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Thursday, March 15, 2001

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

Subject: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

To Whom It May Concern:

Due to the horrendous conditions on factory farms, many animals become too weak and sick to stand up or move under their own strength. These "downed" animals are shackled, hoisted, and dragged by the leg or neck or pushed by tractors and forklifts to the slaughterhouse. The helpless animals suffer broken bones, torn tendons, and lacerations from this inhumane handling. **Studies reveal that most downed animals are fully conscious and suffer intensely during the process.** All this, so that companies can make a few extra dollars. In addition to posing an increased risk of bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy or "mad cow disease"), a disease that has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease).

I am writing in support of a petition filed by Farm Sanctuary that would prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Sincerely,

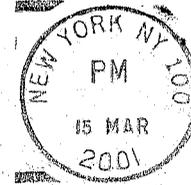
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