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January 30, 2001

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

RE: Petition 98P-0151/CP1

Dear U.S. Food and Drug Administration:

I am writing to urge you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Last year, the USDA announced that it would stop purchasing meat from downed cattle - non-ambulatory cows who are too sick or injured even to stand - for use in federal programs. This development shows a growing consensus - even among livestock industry and government officials - that the marketing and slaughter of downed animals is unacceptable.

We must ban the slaughter of downed animals entirely - for the good of the animals and for the good of humans. It is impossible to move downed cattle humanely; instead, they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, causing injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and ligaments. And recent evidence shows that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease), a condition that is linked to a fatal illness in humans.

Our chances of stopping the downed animal trade are better now than ever. Please pass this petition 98P-0151/CP1 and prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and best regards.

Sincerely,

  
Amy J. Kearns

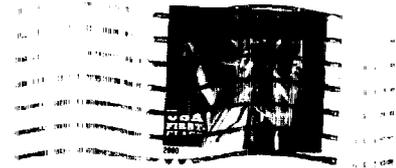
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- Downed animals - animals too sick even to stand - are commonly left to suffer for hours or days without receiving food, water, or veterinary care, and in many instances, they die of neglect.
- They are dragged to slaughter with chains or pushed with 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.

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