



# Survey Says, Not in My Backyard!

By Free From Harm Staff Writers | December 22, 2012



This photo was taken by Animal Recovery Mission at an illegal backyard slaughter farm in Florida

A recent survey conducted by the Neighbors Opposed to Backyard Slaughter found that a majority of Oakland, California residents living in the areas with the highest number of livestock animals opposed the practice of keeping and slaughtering animals in backyard residences. The survey was conducted in Oakland districts one and three. A majority of those surveyed oppose backyard slaughter (52% in district one and 55% in district three). More than one quarter surveyed were undecided.

Now it's likely that the majority of those who oppose backyard slaughter also eat and buy animal products off the supermarket shelves. So what this actually appears to confirm is a willingness to consume animal products as abstractions divorced from the reality of the animal. In other words, it tells us how important *invisibility* is in eating animal products. When we can comfortably block our awareness to the suffering of animals raised for food, we are more likely to consume animal products. And the opposite is also true. When we become aware of their suffering – in this case taking place in our backyards – we find it morally wrong.

This survey reveals the enormous disconnect in our thinking about animals. The animals we call our companions with whom we share our every day lives assume the role of family members, while the animals that we eat – who are equally capable of the same psychological states and companionship as our cats and dogs, remain largely *invisible* to us – thus making it possible for us to consume animals that, had we gotten to know like our companions, we would never want to see harmed for our trivial pleasures.