

Quest for

SHE MADE A DARING DASH FROM A NEW YORK CITY SLAUGHTERHOUSE IN QUEENS...AND WON THE HEARTS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO JOINED HER QUEST FOR FREEDOM.

We're talking, of course, about "Queenie," a young cow who was slated for slaughter at Astoria Live Poultry, a meat market that keeps live animals and allows customers to choose the animals they want butchered. After hearing the screams of other animals, Queenie made her own choice—a choice any animal would make in the same situation if given a chance. After escaping from the slaughterhouse, Queenie ran several blocks through the streets of New York City, surprising motorists and passers-by. Though she avoided capture at first, the five-hundred-pound cow was finally caught after a wild chase with NYPD cars, local authorities, and a tranquilizer gun.

Queenie's freedom dash was quickly picked up by the media—and her story spread throughout the country. Queenie's courageous escape was featured on national television, and millions of viewers saw a frightened cow running from the slaughterhouse, clearly aware of the fate that had awaited her. Hundreds of calls poured into The Center for Animal Care

Director Gene Bauston tells reporter about Queenie's heroic escape to freedom.



Shelter caregiver Denise says hello to Queenie at the airport.

and Control and Astoria Live Poultry, urging both the agency and the slaughterhouse owner to release the animal to a sanctuary where she could live out the remainder of her life.

Alerted to the cow's plight by Farm Sanctuary members, we immediately contacted the animal control agency and offered to provide Queenie a safe, loving, permanent home. For several hours, it was unclear if the agency would obtain custody of the cow, but public sentiment and pressure paid off—and the slaughterhouse owner agreed to give the cow to the city. In statements to newspapers, Aladdin El-sayed, owner of Astoria Live Poultry, which is a halal slaughterhouse stated, "God was willing to give it a new life, so why wouldn't I?" (*Newsday*). El-sayed also stated he had paid \$500 for the cow, and had been fined \$1,000 for causing an "animal nuisance."

The Health Department may fine him an additional \$2,000. El-sayed claimed he "lost a lot of money," but that it didn't matter because, in his own words, "There is something with this cow." (*Daily News*)

After receiving the word on Friday afternoon that Queenie would be given to Farm Sanctuary, our animal transport vehicle was rolling to New York City by Friday night. We picked up Queenie from the JFK Airport

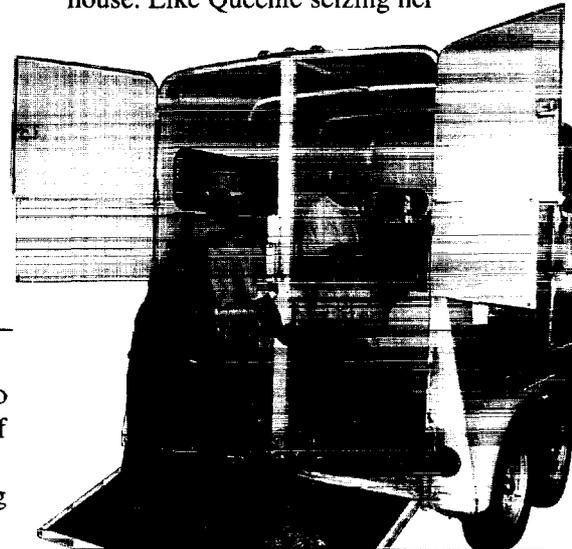
Freedom

where she was being held, and drove her directly to our New York shelter. Queenie jumped off the trailer amid cheers from the sanctuary staff...and loud "welcome" moo's from the shelter cows.

That's Some Cow

Queenie has put a face on vegetarianism. With news stories on the major television networks, *Associated Press*, and articles in *The New York Times*, *New York Daily News*, and dozens of other newspapers, millions of people have learned that farm animals have feelings too.

Queenie's quest has also launched a neighborhood effort to close the slaughterhouse. Like Queenie seizing her



After gentle coaxing, Queenie is on the trailer and headed to sanctuary.

moment for freedom, residents have seized the news attention to draw attention to their demand to close the meat market. Among their concerns reported in the *New York Post*, residents stated, "This is a market that we don't believe is treating anything humanely, and we want to see it closed for that reason alone.... Through the night, you can hear the screaming of the animals. I don't know what they are doing to them."

Queenie knew...and now the rest of the world knows too.

Photo credits for this page: Joyce Friedman

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FARM SANCTUARY went to stockyards in Vermont to gather evidence for passage of state and federal downed animal protection legislation. Our investigation resulted in videotape documentation, photographs...and a new beginning.

STOCKYARD REPORT

VERMONT STOCKYARD INVESTIGATION - 3/27/00

Cows Observed:

One downed cow in a pen with about eight other cows. She was laying down, moaning. A cow stepped on her neck. I videotaped her.

At the veal auction, a stockyard worker told another stockyard worker that two cows wouldn't come out of the trailer. He told him to take a break and get the trailer electric prod. One cow's head, neck and leg were falling out of the trailer onto the loading dock. Couldn't see the other cow.

