

Dear USDA,

I am writing in regards to Docket Number FSIS-2008-0022 and asking that you adopt the proposed rules for the Disposition of Downer Cattle.

I specifically support the USDA's proposal to exclude all downed cattle, including those that become downed after inspection at slaughterhouses. I strongly believe that these animals should be humanely euthanized on the spot.

I would also like to encourage the FSIS to extend its ban on the slaughter of downed cattle to cover ALL downed animals-including pigs, goats, sheep, and others.

As a Christian and a vegetarian, I believe that NO animal should be made to suffer. The use of bulldozers, electric prods, "hosing", beating and dragging MUST be regarded as Animal abuse and subject to fines, imprisonment and termination of employment!

This behavior should NOT be tolerated regardless of the situation. All animals have feelings and experience pain, fear and anxiety. Pigs have the intelligence of a 3 year old child and can be taught more tricks than a dog can. As humans, we certainly underestimate the intelligence and complexity of animals. I believe it is time that we truly become "Good Stewards" of what God has created. Gandhi said-"A society can be judged by the way it treats its animals". I truly believe that!

When cruelty is tolerated, we are making this world an uglier place. Personally I don't know how God can stand us! Watching the violence we impose on each other and on the creatures we share this earth with! Seriously, just think of that, it's unbearable!

Last, but certainly not least, the use of downed animals in the food supply is extremely dangerous and unhealthy! With the outbreaks of Salmonella, e-coli, mad cow disease and other food-borne illnesses, it is imperative that the USDA protect the public. That is your job and the American people expect your organization to be responsible, humane and compassionate, certainly towards both humans and animals alike!

I am happy to know that two bills have been introduced on the Federal level, H.R.661 and S.394. I sincerely hope that these bills will be passed and enforced very soon!

Thank-you for doing ALL you can to treat Farm animals as the sentient creatures that they are!

Sincerely,



Lisa Scharin
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