

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

FOAI 01 JUN 17 11 56

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agneta Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

To U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852
fax: (301) 827-6870
e-mail: <FDADockets@oc.fda.gov>

Dear Sirs,

Are the farm animals unnecessarily suffering in the United States?

It is time that the United States follows the scientific results regarding animal welfare in practical life?

It is time that the United States reacts against animal abuses and prevent that abuses occur.

There is an increasing awareness among consumers about the effects that breeding and farming techniques may have on animals, on their health and welfare and, not least on the environment. More and more, consumers claim their right to make informed choice between products, including products produced to different welfare standards. To enable them to make such a choice they want to be informed about how farm animals are kept, transported and slaughtered.

Friends of the animals International writes a letter to you of concern for the farm animals. All living creatures must be respected and not be exposed to unnecessary suffering and cruelties. It is urgent that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration take position and react against violations towards living creatures. Scientific valid information must be the guidance in the decision-making processes. It is most important that we start to concern for the treatment of the living feeling creatures grouped as, animals.

Copyright © 2000, Friends of the animals International
E-mail: info@friends.of.the.animals.org
Web site: www.friends-of-the-animals.org

98P-0151

C 3369

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agneta Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

1. Friends of the animals International

Friends of the animals International is a non-governmental, animal awareness and non-profit organization with the interest to improve the environment for the animals, world wide. Friends of the animals International's mission is to prevent cruelties wherever it is found and to improve the animals different environments. The lists of activities are extensive with interest in all kinds of animals and situations.

2. The legislation, 98P-0151/CP1 is one step in the right direction

The legislation, 98P-0151/CP1, the "Downed Animal Protection Act." would prohibit any stockyard or market buyer to buy, sell, transfer or drag any animal that is unable to stand on his or her own. The legislation further requires that all "downed" animals be humanely euthanized.

The livestock industry has attempted to prevent the marketing of downed animals through volunteer measures but unfortunately, the problem persists. State laws that address animal cruelty most often do not cover livestock and the Packers and Stockyards Act, which governs the handling of animals at stockyards, does not address humane concerns. Cows, pigs, goats and other animals who are too sick or disabled to even stand on their own are left to suffer, sometimes for days, with no veterinary attention.

* Animals who are too sick or injured to stand should not be allowed to be slaughtered for human consumption.

* The use of downed animals in meat production poses an increased health risk to the consumer from bacterial contamination and disease.

* Downed animals cannot be moved humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - resulting in injuries from

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agneta Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments

* Prohibiting the marketing of downed animals will cause no undue economic hardship.

- Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling.

3. There are several issues to be severely concerned about

All states in the United States have anticruelty laws, and certain states have laws pertaining to the transport and slaughter of animals. However, the regulations vary significantly in degree and coverage. Several states prohibit both depriving an animal of necessary sustenance and failing to provide food water and shelter.

Finally nearly half the states have laws, which stipulate that cruelty to animals is an offense only if committed willfully, maliciously or cruelly. Many states mandate such requirements and them prohibit the application of the anticruelty statute to customary farming practices.

Friends of the Animals International will in this letter only mention a few of the animal abuses, which are serious encroachment on living animals. (The information in the cases is taken from different sources).

Case 1. Animal torture connected to the fur business

Should U.S. support the fashion business at the animals expense?

The farming of mink and foxes for their fur - a practice which causes widespread animal suffering must be phased out by law/regulation urgently. **The serious animal abuses are connected to animals not allowed to express their normal behaviors.**

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agneta Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

The UK's government has banned fur farming because of the ethically unacceptable treatment of the animals. The new regulation comes into use 2003. The European Union is currently investigating the fur business as a result of the cruel animal treatment. You can never justify the keeping of animals in captivity **solely** for their fur when alternatives are available.

By nature, mink are highly active, semi-aquatic, solitary animals, which in the wild maintain territories a mile or more in length. Keeping such animals in small barren is extremely stressful. In the cage, mink cannot - as they would in natural conditions - roam over large areas. Moreover, they do not have access to water for swimming, but only to drinking water. The stress experienced by the mink can lead to a range of abnormal behaviors, such as stereotypes and self-mutilation.

Professor Donald Broom, Professor of Animal Welfare at the University of Cambridge, has stated that the occurrence of prolonged stereotypes in animals indicates that the conditions are adverse for the animal and is a useful indicator that they are under stress.

