

Text of California's Downed Animal Law

Section 599f is added to the Penal Code to read:

599f. (a) No slaughterhouse that is not inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture, stockyard, or auction shall buy, sell, or receive a nonambulatory animal.

(b) No slaughterhouse, stockyard, auction, market agency, or dealer shall hold a nonambulatory animal without taking immediate action to humanely euthanize the animal or remove the animal from the premises.

(c) While in transit or on the premises of a stockyard, auction, market agency, dealer, or slaughterhouse, a nonambulatory animal may not be dragged at any time, or pushed with equipment at any time, but shall be moved with a sling or on a stoneboat or other sled-like or wheeled conveyance.

(d) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

(e) As used in this section, "nonambulatory" means unable to stand and walk without assistance.

(f) As used in this section, "animal" means live cattle, swine, sheep, or goats.

(g) As used in this section, "humanely euthanized" means to kill by a mechanical, chemical, or electrical method that rapidly and effectively renders the animal insensitive to pain.