Mr. Anthony Stafferi
PO Box 1545
New York NY 10156-1545

To whom it may concern, 11-8-00

Re: Docket # 98P-0151/CP1

Downed animals - animals too sick even to stand - are commonly left to suffer for hours or days without receiving food, water, or veterinary care, and in many instances, they die of neglect. They are dragged to slaughter with chains or pushed with tractors and forklifts, inhumane methods that cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments. Downed animals who survive handling and transportation are typically slaughtered for human food. In addition, to causing intolerable animal suffering, the slaughter and marketing of downed animals poses a risk to human health.

The USDA recently reviewed and revised its policy regarding the purchase of ground beef for the National School Lunch Program and other federal food and nutrition programs, and its has taken a major step in the direction of ending the downed animal trade. According to an agency statement, "USDA will no longer accept ground beef that includes product from non-ambulatory cattle, commonly known as 'downers.' Carcasses originating from cattle (that are disabled)... must be segregated to assure that the product from these carcasses is not included in the USDA purchased beef."

2000 Member
International Fund for Animal Welfare

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Mr Anthony Stafferi

This development shows a growing consensus - even among industry and government officials - that the marketing and slaughter of downed animals causes intense animal suffering and poses an unnecessary health risk.

Please grant Farm Sanctuary's petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Compassionately yours,

Anthony Stafferi

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