

Dear Commissioner:

RE: **Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1**

I am writing to ask that the Agency ban the use of downed animals for human consumption. The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines downed animals as "diseased" and current laws prohibit the slaughter of diseased animals for human food. I agree with those who petition that the slaughter of downed animals is not only a violation of federal law, but also a threat to human health.

Animals destined for food do not have any protection, not even under the Animal Welfare Act. Downed animals, animals that are too sick or injured to stand, suffer deplorable inhumane treatment such as being dragged to slaughter or abandoned, sometimes in extreme weather, to die slowly from neglect at stockyards across the country.

For the sake of meat industry profit, sick and injured animals are loaded onto trucks and taken to slaughterhouses. Rather than being put out of their misery, these animals are left to suffer, while enduring the additional pain and stress of being transported. And often the meat obtained from these animals poses great health risks to the public.

Implementation of the action to ban the use of downed animals will also help to prevent animal viruses, which could be deadly to humans, to be passed to those who eat cows, sheep, and other animals.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours truly,

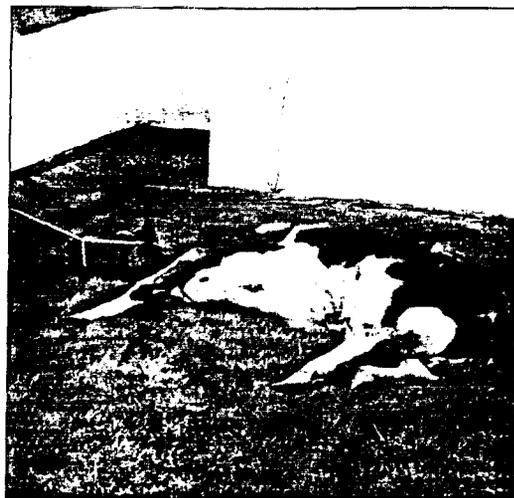
J. Capozzelli

J. Capozzelli
315 West 90 Street, #3
New York, NY 10024

*The marketing and slaughter of
downed animals is unacceptable.
Please prohibit the slaughter of
downed animals. They should be
humanely euthanized.*

98P-0151

C4176



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.

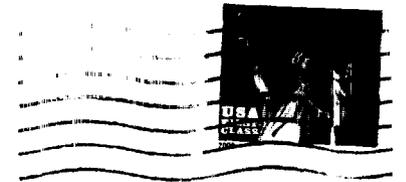


CASE #2—Abandonment
A frail, day-old calf too weak to stand—despite severe winter weather, the calf is dumped in a stockyard alleyway, and left to freeze to death.

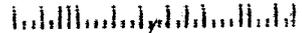


CASE #3—Prolonged Suffering
Severely injured cow—after falling out of a livestock trailer and being dragged behind the trailer for one mile, the cow was left to suffer in pain with severe injuries for seven hours.

315 W. 70 St. #3
NY NY 10024



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


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