

January 27, 2001

9893 '01 MAR -6 NO:17

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to let you know of my concern for downed animals (docket number 98P-0151/CP1), animals that are too sick or injured even to stand. It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments. Other times, they are abandoned to die slowly from neglect at stockyards.

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 that has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

I urge you to do everything possible to see that stockyards stop accepting and selling downed animals by co-sponsoring bill (H.R. 443 or S. 515), the Downed Animal Protection Act. Industry experts have estimated that 90% percent 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. Furthermore, downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered. Prohibiting their marketing will not cause undue economic hardship.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this critical animal welfare concern.

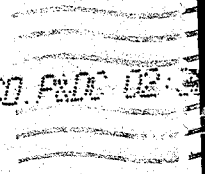
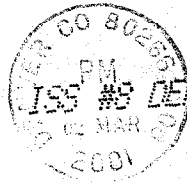


**"You can judge the moral progress of a nation  
by the way its animals are treated." -Ghandi**

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