



ECOLOGY CENTER
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March 15, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir/Madam,

We join physicians, scientists, environmentalists, and those interested in the humane treatment of animals in urging you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Please consider these facts:

- * Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.
- * In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness CJD (Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).
- * It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane practices which add to the hapless animals' pain and misery,
- * Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.
- * Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

With the advent of air travel, diseases spread easily from continent to continent. Any time we can prevent a disease entity from spreading to the human population, we must do so. Slaughtering downed animals for human consumption provides easy access for disease entities to cross into the human food chain and put us all at risk. Grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 for the health of our nation.

Sincerely,
Anna Harlowe, R.N.
Anna Harlowe, R.N.
Issues Coordinator

98P-0151

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