

The
NATIONAL HUMANE
EDUCATION SOCIETY
Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals

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January 18th, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of The National Humane Education Society (NHES) and its 400,000 supporters nationwide to strongly urge the USDA to **permanently** ban the marketing of meat produced from "downed" animals. Although it has been stated that the recent case of mad cow disease is isolated, government reports undisputedly show that meat from downed animals is often unsanitary and not fit for human consumption.

As I am sure you are aware, there are countless reasons for the occurrence of diseased and incapacitated animals within the factory farm and slaughter industries; however, all of these explanations boil down to the same facts: Downed animals, whether by injury or illness, are substantially a result of abusive factory farm conditions where the physical/mental well being of the animals is sacrificed in the name of large production and even larger profits. In addition to the frighteningly unsanitary meat produced by these ill living conditions, is the terrible fact that downed animals are routinely left to die slowly where they lay or are forcefully dragged, pulled and/or shoveled into the slaughterhouses.

For these reasons, NHES highly applauds the USDA's recent decision to temporarily ban the sale of meat from downed animals; however, NHES strongly demands the USDA to make this ban **permanent** for all animals - no matter what species. In addition, NHES feels this legislation should require each animal be humanely euthanized as they become downed. These changes will not only help prevent the deaths of humans due to unsanitary meat, but also, will help curb the excessive abuse farm animals endure in the slaughter industry.

In closing, although the banishment of downed meat would not require humane treatment of farm animals, it can still bring about such changes: Preventing unsanitary meat from being approved for sale will give factory farms financial incentive to treat their animals better, as they will lose profit for each downed animal they cannot slaughter.

Thank you very much for your time and effort regarding this issue. NHES will also continue to work for animal welfare and responsible and humane communities nationwide. I look forward to your positive influence on this very serious situation.

For the animals,

Maria Beth Keith,
Humane Education Assistant

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