

Dr. Lynne Dickey
Director: Regulations
FSIS, USDA Washington DC - Fax # 202-6900486

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Dear Dr. Dickey,

2/21/04

Recently someone told me that the US government practices Satanic Rituals. If I didn't know what was going on in slaughterhouses across this country I would have laughed it off -but in fact, processing animals alive, as workers have gone to great lengths to provide evidence thereof, is akin to Satanic Ritual. And it has got to be stopped FOREVER!

I have been assured by the FSIS for the last three years that the Humane Slaughter Act is upheld rigorously. But how do you know? Are you there to safeguard every animal before it is hoisted on the chain? Is the vet? What happens when he must go to the bathroom? Does the line stop? How long is the vet watching the stunner? All day -half a day? Workers say its not alot. Workers say it is still going on and that nothing much has changed. They proved it once with video cameras through a Humane organization. Why didn't the FSIS do its job and prove it? Why is it still going on? These are questions I ask my listeners. People see my show all over the world. They see other shows as well and hundreds of letters have been written on behalf of petition 02-02. Yet nothing happens and the diabolical behavior goes on.

Part of the problem, I am told is money. There just isn't enough money to hire full time inspectors to be watching each animal as it is stunned and put on the chain. So, here is a solution and one that doesn't cost any more money.

The stunner is allowed to stop the chain and restun an animal or call in the vet to do the euthenizing if the animal is thrashing about in agonized convulsions. The video camera is the verifiable witness. Cameras do not lie. People do. The camera will watch the animals on the chain and the stunner and this footage is received in a spot check program by the FSIS and the General Accounting Office to make sure everyone is doing their job. The video camera is paid for by the plant and that cost is passed onto the consumers. It shouldn't cost more than a nickle more a pound if that. If a plant has disobeyed the law as witnessed through the footage their suspended. Knowing this will greatly reduce line speed and keep plant managers off the backs of the stunners. The stunners will know they too will loose their job if they don't stun the animal properly and stop the line when ncessary to do so.

Annie Griffin
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What appals me, Dr. Dickey, is the fact that our government doesn't already have such a program in effect. A verifiable one and not one just on the trust of vets and USDA officials. You and I cannot imagine the pain of being dismembered and skinned alive. And yet workers say one in thirty goes up on the chain conscious. I have seen the tapes myself. I have seen the thrashing poor animal being dismembered alive. I am sickened to the core of my being that your agency is so complacent and self assured all is well when workers say they are warned when anyone comes to inspect the operations. I will not rest until I know each animal is treated with the greatest regard and care. If slaughter plants and the meat industry believe that slower line speed with reduce income it is nothing compared to the coming wave of people sickened as I am who have given up meat and dairy altogether and millions more reducing their intake until they are assured the Humane Slaughter Act is enforced with a verifiable witness program. This coupled with the mad cow disease and the newer strains found in Italy.

Please, Dr. Dickey, implement a verifiable witness program ~~Now~~! Its been three years and your agency has done nothing towards this important humane step. And yet, almost immediately you took steps to deal with the mad cow scandal.

You can move fast when you need too. You have the power to make these suggestions possible.

I enclose a letter sent to all my Senators, Congressmembers calling for a Congressional Investigation as to why there is not a verifiable witness program to uphold the Humane Slaughter Act.

Listeners from all over the world come to Monterey and they hear my story of how our government allows this to go on and on. If you think God will have any pity on a nation that allows such torture to endure, you better think again. Your soul and anyone elses eating of this meat will bring itself to justice. Of that I am sure. If you were a good government, what is happening in these slaughter plants would not be tolerated for one moment, and yet it is. If you are a humane being, you won't allow it to continue.

I look forward to your reply and what you plan to do about this situation.

Sincerely,
Anne Griffin - Program Producer

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Food Safety
and Inspection
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Ms. Annie Griffin
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Dear Ms. Griffin:

Thank you for your recent telephone call to the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) about the placement of video cameras in livestock slaughter establishments to monitor compliance with the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA).

As Dr. Daniel L. Engeljohn stated in previous letters to you, regulations that enforce HMSA do not require that livestock slaughter establishments install video cameras to monitor the handling of animals before and during slaughter. Federal regulations would have to be amended before FSIS could impose such a requirement. We also explained to you that the Agency views your request as a petition to amend Federal regulations. Your petition has been assigned the number 02-02 and has been filed in the FSIS docket room where it is available for public viewing. We also have previously sent you information about how to submit additional documentation in support of your petition.

We appreciate your continued interest in the welfare of animals raised for food.

Sincerely,

Philip S. Derfler
Deputy Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development