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March 17, 2004

FSIS Docket Clerk  
Docket 03-025IF  
Room 102, Cotton Annex  
300 12<sup>th</sup> and C Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700  
FAX: (202) 690-0486

To the FSIS Docket Clerk:

I am a supporter of Farm Sanctuary, in New York State, and am concerned that in response to lobbying from agribusiness, the USDA's proposed rule that downed cattle not be used for human food---and that they be humanely euthanized---is in danger of being lifted. I am writing to urge---to beg---that it be maintained and that it be extended to include downed pigs, sheep and goats.

All downed animals that are marketed and brought to slaughter are subjected to horrendous cruelties; often they are dragged to slaughter by their tails and ears, or dumped and left to die in agony. Each and every one of them suffers unimaginable pain and fear.

I have been trained as a veterinary nurse and have worked with farm animals, and so I know how gentle and sensitive they are and how deserving they are of protection and care. I believe that the abuse of downed animals is unconscionable and should be stopped. I actively support all efforts to expose to the public the sordid truth about the downed animal trade---and I support all efforts to counter any pressure to undermine the USDA's ban, which so clearly is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely yours,

*Shari Lewis Thompson*

Shari Lewis Thompson

120 East 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10128-1705

cc to Farm Sanctuary, fax no. (607) 583-2041