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February 9, 2004

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

Dear FSIS Docket Clerk,

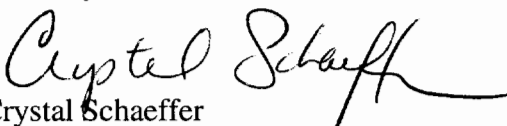
I am contacting you on behalf of the international membership of the American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS), a non-profit animal advocacy organization located outside of Philadelphia, regarding the USDA's ban on downed cattle from the human food supply. This ban needs to be broadened, not limited. Because of this, I ask that the USDA order that *all* downed animals be humanely euthanized and that no parts of their diseased bodies be used in the manufacture of any products.

In response to the first case of mad cow disease that was confirmed in the U.S., the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) banned downed cattle from the human food supply. There are several problems with the USDA's ban; it is temporary, and it only applies to cows. Additionally, there is no requirement that downed animals be euthanized, so they can still be dragged with cranes or forklifts while still conscious to slaughter and used in pet food or personal care products, leaving the public still exposed to a potentially deadly health risk.

The current USDA ban on downed cattle does not do enough to protect humans or animals. Because of this, I that the USDA make its ban permanent and apply to all animals who are farmed for human consumption. I also ask that the agency require that all downed animals (not just cattle) be euthanized.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Crystal Schaeffer
Outreach Director