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February 18, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 106 1
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Sir or Madam:

Downed animals (animals so diseased or badly injured that they cannot even walk) suffer horrendous cruelty and neglect at livestock markets across the country. Downed animals commonly lie in alleyways, without food, water, or veterinary care, until it is convenient to take them to slaughter, usually the next day. Thousands die slowly from neglect before ever reaching the slaughterhouse.

It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains--inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

Personally, I feel that animals who are too sick even to stand pose a health threat and should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.

Just because we can't see this horrible inhumane act, does not mean it doesn't exist. Please grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Please help,



Marilyn Fleetwood

98P-0151

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