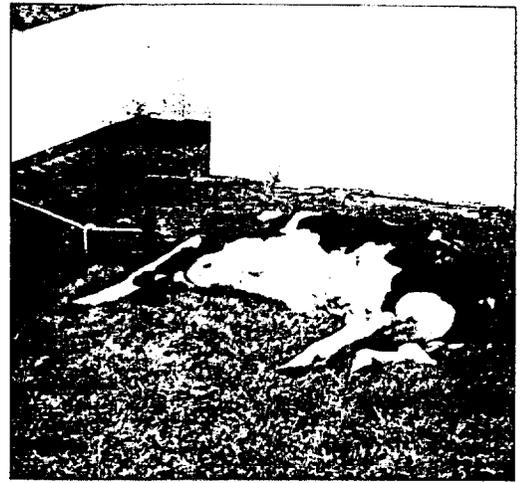
P.O. Box 150

Watkins Glen, NY 14891

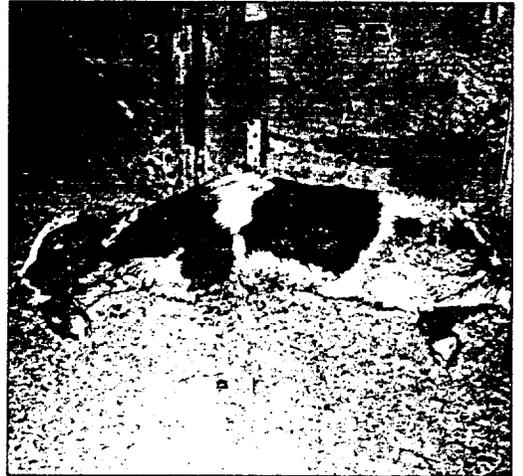
Ph: 607-583-2225

Fx: 607-583-2041

e: office@farmsanctuary.org



CASE #1--Inhumane Handling & Transport
A downed dairy cow at a New York stockyard--a rope was tied around her head as the livestock truck drove out from under her.

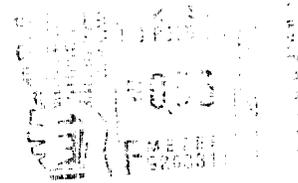


CASE #2--Abandonment
A frail, day-old calf too weak to stand--despite severe winter weather, the calf is dumped in a stockyard alleyway, and left to freeze to death.



CASE #3--Prolonged Suffering
Severely injured cow--after falling out of a livestock trailer and being dragged behind the trailer for one mile, the cow was left to suffer in pain with severe injuries for seven hours.

 **Diana Moreton**
4303 Wilkinson Dr.
Lake Worth, FL 33461-4541



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