The fur-business is not necessary, there are alternatives, to the use of fox and mink products and the farms should be phased out urgently.

Case 2. Farm animals are transported and slaughtered inhumanly because the necessary qualifications and knowledge or the awareness of animal values is missing or insufficient methods are used.

The time limits for transporting animals without food, water, and rest are problematic. The shortest maximum time an animal can be transported without food, water and rest is 18 hours but many states allows 48 hours for railroad and truck. **The transportation times without food rest and water are completely unacceptable because the animals suffer from hunger and thirst during the transport to the slaughterhouses.** Horses are often transported in double-decker cattle trucks with a ceiling so low that they injure their heads and backs. Conscious animals are shackled and hoisted by one back leg prior to ritual slaughter, Abuses in the slaughter process have been extensively documented. The fines for breach of livestock are small approximately \$500.

Day-old baby calves are transported from the dairy farm before they are able to walk, resulting in calves being thrown, dragged, or trampled. This practice has become accepted

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agneta Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

in some parts of the country. As a result of no existing anticruelty regulations the animals do not get the necessary veterinarian treatment when they are ill.

These problems are well known and are often seen in spontaneous controls and are a result of, for instance the disrespect for animals' lives. Frequent spontaneous controls to see that animals are not suffering unnecessarily are most important.

There must be a common Federal Farm Animal Protection Act established, like the Animal Welfare Act, As amended through public law 106-170, Dec. 17, 1999.

A Federal Protection Act must be established which closely regulates the slaughtering processes of different species and the transports to the slaughterhouses.

Transports without food, water and rest must be maximized to 8 hours.

The farm animals must be provided veterinarian treatment when necessary.

There must be spontaneously controls to see that the Federal Protection Acts are enforced.

There must be closely documented what standards the transport vehicles must provide.

The goal must be to transport the animals to the nearest slaughterhouse.

Case 3. Forced molting and the holding of hens in battery cages.

Keeping of hens in narrow cages where they can not move and have no free access to water. The birds can not express their natural behavior. **This treatment is the factory farming's idea where the mission is to get the most return out of the animals to the lowest cost no matter what the animals must endure.** Forced molting compromises the hens' immune systems allowing pathogens like Salmonella enteritidis to run rampant. There have been investigations whether the birds use the perch and water-bath if they had the possibility and the results show that the perch and water-bath is frequently used. Is today's keeping of hens in accordance to scientific information of good animal treatment? Is it right to use antibiotics in animal foodstuff? Does it promote human and animal health? No, the animals do not need antibiotics if they aren't sick and it definitely doesn't promote human health

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agneta Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

The forced molting and the holding of hens in battery cages must be prohibited because of the unnecessary suffering caused the animals. The hens must be able to express normal behavior.

Case 4. Intensive broiler chicken industry

The birds are reared in cruel conditions where they suffer from:
Painful leg disorders-to reach their slaughter weight at just 41 days old their legs cannot keep pace with the rapid body growth. In the worst cases, they can only move by crawling on their shanks.

Heart diseases-their hearts cannot keep pace with the rapid body growth.

Severe overcrowding-birds are crammed into the broiler sheds often at a stocking density of 17 chickens per square meter.

The broiler chicken industry must be regulated concerning animal welfare issues.

Case 5. Sows are locked for months into crates in which they cannot walk or turn around. This is another example of intense factory farming where animal welfare aspects are neglected. These routines must urgently stop because of the inhumane treatment of living creatures, grouped as animals. Why should we treat the animals badly like above-mentioned example? Animal welfare must be considered when handling living creatures and we must learn that good treatment of the animals and animal welfare must cost.

The calves getting fattened without proper food and with food containing low iron rate so their meat become white. The calves are kept in narrow crates so small that the calf can not turn or move at all this results in physical disorders and physical stress.

The cattle are still identified with hot iron brands which causes the cattle enormous pain although there are alternatives to iron brands like ear clips.

In Europe amendments are on its way:
Farming of pigs

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agneta Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

In accordance with Article 6 of Council Directive 91/630/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs the Commission has to submit proposals to improve the welfare conditions of farmed pigs on the basis of a report from the competent Scientific Committee.

The Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare has on 30 September 1997 adopted its opinion on "The Welfare of Intensively Kept Pigs". The opinion gives recommendations to improve the welfare conditions of pigs kept in intensive conditions. One of these recommendations concerns the necessity to keep sows in social groups.

The Commission intends to submit a proposal to amend the current legislation based on these recommendations and on practical experiences of the Member States before the end of the year. In preparing its proposal the Commission is likely to consider the following aspects:

- * rules for keeping sows in social groups;
- * rules on separate areas for the performance of their normal behaviour patterns;
- * a prohibition of the tethering of sows;
- * rules to enrich the environment of pigs on the farm;

The pigs must be kept in social groups where they can perform their normal behavior patterns

Prohibition of the tethering of sows

Enrichment of the environment of pigs on the farm

Case 6. Calves are locked for months into crates in which they cannot walk or turn around.

Calves born to dairy cows are separated from their mothers immediately after birth.

Half of the dairy calves born are female, and they are raised to replace older dairy cows in the milking herd, the other half of the calves are male, and are killed when they are about 16 weeks.

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agneta Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

The calves getting fattened without proper food and with food containing low iron rate so their meat become white. The calves are kept in narrow crates so small that the calf can not turn or move at all this results in physical disorders and physical stress.

The calves must be provided crates in which they are able to move and live in small groups.

The calves must be provided iron rich food.

The calves must be kept in social groups where they can perform their normal behavior patterns

Enrichment of the environment of calves on the farm

The cattle are still identified with hot iron brands which causes the cattle enormous pain although there are alternatives to iron brands like ear clips.

Bad animal treatment is a result of neglect and bad policy within a country. It is the leading politicians and leading officers responsibility not to support animal abuses.

The intense factory-farming must be phased out urgently. We can never justify the cruel treatment of animals because of economical profits in a civilized country any more.

Animal welfare will cost but it is the country's interest to protect their animals against violations and mismanagement and negligence but also the customers have interest in that the animals are provided good treatment and care.

The animals are complex in their physiology, psychology and social structures and they have their own special communication and hierarchy. We know these facts already but still we are performing abuses every day because of old routines. Scientific studies shows that animals are conscious and aware of others.

We believe that leading politicians, officers, scientists, biologists, veterinarians and others must **set the limits and regulations**, because otherwise the profit bringing business which often see animals as "product units" and as "machines" without the ability to feel will neglect animal welfare. **A few evidences are shown in the above cases.**

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agneta Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

4. Animal welfare

Today there is a huge interest and awareness for animal welfare issues. Citizens and leading politicians get information about mistreatments of the animals and scientific valid information concerning the animals' physical and psychical capabilities, which obligate people to treat animals with human methods and with respect.

When animal value is considered the most important thing to remember is, the animals ability to feel pain, distress and happiness like humans and therefor demands proper care and must not be exposed to cruelties.

"To suffer, animals must 1) be sentient, and 2) have the ability to be aware of their suffering. Research into cognition, perception, motivation, and the emotional states of animals can provide insight into welfare problems".

Duncan, I. J. H. (1993). Welfare is to do with what animals feel. *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*, 6 (Special Suppl. 2):8.

"The debates about the welfare and rights of animals will continue, reliant on new information about cognition and consciousness in animals, Attitudes will change and the changes will be resisted by those who have most to gain by thinking of animals as little more than mechanical clockwork. The animals' lives must not be used as product-units as we can use and then throw away". Rogers. L, *Minds of Their Own- Thinking Awareness in Animals*, Westview Press, Colorado, 1998.

Brambell report (1965): "Welfare is a wide term that embraces both the physiological and mental well-being of the animal. Any attempt to evaluate welfare, therefore, must take into account the scientific evidence available concerning the feelings of animals that can be derived from their structure and function and also from their behaviour".

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agnera Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

"There is widespread belief that people have moral obligations to the animals with which they interact, such that poor welfare should be minimized and very poor welfare avoided. It is assumed that animals, including farm animals, can experience pain, fear and distress and that welfare is poor when these occur. This has led to animal welfare being on the political agenda of European countries."

Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare, Adopted 16 December 1998

In addition to political debate, the amount of information based on the scientific study of animal welfare has increased. Scientists have added to knowledge of the physiological and behavioural responses of animals and philosophers have developed ethical views on animal welfare. Nevertheless, all agree that decisions about animal welfare should be based on good scientific evidence (Duncan, 1981, Broom, 1988).

