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March 12, 2014

Administrator Alfred V. Almanza
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Office of the Under Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 331-E
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Regulations for Downed Calves

Dear Administrator Almanza,

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animal protection organization, I am writing to provide letters from our supporters requesting closure of a regulatory loophole that facilitates the cruel mistreatment of calves too weak, sick or injured to stand and walk. Several thousands of individuals sent comments directly to our organization, and we are submitting them to you here on a disc.

The disc contains a total of 69,300 comments. Of those, 60,588 are identical to the below exemplar, and are contained in one folder titled "Unedited Letters".

Exemplar:

Subject: Thank you for acting immediately, please fast track regulations for downed calves

Dear Mr. Almanza,

Thank you for dealing immediately and forcefully with the inhumane treatment of downed calves found at Catelli Bros. slaughter plant in New Jersey. There is no excuse for calves being kicked, shocked, pulled by their tails and ears, or dragged with chains when they have broken legs, other injuries, or are simply too weak or sick to stand up. Downed calves should be afforded the mercy of immediate euthanasia rather than being handled in such abusive ways. My confidence is shaken. If these atrocities are occurring at a federally-inspected plant in a metropolitan area, consumers have no reason to believe they are not happening at every slaughter plant.

In 2009, the HSUS uncovered horrendous mistreatment of calves at Bushway slaughter

plant in Vermont and promptly filed a petition with the USDA to require that calves too injured, sick, or weak to stand be euthanized. Such a regulation is long overdue and I hope you will act quickly to remedy a situation that so clearly needs your attention and effort. The USDA's own Office of Inspector General report found that the agency doesn't do enough to prevent inhumane handling and slaughter. Please listen to the public and your own internal auditors and fast-track the regulation that will help downed calves.

Sincerely,
Lewis Bollard

An additional 8,712 comments are contained in a folder titled "Edited Letters." These comments contain similar statements to the unedited ones, but were amended by our members to include further information.

Thank you for providing our members the opportunity to weigh in. If you need any further information or materials, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



Tracie Letterman
Director, Regulatory Affairs
The Humane Society of the United States
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JUL 15 2014

Received at
FSIS/ECIMS