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JANUARY 24, 2001

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U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH
5630 FISHERS LANE, ROOM 1061
ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

MESDAMES/SIRS:

I STRONGLY URGE THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO GRANT PETITION 98P-0151/CP1, WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT THE SLAUGHTER OF DOWNED ANIMALS.

CATTLE, PIGS, GOATS, AND OTHER ANIMALS WHO ARE TOO SICK OR TOO BADLY INJURED TO STAND SHOULD BE HUMANELY EUTHANIZED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY A VETERINARIAN OR QUALIFIED VET TECHNICIAN. THE BODIES OF THESE ILL ANIMALS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED AS FOOD FOR HUMANS, OR FOR COMPANION ANIMALS EITHER. IT WORRIES ME CONSIDERABLY THAT CATS AND DOGS ARE CONSUMING FLESH AND BODY PARTS FROM DISEASED CATTLE; I HAVE READ THAT EVEN CANCEROUS TUMORS ARE MINCED UP FOR CANNED FOOD! THE BODIES OF DOWNED AND CLEARLY DISEASED ANIMALS SHOULD NOT BE USED AS FOOD FOR ANYONE.

EVIDENCE STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT SOME DOWNED CATTLE MAY BE ILL WITH MAD COW DISEASE, A FORM OF BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY WHICH IS LINKED TO CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE IN HUMANS. I HAVE READ THAT THIS ILLNESS, WHICH RUINS MUSCLE TISSUE AND CRIPPLES PEOPLE'S LEGS, HAS AN INCUBATION PERIOD OF 25-30 YEARS FOLLOWING INFECTION.

A MAJOR CONCERN IS THAT DOWNED ANIMALS CAN NOT BE MOVED IN A HUMANE FASHION TO THE KILLING LINE. HOPELESSLY ILL OR HURT LARGE ANIMALS SUCH AS CATTLE AND OXEN CAN NOT BE MOVED ANYWHERE IN A HUMANE FASHION. ANIMALS WEIGHING A THOUSAND POUNDS ARE DRAGGED BY A LEG, THE TAIL, OR EVEN AN EAR TO THE KILLING LINE. THUS DO

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THE SUFFERING BEINGS EXPERIENCE ADDITIONAL INJURIES SUCH AS ABRASIONS, TORN LIGAMENTS, EVEN BROKEN BONES. ALL THIS IS UNETHICAL AND UNNECESSARY!

DOWNED ANIMALS MAKE UP ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF MEAT ANIMALS; TO PROHIBIT MARKETING DOWNERS WILL CAUSE NEGLIGIBLE FINANCIAL LOSS TO THOSE WHO PROFIT FROM KILLING AND SELLING ANIMALS.

IF TRUCKERS, FEEDLOT STAFF, AND OTHER SLAUGHTERHOUSE WORKERS WOULD USE INTELLIGENT CARE AND PRECAUTIONS IN WORKING WITH ANIMALS HEADING FOR SLAUGHTER, RATHER THAN SHOVING AND KICKING THOSE CREATURES AROUND LIKE SO MUCH GARBAGE, A SUBSTANTIAL PERCENTAGE OF DOWNED ANIMALS (ABOUT 90%, INDUSTRY EXPERTS SAY) WOULD NOT GO DOWN. IT IS A FACT OF LIFE THAT CATTLE, OXEN, PIGS, SHEEP, GOATS, ALL ANIMALS BEING HERDED AND PUSHED TO THEIR BRUTAL EXECUTIONS, ARE ALIVE, THINKING, FEELING BEINGS TERRIFIED OF THE YET UNREALIZED HORRORS THAT AWAIT THEM AND TERRIFIED OF THE TWO-LEGGEDS WHO FORCE THEM TO THEIR UNWELCOME DEATHS. IT IS THE TWO-LEGGEDS, NOT THE FOUR-LEGGEDS, WHO ARE THE BRUTES, WHO ACT WITH DELIBERATE CRUELTY.

IN SUMMARY, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO GRANT PETITION 98-P-0151/CP1 TO PROHIBIT THE SLAUGHTER OF DOWNED ANIMALS SINCE (1) MANY ANIMALS ARE SICK AND THEREFORE VERY UNSAFE FOR CONSUMPTION BY HUMANS AND BY COMPANION ANIMALS, AND BECAUSE (2) SLAUGHTERHOUSE WORKERS CONSIDERABLY ABUSE THE DOWNED ANIMALS.

YOURS TRULY,

Antoinette Dunigan

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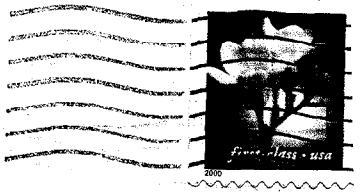
PM
25 JAN
2001



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