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January 17, 2001

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

VIA FAX No. 301-827-6870

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Re: Docket No. 98P-0151/CP1  
Farm Sanctuary's Petition to Prohibit the Slaughter of Downed Animals

Dear Ladies/Gentlemen:

I am writing to urge you to grant Farm Sanctuary's petition to prohibit the slaughter and use of downed animals for human food.

"Downed animals," animals so sick or badly injured they cannot walk, are commonly abandoned in alleyways without food, water or veterinary care, until it is convenient to take them to slaughter. Many of these animals die of neglect. When moved, they are usually dragged with chains or pushed with tractors or forklifts, which, of course, worsens their condition.

Downed animals are not protected from abuse under either federal or state animal welfare laws. These laws usually exclude farm animals, as they are a part of "normal agricultural operation." Farm Sanctuary has documented hundreds of cases of downed animal cruelties, including a downed cow dumped alive into a cart full of garbage, a living sheep dumped on a stockyard "dead pile," and incapacitated pigs left in pens to slowly starve to death.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be used for human consumption. Some downed animals may be afflicted with "Mad Cow Disease," which has been linked to fatal human illness.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing would cause no economic hardship to the meat industry.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% of the injuries to downed animals could be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to the animal-farming industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Please think of human safety, as well as the suffering of these animals, and grant Farm Sanctuary's petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. Thank you very much and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Kim Downes  
Vegan

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