

Chino, CA – Dairy Operations and Auctions Investigation

March 17, 2009

11 a.m. Entered Ontario Livestock Auction. Found a dead pig and sheep on the ground by the trash. Auction was primarily baby sheep and goats, and pigs. Many of the animals looked sick and thin. No downed animals observed.

12:15 p.m. Entered Euclid Stockyards and viewed all pens and loading docks. No downed animals observed. As I left Euclid Stockyards I noticed what appeared to be a downed cow across the street at a cow broker's facility. I drove closer to the animal, and she did appear nonambulatory. I went to the office and told the worker it looked like he had a downed cow in his yard. He walked out with me and opened the gate and got the cow up. She was a little wobbly but did finally walk.

12:30 p.m. Walker Avenue. Found a cow stuck in a thick pool of urine, feces, and mud about two feet deep. I documented her condition, and then approached the animal. I immediately sunk in this muck up to my knees. I spent at least an hour there trying to help get her up. I called Inland Valley Humane Society (IVHS) however, no officers arrived from IVHS. I started to clap my hands and make lots of noise and she finally started to try and get up. It took her at least fifteen minutes of struggling to stand. When she first stood up you could hear the suction of her body coming loose from the muck. As she walked away you could barely see her udders as they were dragging in the mud. I called IVHS back up and told them to void the call as I did get her up.

I continued to observe dozens of cattle were standing in muck. All of the cows looked extremely tired and some were emaciated. I was driving past one dairy when I noticed a newborn baby calf with no head. I got out of the truck to investigate when I noticed the head about 15 feet away. The head had been pulled off (probably by a chain in the birth canal) and, I noticed the left shoulder appeared to be dislocated, almost torn off from the body and just left on the front lawn.

1:30 p.m. I left this dairy and went to check out another dairy in the area. I pulled into the driveway and walked up to the fence. I immediately noticed a cow stuck on her right side and half way buried in the mud. I immediately call IVHS and the dispatcher would not give me an estimated time that they could arrive at the dairy. I then called the watch commander at the Ontario Police Dept. As I was speaking with the watch commander the owner of the dairy came out and asked what I was doing on his property. I told him I was looking for downed animals in the area and that he had one. He said he knew and that she had been down for about 7 hours. I

informed him that this was illegal and that he by law had one hour to euthanize her. I informed him that I had been there for 20 minutes and he need to respond within 40 minutes or he would not be in compliance with the law. He responded saying he would do it then in 40 minutes. I told him that was cruel and that he should do it right away and he agreed. We spoke briefly about the other dead cows that were 10 feet away and he said he shot them in the AM and that he should have done that to this one also. He left for a minute and came back to inform me he didn't have a gun to shoot her but that his buddy did. The owner then said he didn't want any problems and gave me full access to his dairy to look and inspect for problems. The cow was euthanized 10 minutes later by his friend. I then left the Chino area and concluded this field investigation day.