

The
NATIONAL HUMANE
EDUCATION SOCIETY

Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals



August 30, 2008

Docket Clerk, USDA
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Rm. 2534 S. Agriculture Bldg.
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Docket No. FSIS-2008-0022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of The National Humane Education Society (NHES) and its nearly 400,000 members nationwide to voice our support of the USDA's proposed rule "Disposition of Downer Cattle," to ban the slaughter of downed cattle and require their immediate humane euthanasia.

As a nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of all animals, NHES opposes Factory Farming because its standard of care for animals is inherently cruel—it fails to provide for the basic physical, behavioral, and psychological needs of animals. We further oppose the Slaughter Industry because its methods of slaughtering farm animals impose un-alleviated pain on these sentient creatures and are inherently cruel.


As the USDA is well aware, the occurrence of diseased and incapacitated cattle is often a result of neglectful industry standards such as overcrowding, lack of adequate veterinary care, inadequate nutrition, and abusive animal treatment. NHES is confident that a USDA enforced ban on the slaughter of downed cattle will greatly improve animal treatment as it will give the animal farming industry a financial incentive to care for animals more humanely. Furthermore, requiring immediate humane euthanasia will save many cattle from lying in misery for hours to days before they finally succumb to death.

NHES would like to take this opportunity to strongly encourage the USDA to include all farm animals in the ban: millions more pigs, sheep, goats, and other sentient beings suffer equal cruelties in the farming industry and are no less deserving of humane treatment. Please include these animals in the ban.

In closing, NHES supports the USDA's proposed rule "Disposition of Downer Cattle," to ban the slaughter of down cattle and require immediate humane euthanasia of such animals. We look forward to the USDA very soon extending this ban to all farm animals.

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.

For the animals,


Maria Keith
Humane Educator

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