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February 21, 2001

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

PLEASE GRANT PETITION
98P-0151/CP1
TO PROHIBIT THE SLAUGHTER
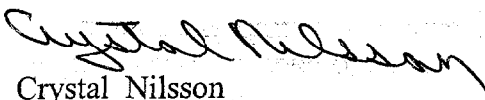**OF DOWNED ANIMALS.**

To Whom It May Concern,

Last year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a landmark policy to stop
purchasing meat from downed cows for federal programs, including the National School Lunch
Program. The agency stated, "USDA will no longer accept ground beef that includes product
from non-ambulatory cattle, commonly known as 'downers.'" This development shows a
growing consensus – even among livestock industry and government officials - that the
marketing and slaughter of downed animals is unacceptable. Thank you for your careful and
thoughtful consideration on the following points:

- Animals who are too sick or injured to stand should not be allowed to be slaughtered for
  any consumption.

- The use of downed animals in meat production poses an increased health risk to the
  consumer from bacterial contamination and disease.

- Downed animals cannot be moved humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors
  or dragged with chains - resulting in injuries from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones
  and torn ligaments.

- Prohibiting the marketing of downed animals will cause no undue economic hardship.

- Industry experts have estimated that 90% 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.

This practice has been going on too long, and the time has come to ban it. Please implement a
strong ban on downed animals. They must be euthanized humanely when down.
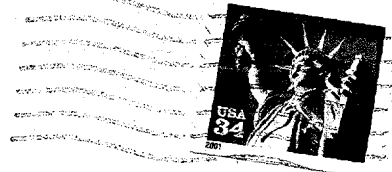
Sincerely,

Crystal Nilsson

98P-0151

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Is. Crystal Nilsson
382 1st St.
ast Meadow, NY 11554-2603

ASPCA

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