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03-025IF
Jill Harrison Kalfin

FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket 03-025IF
Room 102 Cotton Annex
300 12th and C Street SW
Washington, DC 20250-3700

To the USDA:

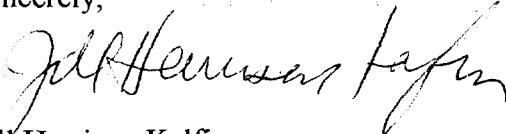
I am a concerned citizen who wants to thank you for your quick action on banning the slaughter of downed cattle for human consumption.

I did not realize until today that this was not a permanent ban. Please go a step further and make this permanent, for the sake of the public and the animals. The ban should include all downed animals, as it makes no sense to not include them all.

Finally, please require that all these downed animals be humanely euthanized as soon as possible after they become downed.

Thanks for your hard work on this difficult matter.

Sincerely,



Jill Harrison Kalfin

The U.S. government should implement an industry-wide ban on the transport, marketing and slaughter of ALL downed animals for ANY purpose. Please expand the present ban to include:

--Humane euthanasia for downed cows, pigs, sheep, goats or any farmed animals. Plainly, it is cruel to force living creatures to endure organ failure, broken bones, severed ligaments and open wounds over hours or days. WHY IS THIS SO HARD TO DO? WHAT ON EARTH IS SO HARD ABOUT HUMANELY EUTHANIZING THESE CREATURES? In addition, Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) have surfaced in deer, elk, sheep, goats and other animals. No one yet knows the extent to which TSEs can cross the species barrier. All downers are suspect.

--A ban on moving downed animals. There is no way to humanely move incapacitated animals. All downers should be mercifully euthanized. At one Texas stockyard, a calf was photographed struggling to stand on a mangled leg attached by a shred of hide and ligament. THESE KIND OF ACTIONS NEED TO BE STOPPED! PLEASE HUMANELY EUTHANIZE!

--Mandatory training to prevent animals from becoming downers in the first place. Without incentive to maintain downers for financial gain, agribusiness might actually improve standards of care. *According to Temple Grandin, advisor to the American Meat Institute, "Ninety percent of all downers are preventable."* HELLO!!!

--A ban on the use of downed animals for "pet" and "livestock" foods. As long as nonhuman food is processed with elements at risk for containing dangerous prions, potential problems exist due to non-compliance with the FDA feeding ban and unintended contamination during manufacture. Furthermore, Americans cherish their companion animals. Roughly 100 cats have already been diagnosed with Feline Spongiform Encephalopathy in Europe.

--Enforceable and permanent implementation. Any effort to dilute the ban to appease agribusiness is a step in the wrong direction. Do your work USDA.

Until Congress enacts the Downed Animal Protection Act (S. 1298/H.R. 2519), the USDA's temporary rule is vulnerable. Hopefully, the Downed Animal Protection Act will codify the current ban, cover other species, and designate humane euthanasia for all.

If this legislation had passed in 2002--or not been rejected as an amendment to the Agricultural Appropriations bill last November--the mad cow in Washington state would never have entered the human food chain.

I strongly encourage the USDA to strengthen and enforce measures to protect animals and reduce risk of BSE. The USDA needs to get to work and act on the humane treatment of farm animals.

For the animals,



Sheri Inks