



801 Old York Road, Suite 204
Jenkintown, PA 19046-1685
Phone 215-887-0816
Fax 215-887-2088
www.aavs.org

European Food Safety Authority Cites Significant Animal Health and Welfare Concerns with Cloning

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Jenkintown, PA— The American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS) applauds the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for sending a clear message today that animal cloning raises serious concerns for animal health and welfare. EFSA issued a carefully considered final scientific opinion on animal cloning, stating that, “It is clear there are significant animal health and welfare issues for surrogate mothers and clones that can be more frequent and severe than for conventionally bred animals.” EFSA specifically noted high rates of pregnancy loss, disease, physiological abnormalities, physical deformities, and low survival rates as the basis for its concern.

AAVS has advocated intensely on behalf of animals to educate government officials, consumers, and businesses about the cruelty associated with cloning and to secure a ban on cloning animals for food, both in the U.S. and internationally. EFSA’s expert opinion takes us an important step closer to realizing our goals. The European Group on Ethics already concluded earlier this year that, particularly due to the animal suffering involved, it could find no ethical justification for cloning animals. The European Parliament in June unanimously passed a resolution calling for a prohibition on animal cloning.

In the U.S., the FDA refused to allow animal welfare and ethical issues to be considered before issuing its decision that cloned animals and their offspring can be sold for food. The USDA, however, has placed a moratorium on introducing cloned animals into the food supply to determine how the market will react.

If the European Commission now heeds the advice of its expert advisors and the European Parliament and bans animal cloning, the message to the U.S. should be clear: just because we can clone animals for food, doesn’t mean we should. With massive public opposition to animal cloning, significant threats to animal health and welfare, and lingering doubts about food safety, animals should not be cloned for food.

For more information:

Contact: Nina Mak, Research Analyst, AAVS: 215-887-0816; nmak@aavs.org.

Visit: www.EndAnimalCloning.org