

3331 '00 NOV -7 A11 :01

October 30, 2000

US Food & Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

Gentlemen:

Re: Docket Number 98P-0151-CPI

We are writing to very strongly urge that you grant Farm Sanctuary's petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals too sick or injured to even stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. As you must know, there is an increased risk of bacterial contamination in allowing this to happen, as well as evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE which has been linked to a fatal human illness.

One cannot move downed animals humanely. They must be pushed with tractors or dragged with chains causing even further injuries and suffering, even broken bones and torn ligaments. Can you imagine being horribly sick or badly injured and dragged and pushed callously in these ways??

As downed animals represent only a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. Are the few animals slaughtered in sick or injured conditions worth the immoral way they are treated or the possibility of human illness or death?

As you probably know, industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. In other words, human carelessness results in acute animal suffering and possible dire consequences for humans as well. If the market is removed for downed animals, this will be an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Thank you for considering the suffering of innocent animals as well as the health of humans.

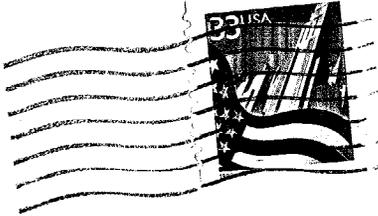
Sincerely,

Susan & Hubert van Asch van Wyck

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