

October 22, 2000

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

0676 '00 OCT 27 P1:40

Angela Stewart, R.N., BSN
9810 Regatta Drive, #108
Cincinnati, OH 45252

Dear FDA Dockets Management Branch:

I am writing to you to encourage you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. The docket number is **98P-0151/CP1**. Downed animals are either too sick or injured to stand, and should not be allowed to enter the food chain.

The use of downed animals poses a health risk to those who consume them. There is an increased risk of bacterial contamination, and there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"). This BSE disease has been linked to the fatal human disease Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).

In addition to the risk to humans who consume these animals, it is also inhumane to slaughter downed animals. It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely. They are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. This inhumane treatment causes severe injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments to an already sick or injured animal.

These downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered and prohibiting their marketing would cause no undue economic hardship. In addition, industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Therefore, removing the market of downed animals would provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

I thank you in advance for your help in this matter. The docket number for this issue again is **98P-0151/CP1**. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Angela Stewart, R.N., BSN

C2513

98P-0151

Angela Stewart, R.N., BSN,
9810 Regatta Drive, Unit 108
Cincinnati, OH 45252



U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

20832-1730 31

