

The  
NATIONAL HUMANE  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

*Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals*



5866 '03 SEP -4 A9:45

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 you to support the grant petition # 98P-0151/CP1 which will place a ban on the slaughter of "downed" animals. NHES also requests your show of public support for the Downed Animals Protection Act, HR 2519 and S. 1298, which will give stronger protection to downed farm animals who become to injured or sick to stand or walk unassisted. Specifically, the Act will require the immediate humane euthanasia of downed animals and also, will prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for human consumption.

As I am sure you aware, thousands of downed animals are a result of the factory farm and slaughter industry on a regular basis. Much of the horrendous conditions animals must endure before transportation to slaughterhouses contribute to their illnesses or injuries; however, it is usually during the time of transportation that animals are most likely to become downed. During transportation, animals -such as cows, sheep, pigs, horses- are deprived of food, water and adequately sheltered vehicles for an average of 36 hours. The animals are over-crowded into semi-tractor trailers where there is no room to sit or stand comfortably, and the creatures must endure standing in their own feces and vomit (from becoming sick) with no escape from the smell.

Downed animals are currently dragged, electrically shocked, beaten and even bulldozed to move them to the slaughter, no matter how sick or injured the animal may be. Quite disturbingly as well, many of the animals are simply left to die, where their bodies may lay and rot over several hours or days. Obviously, not only is the cruel treatment of downed animals inhumane and the conditions in which they are raised/transported neglectful, but also, downed animals are quite unsanitary. It is believed that many downed animals are victims of "Mad Cow Disease" and therefore, completely unsuitable for human consumption. Who is to know what humans are consuming when a downed animal is slaughtered without any kind of disease testing or inspection; yet, this form of slaughter is practice within the meat industry on a regular basis.

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NATIONAL OFFICE:  
P.O. Box 340  
CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414-0340  
PHONE 304/725-0506  
FAX 304/725-1523  
www.nhes.org

98P-0151

PROGRAM:  
SPAY TODAY  
P.O. Box 340  
CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414-0340  
Phone 304/728-8332  
Fax 304/724-6765  
www.nhes.org

AFFILIATE:  
PEACE PLANTATION  
ANIMAL SANCTUARY  
12752 STATE HWY. 206  
WALTON, NY 13856-2327  
PHONE 607/865-5759  
FAX 607/865-6334  
www.ppasny.org

PROGRAM:  
BRIGGS ANIMAL  
ADOPTION CENTER  
P.O. Box 1023  
CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414-1023  
PHONE 304/724-6558  
FAX 304/724-6765  
www.baacs.org

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NHES asks that you vote in support of grant petition # 98P-0151/CP1 and the Downed Animal Protection Act, HR 2519 and S. 1298, and help implement tighter regulations within the slaughter industry. The Act will not only give more humane treatment to downed animals and prevent unsanitary meat from being consumed, but by initiating this Act, farms will have a financial incentive to treat their animals better, as they will lose profit for each downed animal they cannot slaughter.

NHES feels that the creation of laws pertaining to the humane treatment of all animals is of utmost importance. To allow animals neglect and/or abuse is a definite risk to a community and society as a whole. Through our nationwide membership, letter writing campaigns and education, we work hard to promote kindness and humane treatment of all animals. NHES uses its nationwide reputation to get this important message out to the public.

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 response to this issue.

For the animals,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Beth Keith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maria Beth Keith  
Internship under  
Cheryl Spencer Scher,  
Director of Humane Education

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