

The
NATIONAL HUMANE
EDUCATION SOCIETY

Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals

August 8th, 2004



Members of the FDA:

I am writing on behalf of The National Humane Education Society (NHES) and its 400,000 members nationwide to adamantly demand that the FDA immediately ban animal protein from being fed to *all* farm animals and also, that "dead stock" or "specified risk materials" not be used for pet foods. Currently, these issues are being reviewed by the FDA under Docket No. 2004N-0264.

As a non-profit organization, which promotes the humane treatment of all animals, NHES is continually opposed to many of the practices used by factory farms and slaughter houses as they are inherently cruel, often failing to provide basic physical, behavioral, and psychological needs of the animals.

Logically, these many failures have a very detrimental affect on the health of millions of farm animals, causing them to be a hazard to humans who consume meat. As I am sure you are aware, the recent ban on the slaughter of "downed animals" for human consumption was directly related to protecting public health from diseased and contaminated cattle, specifically cows with BSE or "mad cow" disease.

Despite this ban, NHES views human health as still dangerously at risk when millions of *herbivore* farm animals continue to be fed diets which include animal blood, poultry litter, ground up body parts from slaughter houses, and plate waste. This completely unnatural and repulsive meat diet-often containing infectious prions-is yet another direct path for the BSE or "mad cow" disease to spread.

Also, downed cattle, "dead stock" and "specified risk materials", such as cow brain and spinal cord tissue, is continually used in pet foods and creates a risk to all cats and their owners, as felines are known to be susceptible to BSE.

Clearly, human, farm animal and companion pet health is at serious risk as long as farmers are allowed to feed or sell for feed, left over animal parts and flesh. NHES strongly demands that the FDA immediately ban all animal products, such as blood, poultry litter and ground body parts from all farm animal feed, not just ruminants. In addition, an immediate ban should be placed on downed cattle, "dead stock" and "specified risk materials" for use in pet foods.

Thank you very much for your time and effort regarding this issue. NHES will also continue to work for animal welfare and human and responsible communities nationwide. I look forward to the FDA's decision to protect the welfare and health of millions of animals and humans.

For the animals,

Maria Beth Keith, Humane Education Assistant

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