About 20 minutes later, the stockyard worker came out and placed a chain around the leg of the cow that was falling out of the trailer. A stockyard worker pulled the truck forward. The cow was then on the loading dock. A stockyard worker drove the skidsteer to where she was and put her back end in the bucket and pushed her forward. She was barely able to stand and lost her footing a couple of times. Her knees were bloody from falling down. One stockyard worker electric prodded her and another used a cane. The first stockyard worker said she was just lazy because she wouldn't stand and called her dumb when she didn't want to go into the pen.

I asked what they did with downers. The stockyard worker said they wait until the next day to take them to the slaughterhouse. They use the skidsteer to load them. I asked how come...he said because there is still good meat on them.

Calves Observed:

There were three calves that got dragged into the ring by their legs. Two calves got up in the ring, one was bought...not sure about the other. An auction worker said to mark the third calf as dead and he tossed him through a small door onto the loading dock.

I went outside to see the calf, and a stockyard worker jokingly asked if I wanted him. I said "yes." He said, "Why? He's almost dead and won't make it." I got the calf.

STOCKYARD RESCUE

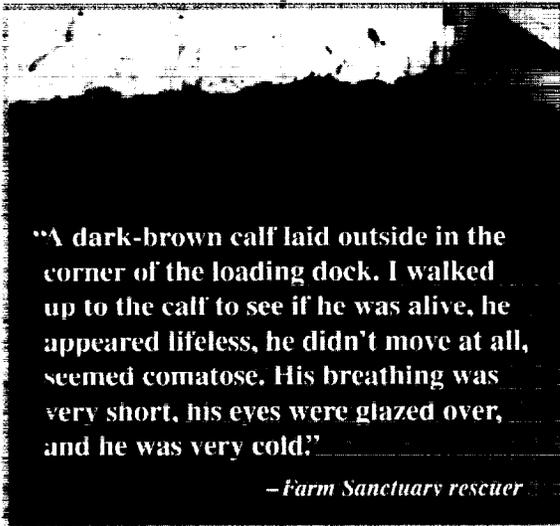
The dying calf arrived at our New York shelter bundled in blankets. He was too weak to even lift his head, and his temperature was too low to register on a thermometer. Our veterinarian administered emergency fluids, and a 24-hour watch began to keep the calf alive. Twelve hours after receiving fluids, he began suckling on a bottle, and soon he was standing. Our new "miracle calf" was named **Lazarus**.

It soon became clear that Lazarus was an animal who found joy in every moment. He loved to "dance" through the fields by running and playfully kicking up his legs. At feeding times, Lazarus loved his bottle so much, he would run circles around shelter caregivers with all the excitement of a

four-year-old boy at a candy counter. Lazarus also loved to "play" with shelter cleaners by knocking over our mucking barrels...and occasionally, knocking over a shelter volunteer! Though he was a big, and growing boy, Lazarus always remained a kid at heart...and he won the heart of everyone who met him.

After months of shelter care, Lazarus was old enough to be placed into a loving, vegetarian adoptive home. Though we were sad to see him go, we knew his adoption meant we could now open our shelter doors to one more suffering calf who desperately needs our help.

And it's back to the stockyards we go.

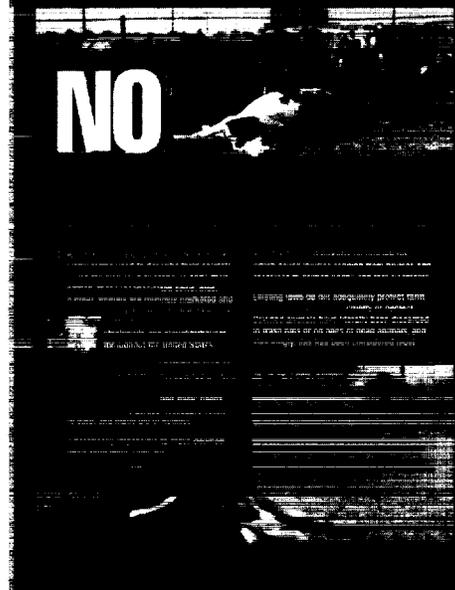


"A dark-brown calf laid outside in the corner of the loading dock. I walked up to the calf to see if he was alive, he appeared lifeless, he didn't move at all, seemed comatose. His breathing was very short, his eyes were glazed over, and he was very cold."

- Farm Sanctuary rescuer



Put up our **No Downers** educational poster in your workplace, or contact your local library for information on putting up an informational display.



www.nodowners.org

Pass out our **No Downers** flyer to friends and family or show our video, *The Down Side of Livestock Marketing* (see p. 12 to order video).

No Downers Campaign Packet

- 5 posters (above)
- 500 flyers (at right)

\$10.00 includes S&H - send check or money order to: Farm Sanctuary, P.O. Box 150, Watkins Glen, NY 14891 (please specify for **No Downers Campaign Packet**)

Write to your congressional representatives and urge them to support federal downed animal protection legislation.



U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMIN.
DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH
5600 Fishers Lane, Rm # 1061
Rockville, Maryland

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