

January 7, 2001

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

Ref: Docket #98P-0151/CP1

Gentlemen:

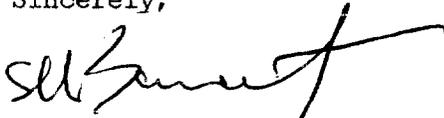
We ask for your help to end the "downed animal" trade. Animals which are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. In addition, to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of the so-called "Mad Cow" disease.

It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely. Typically, they are pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. Obviously, these are inhumane processes which can cause injuries and can further aggravate an already inhumane situation.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered. Prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship for the slaughterhouse. More to this point, industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Thus, if the market for downed animals is removed, better care and handling can be anticipated simply as a matter of economic self-interest.

We urge you to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Sincerely,



S. M. (Sylvia) Bancroft  
Director

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