

Ms. Gina Rudy
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To: U.S. Food and Drug Administration

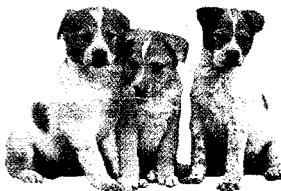
Re: Docket # 98P-0151/CP 1'01 FEB 21 NO:37
4372

Date: Jan. 31, 2001

Dear Sir/Maam,

I am writing in reference to the decision being made whether or not to slaughter downed animals. Firstly, let me thank you for announcing the policy to stop purchasing meat from downed animals for Federal Programs. That is a great first step, and one that is commended by all those people concerned about how animal health affects human health. Now I urge you to consider the following items and take that next step: Please stop the downed animal trade.

- Experts state up to 90% of downed animal injuries could have been prevented with proper care and handling. Remove the market for downed animals and the industry will have an incentive to prevent injuries.



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Member of The Humane Society of the United States

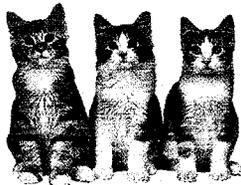
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- Animals that cannot even stand up because of illness or injury should not be "good enough" for human consumption.
- Downed animals pose an increased risk of bacterial contamination. Some downed animals have been afflicted with BSE, the disease linked to the fatal human illness Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.
- Downed animals cannot be moved humanely. They are pushed with tractors and dragged with chains. This causes injuries ranging from cuts and bruises to broken bones and torn ligaments.
- Prohibiting the market of downed animals would have little or no effect economically. Downed animals comprise a small percentage of those slaughtered.



Thank You for your
time and consider-
ation,

Gina Rudy

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