5. Are not all animals - animals?

Obviously not because several states exempt farm animals, (chickens, pigs, cattle, horses and cheep) from being included in the anticruelty laws. There are states that exempt animals raised for food or food production from transportation laws and some other states exempt them generally. But do we not have scientific information, which proves that animals have the capability to feel physical pain and physical distress.

6. Scientific valid information

Decision-making processes regarding animal treatments must be based on scientific valid information.

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agneta Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

7. References

Broom, D.M. and Johnson, K.G. 1993. Stress and Animal Welfare (pp.211). London: Chapman and Hall.

Fraser, D. (1993). Assessing animal well-being: Common sense, uncommon science. Food Animal Well-Being 1993 - Conference Proc. and Deliberations, April 13-15 1993, Indianapolis, IN. Purdue University, Office of Agricultural Research Programs, West Lafayette, IN, pp. 37-54.

Freeman, B.M., 1985. Stress and the domestic fowl: physiological fact or fantasy. World's Poultry Sci. J., 41, 45-51.

Gonyou, H. W. (1993). Animal welfare: Definitions and assessments. Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics, 6 (Special Suppl. 2):37.

Harrison, R. Animal Machines, 1964.

Mason, G., Mendl, M. 1993. Why is there no simple way of measuring animal welfare? Animal Welfare, 2, 301-319.

McGlone, J. (1993). What is animal welfare? Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics, 6(Special Suppl. 2):26.

Mench, J. A. (1993). Assessing animal welfare: An overview. Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics, 6(Special Suppl. 2):68.

Moberg, G., 1996. Suffering from stress : an approach for evaluating the welfare of an animal. Acta Agric. Scand., Suppl. 27, 46-49.

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agneta Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

Moberg, G. P. (1993). Using risk assessment to define domestic animal welfare. *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*, 6(Special Suppl. 2):1.

Rogers, L, *Minds of Their Own- Thinking Awareness in Animals*, Westview Press, Colorado, 1998.

Swanson, J.C. (1994). Farm animal well-being and intensive production systems. *Journal of Animal Science* (in press).

Zulkifli, I. and Siegel, P.B., 1995. Is there a positive side to stress? *World's Poultry Science, Journal*, 51, 63-76.

8. Citizens demand

- That businesses or activities concerning animal welfare and that violates National or International Animal Protection Laws/ Acts or scientific valid information are prohibited.
- That the animals are treated with respect.
- That responsible politicians take animal welfare issues most seriously and see to that the animals are human treated and protect them by law.
- That the staffs working with animals in different ways and the public are educated in animal welfare issues. That economical profit is in secondary priority when it comes to animal welfare.
- That the United States is co-operating with other countries and enter international agreements to make the important and necessary changes possible.
- That the United States Food and Drug Administration is leading the discussions concerning the animal welfare situation, and initiates the necessary improvements urgently.

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

Prepared (also subject resp. if other)	No.		
Friends of the Animals International	FOTAI-ART-2001-01-02/1		
Document responsible/Approved	Date	Rev	File
Mrs Agneta Riberth Toll, President	2001-01-02	A	

9. The urgent and necessary changes to prevent unnecessary suffering and cruel treatment

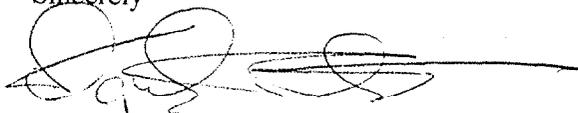
Establishment of a Federal Farm Animal Protection Act, which closely covers:
On the farm (in particular calves, pigs and laying hens, turkeys),
All sorts of transports,
Slaughter and killing.

There must be spontaneously controls conducted to make sure that the Federal Farm Animal Protection Act is followed. The enforcement of the Act is most important. Provisions for adequate exercise, space, light, ventilation and clean living conditions for confined animals.

The improvement processes must continue today.

Friends of the animals International would like a reply to this letter because of the urgency and importance of these matters.

Sincerely



Agneta Riberth Toll
President

Château
de Mouans-Sartoux
Espace de
l'Art Concret



MOUANS-SARTOUX 3-1-01



Reception

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

USA / l'Amérique